

# The Great Terror A Reassessment

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TerrorStalin's WarsJoseph StalinA Series of Pamphlets on the Doctrines of the  
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the definitive work on stalin s purges the author s the great terror was universally acclaimed when it first appeared in 1968 provides accounts of on everything form the three great moscow trials to methods of obtaining confessions the purge of writers and other members of the intelligentsia on life in the labor camps and many other key matters on the fortieth anniversary of thew first edition it is remarkable how many of the most disturbing conclusions have born up under the light of fresh evidence

robert conquest s the great terror is the book that revealed the horrors of stalin s regime to the west this definitive fiftieth anniversary edition features a new foreword by anne applebaum one of the most important books ever written about the soviet union the great terror revealed to the west for the first time the true extent and nature stalin s purges in the 1930s in which around a million people were tortured and executed or sent to labour camps on political grounds its publication caused a widespread reassessment of communism itself this definitive fiftieth anniversary edition gathers together the wealth of material added by the author in the decades following its first publication and features a new foreword by leading historian anne applebaum explaining the continued relevance of this momentous period of history and of this classic account

from the end of the mongol empire to today russian history is a tale of cultural political economic and military interaction with western powers the depth of this relationship has created a geopolitical dilemma russia has persistently been both attracted to and at odds with western ideas and technological development which have tended to threaten russia s sense of identity and create destabilizing divisions within society simultaneously deepening involvement in western international affairs brought meddling in

russian domestic politics and military invasion this book examines how the centuries old western threat has shaped russia s political and strategic structures creating a culture of security rooted in vigilance against western influence and interference

in this ground breaking collection a team of leading experts offer a detailed examination of under researched aspects of soviet political repression in the 1930s drawing on archival documents and materials that have received little attention in western historiography much of the information detailed here is in english for the first time

under stalin s leadership the soviet government carried out a massive number of deportations incarcerations and executions paradoxically at the very moment that soviet authorities were killing thousands of individuals they were also engaged in an enormous pronatalist campaign to boost the population even as the number of repressions grew exponentially communist party leaders enacted sweeping social welfare and public health measures to safeguard people s well being extensive state surveillance of the population went hand in hand with literacy campaigns political education and efforts to instill in people an appreciation of high culture in cultivating the masses david l hoffmann examines the party leadership s pursuit of these seemingly contradictory policies in order to grasp fully the character of the stalinist regime a regime intent on transforming the socioeconomic order and the very nature of its citizens to analyze soviet social policies hoffmann places them in an international comparative context he explains soviet technologies of social intervention as one particular constellation of modern state practices these practices developed in conjunction with the ambitions of nineteenth century european reformers to refashion society and they subsequently prompted welfare programs public health initiatives and reproductive regulations in countries around the world the mobilizational demands of world war i

impelled political leaders to expand even further their efforts at population management via economic controls surveillance propaganda and state violence born at this moment of total war the soviet system institutionalized these wartime methods as permanent features of governance party leaders whose dictatorship included no checks on state power in turn attached interventionist practices to their ideological goal of building socialism

from the show trials of the 1920s and 1930s to the london conference this book examines the soviet role in the nuremberg imt trial through the prism of the ideas and practices of earlier soviet legal history detailing the evolution of stalin s ideas about the trial of nazi war criminals stalin believed that an international trial for nazi war criminals was the best way to show the world the sacrifices his country had made to defeat hitler and he together with his legal mouthpiece andrei vyshinsky maintained tight control over soviet representatives during talks leading up to the creation of the nuremberg imt trial in 1945 and the trial itself but soviet prosecutors at nuremberg were unable to deal comfortably with the complexities of an open western style legal proceeding which undercut their effectiveness throughout the trial however they were able to present a significant body of evidence that underscored the brutal nature of hitler s racial war in russia from 1941 45 a theme which became central to stalin s efforts to redefine international criminal law after the war stalin s soviet justice provides a nuanced analysis of the soviet justice system at a crucial turning point in european history and it will be vital reading for scholars and advanced students of the legal history of the soviet union the history of war crimes and the aftermath of the second world war

this new edition of the great terror contains 30 more new material mostly from the soviet union hence the author has been able to reassess the 10 years of political murder genocide and oppression under stalin s rule and ascertain the long term effects of stalinism

details what ordinary life was like during the extraordinary years of the reign of soviet union thirty six illustrations thematic chapters a glossary timeline annotated multimedia bibliography and detailed index make it a sound starting point for looking at this powerful nation s immediate past what was ordinary life like in the soviet police state the phrase daily life implies an orderly routine in a stable environment however many millions of soviet citizens experienced repeated upheavals in their everyday lives soviet citizens were forced to endure revolution civil war two world wars forced collectivization famine massive deportations mass terror campaigns perpetrated against them by their own leaders and chronic material deprivations even the perpetrators often became victims many millions of all ages nationalities and walks of life did not survive these experiences at the same time millions managed to live tranquilly work in factories farm the fields serve in the military and even find joy in their existence structured topically this volume begins with an historical introduction to the soviet period 1917 1991 and a timeline chapters that follow are devoted to such core topics as government and law the economy the military rural life education health care housing ethnic groups religion the media leisure popular culture and the arts the volume also has two maps including a map of ethnic groups and languages and over thirty photographs of people going about their lives in good times and bad a glossary a list of student friendly books and multimedia sources for classroom and or individual use and an index round out the work making it a valuable resource for high school as well as undergraduate courses on modern russian and soviet history copious chapter endnotes provide numerous starting points for students and teachers who want to delve more deeply

soviet criminal justice under stalin first published in 1997 is a comprehensive account of stalin s struggle to make criminal law in the ussr a reliable instrument of rule using recently declassified archives peter solomon tells the revealing story of non political justice on the local scene as well as in the

center contrary to conventional wisdom solomon emphasizes the initial weakness of the soviet state and the limits of stalin s capacity to rule solomon s study also offers new perspectives on collectivization the great terror the politics of abortion and the disciplining of the labour force this book should appeal to anyone interested in the political social or legal history of the ussr judicial reform in post soviet states law in authoritarian regimes or comparative legal development

this breakthrough book provides a detailed reconstruction of stalin s leadership from the outbreak of the second world war in 1939 to his death in 1953 making use of a wealth of new material from russian archives geoffrey roberts challenges a long list of standard perceptions of stalin his qualities as a leader his relationships with his own generals and with other great world leaders his foreign policy and his role in instigating the cold war while frankly exploring the full extent of stalin s brutalities and their impact on the soviet people roberts also uncovers evidence leading to the stunning conclusion that stalin was both the greatest military leader of the twentieth century and a remarkable politician who sought to avoid the cold war and establish a long term detente with the capitalist world by means of an integrated military political and diplomatic narrative the author draws a sustained and compelling personal portrait of the soviet leader the resulting picture is fascinating and contradictory and it will inevitably change the way we understand stalin and his place in history roberts depicts a despot who helped save the world for democracy a personal charmer who disciplined mercilessly a utopian ideologue who could be a practical realist and a warlord who undertook the role of architect of post war peace

to get to the top joseph stalin outmaneuvered lenin trotsky kirov and a legion of equally ruthless revolutionaries this accessible and easy to read reference work reveals the more personal side of the machiavellian mastermind who not only orchestrated the great terror but also forged the

ussr into a world power joseph stalin a biographical companion offers balanced coverage and makes use of new information from soviet archives while at the same time avoids mind numbing communist jargon and terminology also included are scores of rare illustrations some never before published in the west

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