



Stalin in Power: The Revolution from Above, 1928-1941

By Robert C. Tucker

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"To my mind, the most significant single scholarly contribution made to date, anywhere, to the history of Soviet power."?George F. Kennan

This book forms the second volume of Tucker's biography of Stalin, the first volume of which was "Stalin as Revolutionary". The author shows that Stalin was a Bolshevik of the radical right whose revolution cast the country deep into its imperial, autocratic past. In 1929 Stalin plunged Soviet Russia into a coercive "revolution from above", a decade-long effort to amass military-industrial power for a new war. He forced 25 million peasant families into state-run collectives and transformed the Communist Party into a servile instrument. In 1939, he concluded the pact with Hitler that enabled him to grasp at Eastern Europe while Hitler made war in the West. Tucker brings a fresh analysis to these events and to the Terror of the 1930s, revealing the motives and methods of what he calls the greatest murder mystery of this century.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Many Western historians portray Stalin as a pragmatic, if disastrously blundering revolutionary who had no overarching vision of where Russia was heading under his leadership. Not so, argues Tucker in this massive, provocative history; Stalin acted with forethought. Driven by a need to prove himself "a second and greater Lenin," he boldly and confidently implemented his collectivist schemes, backed by a policy of terror and accomplished through the seizure of peasant lands and households, mass murder, forced resettlement and prison camps. His state-directed, state-enforced "revolution from above," in Tucker's (*Stalin as Revolutionary*) view, was a throwback to the state-building of the earliest Muscovite grand princes. The author illumines the "Stalinist culture" the dictator promoted in everything from movies to "folk" songs, with its master themes of heroism and communal uplift. This gripping history is crucial reading for anyone seeking to understand Stalin or contemporary Soviet affairs. Photos.

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From Library Journal

This remarkable sequel to *Stalin As Revolutionary, 1879-1929* (LJ 9/1/73) is at once the best of Tucker's many books and arguably the finest work in the burgeoning field of Stalin studies. The author's achievement synthesizes recent Soviet revelations, better-known sources on Stalin, and personal interviews into a major work of biography. Tucker's Stalin is neither simply mad nor opportunistic, but the methodical "Iosif Grozny," an idealized Ivan the Terrible, and, tragically for millions, one whose terror far surpassed that of any czar. Tucker's depiction of Stalin and the terror machine is persuasive; but more controversial is the assertion that the purges served a "cathartic function" of exculpating Stalin for his own conspiracy against the revolution. The psychological dimension coexists with the political. Thus, Stalin's decimation of foreign Communists is both an expression of xenophobia and preparation for the 1939 Hitler-Stalin Pact. Whatever one's judgment of author or subject, this book can be safely recommended for all academic and public libraries.

- Zachary T. Irwin, *Penn State - Behrend Coll.* , *Erie*

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Review

"Anyone who does not read *Stalin in Power* from cover to cover will miss the opportunity of gaining real insight into the forces that shaped the Soviet Union. This is the best book about Stalin that has ever been written and one that is not likely to be superseded in the foreseeable future." (W. Bruce Lincoln - Chicago Tribune)

"Tucker writes psychobiography with tact and common sense, never letting Freud get out of hand, while his narrative holds the reader in grim fascination." (Jane A. Taubman - Los Angeles Times)

"Mr. Tucker's portrait is persuasive, not least because it offers a psychological explanation for Stalin's relentless persecution of his Bolshevik comrades as well as for the bizarre rituals of the Moscow show trials, in which he forced the revolution's leaders to confess to absurd crimes." (The Economist)

"Mr. Tucker has hunted out the sources, and he has discovered and developed a great deal more than has been generally known. . . . An extremely valuable contribution to our knowledge." (Robert Conquest - Wall Street Journal)

“Tucker's contribution is to document how Stalin became a 'revolutionary of the radical right' by consciously turning to history, not to Communist ideology, for his model of the state as the agent of change. . . . This is history as it should be written: compelling narrative, intriguing detail, bold thesis.” (Jane E. Good - Washington Post)

Users Review

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Typically the book Stalin in Power: The Revolution from Above, 1928-1941 has a lot associated with on it. So when you make sure to read this book you can get a lot of profit. The book was written by the very famous author. McDougal makes some research previous to write this book. This specific book very easy to read you can obtain the point easily after perusing this book.

Gary Spengler:

Reading can called head hangout, why? Because when you are reading a book especially book entitled Stalin in Power: The Revolution from Above, 1928-1941 your thoughts will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in every single aspect that maybe not known for but surely will become your mind friends. Imaging every word written in a publication then become one contact form conclusion and explanation that will maybe you never get previous to. The Stalin in Power: The Revolution from Above, 1928-1941 giving you one more experience more than blown away your brain but also giving you useful information for your better life in this era. So now let us demonstrate the relaxing pattern is your body and mind will be pleased when you are finished looking at it, like winning a casino game. Do you want to try this extraordinary wasting spare time activity?

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