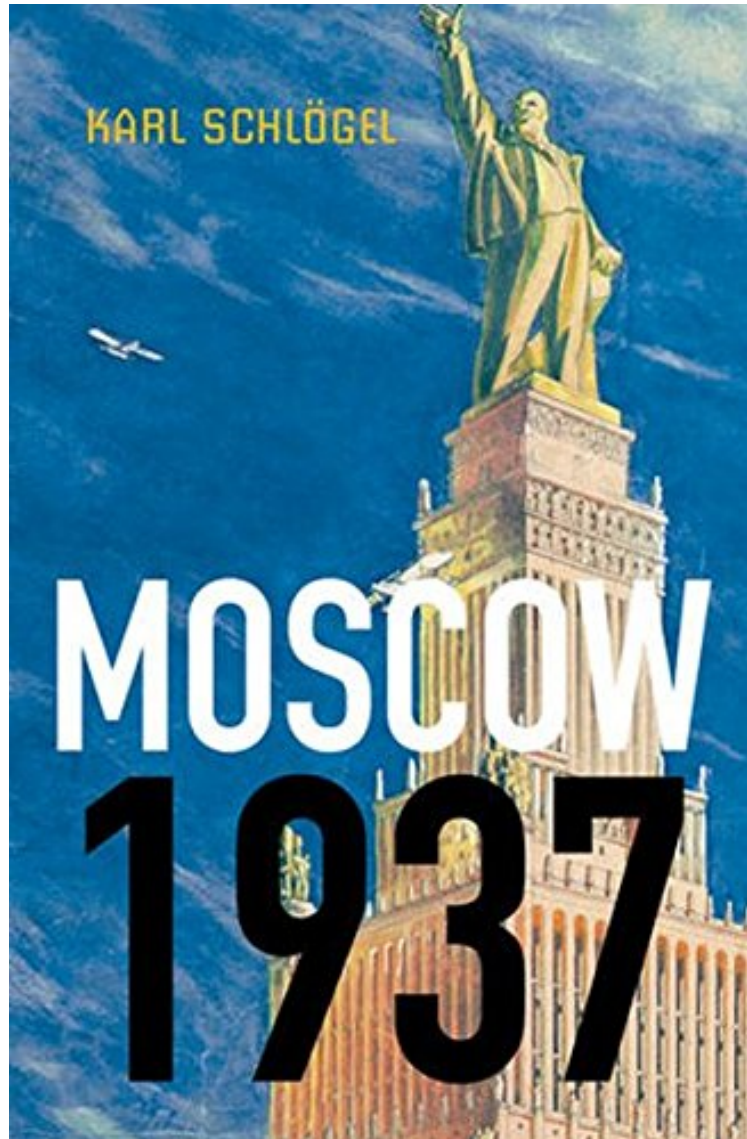


(Free) Moscow, 1937

## Moscow, 1937

*Karl Schlögel*

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**Karl Schlögel : Moscow, 1937** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Moscow, 1937:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Buried VoicesBy Peter I. ChipmanI have nearly finished this book, and for me it has been an easy read. The author has managed to find stories that bring to life common experience in a society that was undergoing unbelievable stress. He does have a tendency to quote too many statistics regarding such topics as steel production, rail trackage, etc., and doesn't display any skepticism about the quality of the data. The

Soviet leadership hovers in the background, we don't get to meet them. and there is no attempt to explain what I suspect is the unexplainable - how and why the terror happened to a whole generation of Russians. I have never found a satisfactory explanation for this just as I have never been able to understand the holocaust from any rational viewpoint. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Very very good. By Oliver TwistWow. A must-read for Russia buffs, but you have to be into it to slog through the text. Well-written, well-researched, really does give a glimpse into that dreadful place and time. But the original academic German shows through the translation, and that means you have to work at digesting the text. Not a beach read, but something to apply oneself to. Very very good. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Crime without punishment By Esteban Martina This powerful book shows clearly that killing and destroying millions of lives can coexist with a cultural environment that allows the criminals to be respected and even idolized by the whole spectrum of society. Very few people can recognize that anybody is capable of the most heinous acts given a set of circumstances. Modern society can accept anything if the proper cultural mechanisms are wisely applied. It can be argued that life must go on, that it is psychologically impossible to survive without becoming indifferent to the murders going on, etc.. It is true but one could expect a bit of moral outrage at the least. That this is not the general case shows how ideology and administrative procedures supported by cultural symbols can dehumanize man.

Moscow, 1937: the soviet metropolis at the zenith of Stalin's dictatorship. A society utterly wrecked by a hurricane of violence. In this compelling book, the renowned historian Karl Schlögel reconstructs with meticulous care the process through which, month by month, the terrorism of a state-of-emergency regime spiraled into the 'Great Terror' during which 1 ½ million human beings lost their lives within a single year. He revisits the sites of show trials and executions and, by also consulting numerous sources from the time, he provides a masterful panorama of these key events in Russian history. He shows how, in the shadow of the reign of terror, the regime around Stalin also aimed to construct a new society. Based on countless documents, Schlögel's historical masterpiece vividly presents an age in which the boundaries separating the dream and the terror dissolve, and enables us to experience the fear that was felt by people subjected to totalitarian rule. This rich and absorbing account of the Soviet purges will be essential reading for all students of Russia and for any readers interested in one of the most dramatic and disturbing events of modern history.

Winner of the Leipzig Book Prize for European Understanding "An almost impossibly rich masterpiece. The density and seriousness, the deliberation and literary art of this exhilarating tour de force testifies to the enduring value and purpose of that perhaps now-vanishing triumph of the human intellect, the book." The Atlantic, best five books of 2012 "A dizzyingly brilliant panorama of the enormous variety of events and processes unfolding in Moscow between 1936 and 1938. Schlögel succeeds admirably - indeed, better than any historian to date - in reproducing the atmosphere and grotesque contradictions." Times Higher Education "Exceptionally readable. An extraordinary, thought-provoking masterpiece." Literary "An excellent and original book. Not only is it a highly detailed account of a city in turmoil (containing many more fascinating stories than a review can ever do full justice), but it reveals clearly how 1937 was a year of extreme contradictions" Europe/Asia Studies "Schlögel's total history of Moscow during the fateful year ranks among the best of Sovietology." International Affairs "No book could be more equal to the task of restoring Stalin's victims to Western memory than Schlögel's Moscow, 1937 - it is an extraordinary work of scholarship, prose and remembrance." Times Literary Supplement "A brilliant achievement of historical writing, one that can be read profitably by specialist and the general reader alike." American Historical "Schlögel's comprehensive overview gives a profound overall view of what it was like to live in such a crucial place in such a crucial year." Dublin of Books "It is great. Moscow, 1937 teaches us that life goes on as usual, even in the midst of great catastrophe, but it also teaches that great catastrophe can look a lot like life going on as usual." Vol. 1 Brooklyn "Compelling in every way, the book startles the mind and stirs the imagination in the way that only poetry and music can sometimes do. An instant classic." Wichita Eagle "Karl Schlögel's Moscow 1937 draws a living, multi-dimensional portrait of the megacity in a crucial year of upheaval that evokes all the hope, despair, creativity, horror, escapism, terror, fear, and striving that enveloped the Muscovite cityscape and its inhabitants. Schlögel is an unusually inventive historian and a brilliant stylist; it's a great boon to have his latest work available in English." Norman M. Naimark, Stanford University and author of Stalin's Genocides "This book's focus is one year, 1937, and one place, Moscow, but it is no narrow history. The narrative has sweep and depth, encompassing the mundane, the spectacular, and the nightmare dream world of Stalin's purges; an incomparable book about people during one of the most grandiose and terrifying epochs of the twentieth century." David Shearer, University of Delaware "Starting from a birds-eye view of the city from above, a homage to the flight of Bulgakov's Margarita, Schlögel captures the complex specificity of a time and place of immense significance in Soviet and twentieth-century history. In this multivalent historical moment, interrogations at the Lubyanka coexist with happy summer vacations and the triumphant conquest of the North Pole by Soviet aviators. Schlögel brings into play an ingenious variety of sources, ranging from architectural blueprints and city directories to execution records, not forgetting diaries and literary evocations. This is a masterful, panoramic work by a gifted story-teller who is also a highly innovative, sophisticated and erudite historian."

Sheila Fitzpatrick, University of Chicago "In brilliant fashion Karl Schlögel presents Moscow as a rotating stage of Soviet desire and Stalinist nightmares. Like no other author before him, he charges his prose and the sequence of scenes with the hallucinatory power of the Communist project. The vertiginous and terrifying effect is his very point and singular achievement." Jochen Hellbeck, Rutgers University "Karl Schlogel's Moscow 1937 is a brilliant essay of "Total history" on a crucial episode of Soviet history, on one of the greatest historical catastrophes of the Twentieth Century. This is the first book which goes beyond totalitarianism and revisionism and brings us a totally new interpretation of this tragic event by presenting together opposing experiences and manifestations such as the preparation for universal, free, direct and secret elections and carefully planned, organized mass killings. Or, in other words, Dream and Terror." Nicolas Werth, Institut d'histoire du temps présent "This is a montage of a great city in tumult, in equal parts depicting the optimism of progress and the horror of the show trials, all in the shadow of a looming war." Andrew Cornish, Readings "While most historians see both terror and civilisation as important to understanding the Soviet experience of the 1930s, they tend to spend their time investigating either one or the other. Schlögel is the first to attempt to knit them together so intricately. Moscow 1937 is an act of remembrance as well as a work of history." London of Books "There is no book that so perfectly and completely captures the stark contradictions of Soviet life. Each scene is a marvel, and together they recreate for us a multisided and vanished world." Wendy Goldman, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, USA About the Author Karl Schlögel is Professor of Eastern European History at the European University Viadrina in Frankfurt.