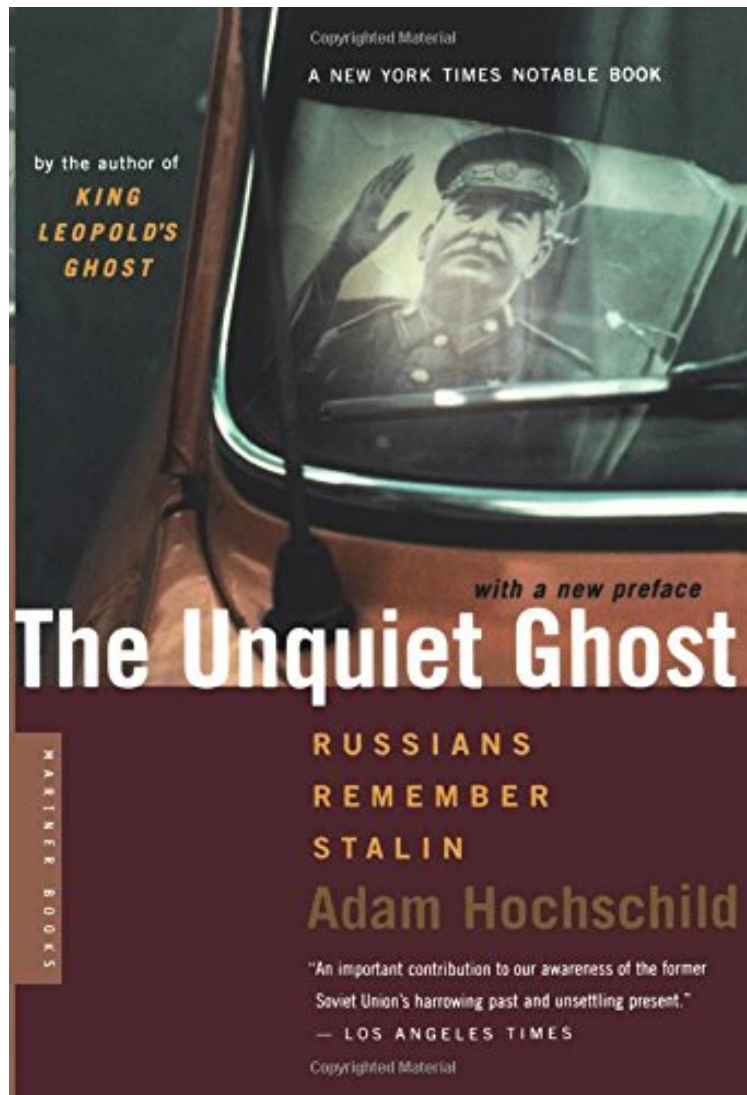


[Free read ebook] The Unquiet Ghost: Russians Remember Stalin

The Unquiet Ghost: Russians Remember Stalin

Adam Hochschild

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#530005 in Books Adam Hochschild 2003-02-04 2003-02-04Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.25 x .93 x 5.501, .79 #File Name: 0618257470352 pagesThe Unquiet Ghost Russians Remember Stalin | File size: 54.Mb

Adam Hochschild : The Unquiet Ghost: Russians Remember Stalin before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Unquiet Ghost: Russians Remember Stalin:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Will stay with youBy nellethThe author brings gentle humor and profound empathy to truly amazing stories about this tragic period. I recommend anyone start here to try and understand the personal side of Stalin's purges and camps.3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Stalin, the "Man of Steel."By Charles E. JonesNot enough history about "The Great Purges." Stalin was kind of an after thought.

However, it did explain the liquidation of the "moneyed" peasants (the Kulaks) and their stubborn aversion to Collectivization. There are still those that hark back to the "good old days" under Stalin. The reasons for "the knock on the door" ranged from mere gossip to those who didn't like you to a lack of livable apartments. Over 5,000,000 Russians (officers of WWI, enemies of the state(?) intellectuals and of course Jews, died of being over worked or froze to death and died of starvation on over-crowded train boxcars without food or water to the far reaches of the Siberian Gulags. Being sent to the Gulags was a death sentence that a very few survived. A worthwhile read, but not enough about "the man of steel." 3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. The misdeeds of the Stalinist regime. By Kevin M Quigg This is a great book which details the cruel legacy of the Stalinist regime. Stalin and his cronies killed and murdered 20 million people from the 1930s to 1953. Russia suffered as much from Stalin's megalomania as it did from the German invasion. His regime left a bitter taste in regular Russian's memories. This book details how the survivors and the generation after have dealt with this bad legacy. Some great moments occur in this book, such as the opening up of the KGB archives. This details the flimsy evidence which led to the deaths of millions. Also detailed are the former prison camps that dot the countryside of Siberia. This shows the mass suffering of the inhabitants. This is a great book about the suffering and legacy of Josef Stalin.

Although some twenty million people died during Stalin's reign of terror, only with the advent of glasnost did Russians begin to confront their memories of that time. In 1991, Adam Hochschild spent nearly six months in Russia talking to gulag survivors, retired concentration camp guards, and countless others. The result is a riveting evocation of a country still haunted by the ghost of Stalin.

From Publishers Weekly Hochschild spent the first half of 1991 in the former Soviet Union interviewing gulag survivors, former camp guards and members of the secret police, writers, artists, human rights activists, neo-Stalinists and ordinary citizens about their opinions of Stalin. This haunting and powerful report reveals that the dictator's legacy persists in widespread denial, amnesia, numbness and pervasive fear among people whose lives were scarred by mass arrests, killings and Stalin's spy network. Hochschild (*The Mirror at Midnight*) traveled to Kolyma, site of the deadliest camps; he interviewed Valentin Berezhkov, who was Stalin's English-language interpreter and privy to the regime's inner circle; he visited Moscow's KGB archives and was given files of American victims of the gulag. Comparing Stalin's purges to the witch craze of early medieval Europe, Hochschild attributes this "self-inflicted genocide" partly to Russians' age-old habits of scapegoating and passive obedience. Photos not seen by PW. First serial to *New York Times Magazine*. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal Hochschild's search for survivors of Stalin's Terror results in a moving historical horror story. He spent half of 1991 in the disintegrating USSR, listening to former prisoners, guards, executioners, and families describe mass murder, imprisonments, interrupted lives, and hopes destroyed. Russian-speaking journalist Hochschild, a founder of *Mother Jones*, was among the first Americans to enter KGB archives, where he received records of executed Americans. He visited gulag sites and chapters of Memorial, an organization documenting the Terror. He traveled to Kolyma, the frozen final destination for many and a name that resonates among Russians with the power of Auschwitz. Hochschild's questions are disturbing and timeless: Why did the Revolution devour itself? What makes someone an executioner? Hochschild's people, as well as his honesty and passion, make this unforgettable book essential for everyone concerned about history and human rights. Strongly recommended. Previewed in *Prepub Alert*, LJ 11/1/93.- Donna L. Cole, Leeds P.L., Ala. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. From *Booklist* The decaying gulag isn't everyone's idea of a four-star itinerary, but Hochschild braved the discomfort to take a tour in 1991. Fluent in Russian, he made his way to dreadful places like Kolyma, the Auschwitz of the labor-camp system, but his real interest, and the value of this narrative, was in talking to people, both jailers and victims, who lived through the horrors. Nobody was exempt from an instant dispatch into hell, as his interview with Stalin's translator shows, but for some, those days weren't all bad. In the steppe town of Karaganda, Hochschild was entertained by a former camp commandant, who proudly showed pictures of himself speaking to an audience of convicts. He spoke with the daughter of a secret-police officer responsible for mass executions, a woman anguished by that knowledge but who, like millions at the time, figured the dead really were enemies of the people. The why of such supinity, and of complicity, is what pulls this acute observer across the vast archipelago. Hochschild attempts to convey some answers, but ultimately his contribution is to seek out witnesses of Stalinism and preserve their ruthlessly realistic testimony. Gilbert Taylor