

# the great terror a reassessment robert conquest

The Great Terror: A Reassessment by Robert Conquest

**the great terror a reassessment robert conquest** represents a pivotal moment in the historiography of Soviet history, shedding new light on one of the darkest chapters of the 20th century. Robert Conquest's work, first published in the 1960s, fundamentally changed how scholars and the public understood Stalin's purges during the late 1930s. His reassessment not only challenged Soviet propaganda but also provoked ongoing debates about the scale, causes, and consequences of the Great Terror. In this article, we'll explore the significance of Conquest's contributions, unpack the nuances of his analysis, and consider how more recent research has expanded or contested his views.

## Understanding the Context of the Great Terror

To appreciate why Robert Conquest's reassessment was so groundbreaking, it's essential to understand what the Great Terror entailed. Between 1936 and 1938, the Soviet Union underwent a brutal campaign of political repression orchestrated by Joseph Stalin. Hundreds of thousands of people were executed or sent to labor camps on often fabricated charges of treason, sabotage, or espionage. Entire segments of Soviet society—party members, military officers, intellectuals, and ordinary citizens—found themselves caught in a swirl of paranoia and violence.

Prior to Conquest's work, much of the Western understanding of the Stalinist purges was limited, often clouded by Cold War biases or incomplete information. Soviet official accounts downplayed the scale of the purges, framing them as necessary measures to protect the revolution. Robert Conquest's reassessment disrupted this narrative by meticulously piecing together archival materials, survivor testimonies, and other sources to reveal the true extent of the repression.

## Robert Conquest's Contribution to Historiography

Robert Conquest, a historian and poet, emerged as one of the first Western scholars to comprehensively document the horrors of Stalin's purges. His book "The Great Terror: Stalin's Purge of the Thirties," published in 1968, combined rigorous research with compelling narrative to expose the terror's human cost.

## Challenging Soviet Denials

One of the most important aspects of Conquest's reassessment was his challenge to the Soviet government's official stance. At the time, the USSR tightly controlled information about the purges, denying or minimizing the scale of executions and imprisonments. Conquest's work, drawing on émigré accounts, underground reports, and later, limited access to Soviet archives, demonstrated

that the purges were not isolated incidents but a systematic campaign of state terror.

## **Methodology and Sources**

Conquest's approach was notable for its multi-source methodology. He combined:

- Eyewitness testimonies from survivors and witnesses
- Archival materials available outside the USSR
- Official Soviet publications and propaganda for contrast
- Statistical analysis estimating the number of victims

This triangulation of evidence lent credibility to his findings, even if some critics at the time accused him of exaggeration.

## **The Great Terror a Reassessment Robert Conquest: Key Themes and Insights**

Conquest's work illuminated several key themes that continue to shape our understanding of the Great Terror today.

### **The Scale of the Repression**

One of the most shocking revelations in Conquest's reassessment was the sheer scale of the purges. He estimated that nearly a million people were executed, with millions more sent to Gulag labor camps. This scale was far beyond what many had previously imagined. Conquest argued that the terror was not just about eliminating Stalin's political rivals but also about instilling widespread fear to consolidate his absolute power.

### **The Role of the NKVD**

Conquest highlighted the central role played by the NKVD—the Soviet secret police—in carrying out the purges. Under the leadership of figures like Nikolai Yezhov, the NKVD orchestrated mass arrests, forced confessions, and summary executions. Conquest's analysis showed how bureaucratic machinery and terror tactics combined to create a climate of suspicion and paranoia that permeated every level of Soviet society.

## **Psychological and Social Impact**

Beyond the numbers, Conquest's reassessment touched on the profound psychological impact of the Great Terror. The purges shattered trust within communities and families, as fear of denunciation became a daily reality. Intellectual life stagnated, and political dissent was crushed under the weight of repression. Conquest painted a picture not just of political brutality but of deep social trauma.

## **Critiques and Further Developments**

While Robert Conquest's reassessment was groundbreaking, it was not without controversy. Some historians have debated his numbers, accusing him of inflating victim counts. Others have critiqued his reliance on émigré sources, suggesting they might have biases.

## **Access to Soviet Archives**

The opening of Soviet archives in the 1990s allowed historians to verify and refine many of Conquest's claims. While the archives confirmed the massive scale of repression, they also offered a more detailed understanding of the mechanisms behind the purges. For example, historians like J. Arch Getty and Stephen G. Wheatcroft have provided nuanced perspectives that sometimes challenge Conquest's interpretations of Stalin's motivations and the extent of centralized control over local purges.

## **Reevaluating Causes and Consequences**

Recent scholarship has expanded on Conquest's work by exploring the complex causes behind the Great Terror. Some researchers emphasize Stalin's paranoia and desire for absolute control, while others point to systemic issues within the Soviet state, such as bureaucratic rivalries and ideological zealotry. This richer analysis helps explain not just what happened, but why.

## **The Enduring Legacy of The Great Terror a Reassessment Robert Conquest**

Robert Conquest's reassessment remains a cornerstone in the study of Stalinist repression. It sparked a wider recognition of the human cost of authoritarianism and contributed to the broader understanding of totalitarian regimes. His work also serves as a cautionary tale about the dangers of unchecked power and the importance of historical inquiry.

For students, researchers, and history enthusiasts alike, engaging with Conquest's analysis provides valuable lessons on the role of evidence, narrative, and interpretation in constructing historical knowledge. It also encourages critical thinking about sources and the political context in which history is written.

The great terror a reassessment robert conquest is more than just a historical account—it is a vital reminder of the complexities behind political violence and the enduring need to confront uncomfortable truths.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What is 'The Great Terror: A Reassessment' by Robert Conquest about?**

'The Great Terror: A Reassessment' is a book by Robert Conquest that provides a detailed analysis of the Great Purge in the Soviet Union during the late 1930s, reassessing the scale and nature of the terror under Stalin's regime.

### **How does 'The Great Terror: A Reassessment' differ from Conquest's earlier work on the topic?**

In 'The Great Terror: A Reassessment,' Robert Conquest updates his original estimates and conclusions based on newly available archival materials, offering a more nuanced and accurate understanding of the extent and mechanisms of the Soviet purges.

### **What sources did Robert Conquest use for his reassessment of the Great Terror?**

Conquest utilized Soviet archival documents, personal testimonies, and official records that became accessible after the collapse of the Soviet Union to provide a more evidence-based reassessment of the Great Terror.

### **Why is Robert Conquest's reassessment of the Great Terror significant in historical studies?**

Conquest's reassessment is significant because it challenges earlier Soviet-era narratives, provides empirical data on the scale of repression, and contributes to the broader understanding of totalitarian regimes and state-sponsored terror.

### **What impact did 'The Great Terror: A Reassessment' have on the perception of Stalin's purges?**

The book reinforced the view of Stalin's purges as a systematic campaign of political repression and mass murder, highlighting the human cost and the extensive reach of the terror beyond what was previously known.

### **Is 'The Great Terror: A Reassessment' considered a definitive**

## work on the topic?

While considered an important and influential work, 'The Great Terror: A Reassessment' is part of an ongoing scholarly conversation, with historians continuing to explore new evidence and perspectives on the Great Purge.

## Additional Resources

The Great Terror: A Reassessment of Robert Conquest's Seminal Work

**the great terror a reassessment robert conquest** remains a pivotal starting point for understanding one of the darkest periods in Soviet history. Robert Conquest's 1968 publication, *\*The Great Terror\**, offered a groundbreaking examination of Stalin's purges during the late 1930s, unveiling the extent of political repression, mass executions, and widespread terror that had long been obscured by Soviet censorship and propaganda. Decades later, a reassessment of Conquest's work is essential to appreciate its historical significance, its methodological strengths, and its limitations in light of newly available archival materials and contemporary scholarship.

## The Historical Context and Impact of Robert Conquest's *The Great Terror*

In the midst of the Cold War, Robert Conquest's *\*The Great Terror\** provided Western audiences with one of the first comprehensive accounts of Stalin's purges, revealing the brutal mechanisms of political repression that characterized the Soviet regime under Stalin. Conquest's narrative meticulously detailed the scale of arrests, show trials, torture, and executions, estimating death tolls that were staggering for their time. This work challenged previously accepted narratives that downplayed or denied the severity of the purges, thus shaping Western perceptions of Soviet totalitarianism.

Conquest's book was instrumental in introducing the concept of the "Great Terror" to both academic and popular discourse. It underscored the systematic nature of Stalin's repression, linking it not just to political paranoia but to a broader strategy of consolidating power through fear. The book's influence extended beyond historical circles, affecting Cold War policies and contributing to a broader understanding of the dangers posed by totalitarian systems.

## Methodological Innovations and Sources

One of the most remarkable aspects of *\*The Great Terror\** was Conquest's rigorous approach to a subject that was notoriously difficult to research. Working before the opening of Soviet archives, Conquest relied heavily on survivor testimonies, émigré accounts, and limited official documents available in the West. His synthesis of these fragmented sources demonstrated a meticulous effort to reconstruct the chronology and scale of the purges.

However, the reliance on émigré testimonies and second-hand reports sometimes led to questions about the accuracy of specific figures or events. Critics argued that some estimates, particularly

death tolls, might have been inflated due to the nature of the sources. Nevertheless, subsequent archival revelations have largely validated the core of Conquest's arguments, reaffirming the unprecedented scope of Stalin's terror.

## **Reassessing The Great Terror in the Era of Archival Transparency**

The collapse of the Soviet Union and the subsequent opening of archives in the 1990s ushered in a new era of historical research. Scholars gained access to official NKVD records, trial transcripts, and internal communications that provided a wealth of data previously unavailable. This flood of information has prompted historians to revisit Conquest's conclusions, refining and sometimes challenging aspects of his narrative.

### **Refined Estimates and Nuanced Interpretations**

New archival evidence has allowed historians to produce more precise estimates regarding the number of victims during the Great Terror. While Conquest estimated that approximately 20 million people were affected by Stalin's purges, later research suggests that the total number of deaths directly attributable to the Great Terror ranges between 700,000 and 1.2 million, with millions more subjected to imprisonment, exile, or forced labor.

This reassessment does not diminish the human tragedy but rather contextualizes it within a clearer factual framework. It highlights the complexity of Soviet repression, which involved a combination of arbitrary violence, bureaucratic procedures, and political maneuvering. The archival data also reveal the role of local officials and the extent of chaos within the NKVD, complicating the image of a monolithic terror.

### **The Role of Ideology and Political Culture**

Conquest's original work primarily focused on the mechanisms of repression and the personalities involved. Contemporary scholarship, building on his foundation, has shifted toward analyzing the ideological underpinnings and political culture that enabled the Great Terror. Scholars now explore how Stalinist paranoia, revolutionary zeal, and the cult of personality contributed to a climate where terror became normalized.

This shift offers a more comprehensive understanding of the Great Terror beyond mere numbers, probing into how fear permeated Soviet society and affected everyday life. It also opens discussions about the complicity of victims and perpetrators alike, challenging simplistic binaries of oppressor and oppressed.

# Comparative Perspectives and The Great Terror's Legacy

Robert Conquest's work remains a benchmark for studies on political repression and state terror. Comparing \*The Great Terror\* with other historical accounts of mass violence, such as the Holocaust or Mao's Cultural Revolution, reveals common patterns and unique features of Stalinist repression.

- **Scale and Scope:** While the Great Terror's death toll is lower than some contemporaneous genocides, its reach across various strata of

## The Great Terror A Reassessment Robert Conquest

**the great terror a reassessment robert conquest:** The Great Terror Robert Conquest, 2008 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 from 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 the first edition, it is remarkable how many of the most disturbing conclusions have borne up under the light of fresh evidence. --

**the great terror a reassessment robert conquest:** *The Great Terror: Stalin's Purge of the Thirties* Robert Conquest, 1969

**the great terror a reassessment robert conquest:** The Great Terror Robert Conquest, 1990 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.

**the great terror a reassessment robert conquest:** *Red Flag Wounded* Ronald Suny, 2020-08-25 Tracking the degeneration of the Russian Revolution *Red Flag Wounded* brings together essays covering the controversies and debates over the fraught history of the Soviet Union from the revolution to its disintegration. Those monumental years were marked not only by violence, mass killing, and the brutal overturning of a peasant society but also by the modernisation and industrialisation of the largest country in the world, the victory over fascism, and the slow recovery of society after the nightmare of Stalinism. Ronald Grigor Suny is one of the most prominent experts on the revolution, the fate of the non-Russian peoples of the Soviet empire, and the twists and turns of Western historiography of the Soviet experience. As a biographer of Stalin and a long-time commentator on Russian and Soviet affairs, he brings novel insights to a history that has been misunderstood and deliberately distorted in the public sphere. For a fresh look at a story that affects our world today, this is the place to begin.

**the great terror a reassessment robert conquest:** *The Russian Dilemma* Gordon M. Hahn, 2021-11-17 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.

**the great terror a reassessment robert conquest: The Soviet Elite from Lenin to Gorbachev** Evan Mawdsley, Stephen White, 2000-03-09 Although the product of a self-proclaimed proletarian revolution, Soviet Russia was always dominated by an elite. Basing itself upon nearly two thousand people who served on the Communist Party's Central Committee from 1917 to 1991, this is the first book to study the elite that ruled the world's largest country throughout the entire period of Soviet rule. It is also the first to make full use of the rich sources available since the collapse of Communism. The authors profile the elite as a whole and looks more closely at fifteen individual members, identifying four elite generations. The book examines the evolving connection between Central Committee membership and administrative functions; the changing power and privileges of the elite and its relationship with the population; the Communist party and the top leaders; and the surprising extent to which the elite managed to maintain its position into the early years of post-communist Russia.

**the great terror a reassessment robert conquest: The Nazi Menace** Benjamin Carter Hett, 2020-08-04 A panoramic narrative of the years leading up to the Second World War—a tale of democratic crisis, racial conflict, and a belated recognition of evil, with profound resonance for our own time. Berlin, November 1937. Adolf Hitler meets with his military commanders to impress upon them the urgent necessity for a war of aggression in eastern Europe. Some generals are unnerved by the Führer's grandiose plan, but these dissenters are silenced one by one, setting in motion events that will culminate in the most calamitous war in history. Benjamin Carter Hett takes us behind the scenes in Berlin, London, Moscow, and Washington, revealing the unsettled politics within each country in the wake of the German dictator's growing provocations. He reveals the fitful path by which anti-Nazi forces inside and outside Germany came to understand Hitler's true menace to European civilization and learned to oppose him, painting a sweeping portrait of governments under siege, as larger-than-life figures struggled to turn events to their advantage. As in *The Death of Democracy*, his acclaimed history of the fall of the Weimar Republic, Hett draws on original sources and newly released documents to show how these long-ago conflicts have unexpected resonances in our own time. To read *The Nazi Menace* is to see past and present in a new and unnerving light.

**the great terror a reassessment robert conquest: Occupation and Communism in Eastern European Museums** Constantin Iordachi, Péter Apor, 2021-07-29 This volume offers fresh perspectives on the representation of the recent past in museums of the Second World War and of communism in post-communist Eastern Europe. It does so against the background of recent European-wide debates on history, memory and politics. The contributors from across Europe focus comparatively on a wide variety of case studies, pointing out similarities and differences, and accounting for transnational patterns of remembrance at regional and European level. *Occupation and Communism in Eastern European Museums* argues that museums have a huge influence on the image of the communist past in Eastern Europe. It shows how they use a vast array of media tools, visual tactics and commercial strategies in order to substantiate ideological approaches to the past and to shape the attitude of public opinion.

**the great terror a reassessment robert conquest: The Forsaken** Tim Tzouliadis, 2008-07-17 "Gripping and important . . . an extremely impressive book." —Noel Malcolm, *Telegraph* (London) A remarkable piece of forgotten history- the never-before-told story of Americans lured to Soviet Russia by the promise of jobs and better lives, only to meet tragic ends In 1934, a photograph was taken of a baseball team. These two rows of young men look like any group of American ballplayers, except perhaps for the Russian lettering on their

jerseys. The players have left their homeland and the Great Depression in search of a better life in Stalinist Russia, but instead they will meet tragic and, until now, forgotten fates. Within four years, most of them will be arrested alongside untold numbers of other Americans. Some will be executed. Others will be sent to corrective labor camps where they will be worked to death. This book is the story of lives-the forsaken who died and those who survived. Based on groundbreaking research, *The Forsaken* is the story of Americans whose dreams were shattered and lives lost in Stalinist Russia.

**the great terror a reassessment robert conquest:** *The Soviet Colossus* Michael G. Kort, 2014-12-18 The twentieth century was not kind to Russia. Despite its great potential and remarkable achievements, the country also bore the weight of two world wars, a revolution and civil war, totalitarian tyranny, famine and ecological destruction, economic ruin, and imperial decline. Will Russia ever be prosperous, peaceful, and free? Seeking clues in the past, Michael Kort revisits earlier turning points in Russia's history--from the fall of the old regime to the establishment of the Bolshevik dictatorship and Stalinist totalitarianism; from the reforms and counter-reforms of Khrushchev and Brezhnev to the tumultuous years of change under Gorbachev and Yeltsin. Which strands of Russia's past is their successor, Vladimir Putin, weaving into the fabric of the present, and which are being allowed to fade, for better or worse? This new edition of *The Soviet Colossus* brings the story up through the first decade of the twenty-first century. Distinctively readable, judicious, and focused on critical events and questions, it integrates new revelations about the Soviet past and ongoing debates about the Soviet regime as well as its successor. It is the ideal text for as one semester history course or background for a political science course.

**the great terror a reassessment robert conquest:** *Zionism Vs. the West* Jonas E. Alexis, 2018-04-03 A person can be brought into bondage in two different ways: by force or by his own will. Force is a crude way of bringing a person into submission, but using the persons own free will can be done sophisticatedly and covertly. Under the banner of democracy and freedom, America has been under the bondage of what E. Michael Jones has aptly called sexual liberation and political control for over fifty years. In the first two volumes of the trilogy, Alexis explored these ideological themes. In this last volume, he expands on some of those pernicious ideas, emphasizing how Zionism, for over sixty years, has shaken the moral, philosophical, and intellectual foundation of much of Western culture. The Iraq War alone will cost America at least six trillion dollars, and as if to prove that America is still in bondage, the oppressors continue to use sophisticated means to seduce Americans so that perpetual wars will never cease to exist in the Middle East and in much of the world. This book will seek to address these and related issues and, in the process, tell us something about the fundamental nature of reality and how to approach this cosmic conflict, which has dominated the West for over a thousand years.

**the great terror a reassessment robert conquest:** *Stalinist Terror* John Arch Getty, Roberta Thompson Manning, 1993-06-25 These essays by scholars from six nations offers contributions to the understanding of Stalinist terror in the 1930s. The essays explore in depth the background of the terror and patterns of persecution, while providing more empirically founded estimates of the numbers of Stalin's victims.

**the great terror a reassessment robert conquest:** *The Sword and the Shield* Christopher Andrew, 2000-08-29 *The Sword and the Shield* is based on one of the most extraordinary intelligence coups of recent times: a secret archive of top-level KGB documents smuggled out of the Soviet Union which the FBI has described, after close examination, as the most complete and extensive intelligence ever received from any source. Its presence in the West represents a catastrophic hemorrhage of the KGB's secrets and reveals for the first time the full extent of its worldwide network. Vasili Mitrokhin, a secret dissident who worked in the KGB archive, smuggled out copies of its most highly classified files every day for twelve years. In 1992, a U.S. ally succeeded in exfiltrating the KGB officer and his entire archive out of

Moscow. The archive covers the entire period from the Bolshevik Revolution to the 1980s and includes revelations concerning almost every country in the world. But the KGB's main target, of course, was the United States. Though there is top-secret material on almost every country in the world, the United States is at the top of the list. As well as containing many fascinating revelations, this is a major contribution to the secret history of the twentieth century. Among the topics and revelations explored are: The KGB's covert operations in the United States and throughout the West, some of which remain dangerous today. KGB files on Oswald and the JFK assassination that Boris Yeltsin almost certainly has no intention of showing President Clinton. The KGB's attempts to discredit civil rights leader in the 1960s, including its infiltration of the inner circle of a key leader. The KGB's use of radio intercept posts in New York and Washington, D.C., in the 1970s to intercept high-level U.S. government communications. The KGB's attempts to steal technological secrets from major U.S. aerospace and technology corporations. KGB covert operations against former President Ronald Reagan, which began five years before he became president. KGB spies who successfully posed as U.S. citizens under a series of ingenious disguises, including several who attained access to the upper echelons of New York society.

**the great terror a reassessment robert conquest: Shots in the Dark** Jadwiga Biskupska, Sara B. Castro, 2025-09-02 Brings together geographies and methodologies often kept apart by the difficulties of researching such a broad-ranging topic as the war Shots in the Dark offers cutting-edge scholarship across different subfields in World War II history, revealing new insights into how this crucial conflict was planned, experienced, and fought. Twelve chapters demonstrate the broad scope of wartime innovation and how the war functioned as a global turning point, driving change at all levels of human society, from government institutions to individual identities. Contributors collaborated in a vibrant workshops series sponsored by the North American branch of the Second World War Research Group (SWWRGNA), an organization that emerged to nurture scholarship on the global war and unite scholars fragmented in narrower regional and methodological “stovepipes” to consider the war as a whole. The SWWRGNA and this volume showcase the work of diverse historians across subfields—operational, cultural, gender, social, intelligence, and diplomatic history. This approach exposes the Second World War as a catalyst for overlapping global changes that revolutionized the world after 1945. These scholars reveal continuities and parallels in wartime experiences that would remain invisible in narrowly focused projects. The volume establishes three frameworks for understanding and interpreting changes the war provoked: 1) institutional adaptation, 2) “totalization,” or the militarization of civilians, and 3) cultural transformation. Each of the three frameworks is explored from four vantage points. Geographies are deliberately contrasted within each framework to examine the broad scope of that level of war-driven change.

**the great terror a reassessment robert conquest: The Totalitarian Experiment in Twentieth Century Europe** David Roberts, 2006-04-27 By developing a long-term supranational perspective, this ambitious, multi-faceted work provides a new understanding of ‘totalitarianism’, the troubling common element linking Soviet communism, Italian fascism and German Nazism. The book’s original analysis of antecedent ideas on the subject sheds light on the common origins and practices of the regimes. Through this fresh appreciation of their initial frame of mind, Roberts demonstrates how the three political experiments yielded unprecedented collective mobilization but also a characteristic combination of radicalization, myth-making, and failure. Providing deep historical analysis, the book proves that ‘totalitarianism’ best characterizes the common features in the originating aspirations, the mode of action and even the outcomes of Soviet communism, Italian fascism and German Nazism. By enhancing our knowledge of what ‘totalitarianism’ was and where it came from, Roberts affords important lessons about the ongoing challenges, possibilities, and dangers of the modern political experiment.

**the great terror a reassessment robert conquest:** *The Totalitarian Experiment in Twentieth-century Europe* David D. Roberts, 2006 By assessing totalitarianism in a more deeply historical way, this study suggests how we might learn further lessons from this troubling phase of modern political development.--Jacket.

**the great terror a reassessment robert conquest:** *Sketches From Siberia* Werner Toews, Anna Sudermann, 2018-10-04 A poignant biography of Jacob Davidovitch Sudermann, a teacher and artist from a Russian Mennonite community who, like so many others, fell victim to the bloodthirsty paranoia of the Stalinist purges and died in a Siberian gulag in 1937. *Sketches from Siberia* is pieced together from letters, sketches, and paintings done by Sudermann himself during his imprisonment as well as the unpublished memoir of his sister Anna. It was Anna and other family members that brought these documents with them when they immigrated to Canada in the late forties. This important biography also serves as a valuable cultural history of the plight of the Russian Mennonite community. At once moving and chilling, it is a story that shows the strength that lies at the heart of kindness, the light that outlives the darkness. A timely story even eighty years after Sudermann's death, it reminds us of the plight of displaced communities around the world today that are struggling to survive.

**the great terror a reassessment robert conquest:** *The History of Ukraine* Paul Kubicek, 2008-09-30 Ukraine's struggle for a national identity plagued this former Soviet Union state long before the Cold War shook the world. Its central location between Eastern Europe and Western Asia invited many different cultures to settle the land, ultimately populating a powerful early medieval society known as Kievan Rus. However, readers will learn how Kievan Rus's Golden Age quickly crumbled with decades of Mongol invasions, Polish-Lithuanian occupation, and Russian empirical ruling. Explore how Ukraine flirted with independence in the early 20th century, only to be quickly taken over by harsh Soviet rule in 1922. Despite its independence from the USSR in 1991, devastating consequences of the socialist rule have allowed the world to witness Ukraine's ceaseless efforts to attain a stable government, struggling through the poisoning of Viktor Yushchenko, rigged elections, and the Orange Revolution. Kubicek's survey is comprehensive and concise-a perfect resource for high school students and undergrads, as well as general readers looking to further their knowledge of this up-and-coming nation.

**the great terror a reassessment robert conquest:** *The History of Russia* Charles E. Ziegler, 2009-10-13 An updated edition of the acclaimed history of Russia, this new volume includes a wealth of material on events of the last decade. When first published, Charles Ziegler's *The History of Russia* was acclaimed as a source of information not easily found elsewhere, and as clear, balanced, and insightful, by Rajan Menon of Lehigh University. Now Ziegler's remarkable volume returns, fully updated to be the work of choice for readers looking for an introduction to the history of the world's largest country. *The History of Russia: Second Edition* moves from the 10th-century founding of Kievan Rus to the czars to the Communist Era to the present, with particular emphasis on the fall of the Soviet Union and the leadership of Mikhail Gorbachev, Boris Yeltsin, and Vladimir Putin. In addition to a new chapter on the tumultuous last decade, this edition features an updated introduction and an expanded chapter on the Yeltsin Era.

**the great terror a reassessment robert conquest:** *Keeping the Faith* Jennifer Jean Wynot, 2004 In *Keeping the Faith*, Jennifer Jean Wynot presents a clear and concise history of the trials and evolution of Russian Orthodox monasteries and convents and the important roles they have played in Russian culture, in both in the spiritual and political realms, from the abortive reforms of 1905 to the Stalinist purges of the 1930s. She shows how, throughout the Soviet period, Orthodox monks and nuns continued to provide spiritual strength to the people, in spite of severe persecution, and despite the ambivalent relationship the Russian state has had to the Russian church since the reign of Ivan the Terrible. Focusing her study on two

provinces, Smolensk and Moscow, Wynot describes the Soviet oppression and the clandestine struggles of the monks and nuns to uphold the traditions of monasticism and Orthodoxy. Their success against heavy odds enabled them to provide a counterculture to the Soviet regime. Indeed, of all the pre-1917 institutions, the Orthodox Church proved the most resilient. Why and how it managed to persevere despite the enormous hostility against it is a topic that continues to fascinate both the general public and historians. Based on previously unavailable Russian archival sources as well as written memoirs and interviews with surviving monks and nuns, Wynot analyzes the monasteries' adaptation to the Bolshevik regime and she challenges standard Western assumptions that Communism effectively killed the Orthodox Church in Russia. She shows that in fact, the role of monks and nuns in Orthodox monasteries and convents is crucial, and they are largely responsible for the continuation of Orthodoxy in Russia following the Bolshevik revolution. *Keeping the Faith* offers a wealth of new information and a new perspective that will be of interest not only to students of Russian history and communism, but also to scholars interested in church-state relations.

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