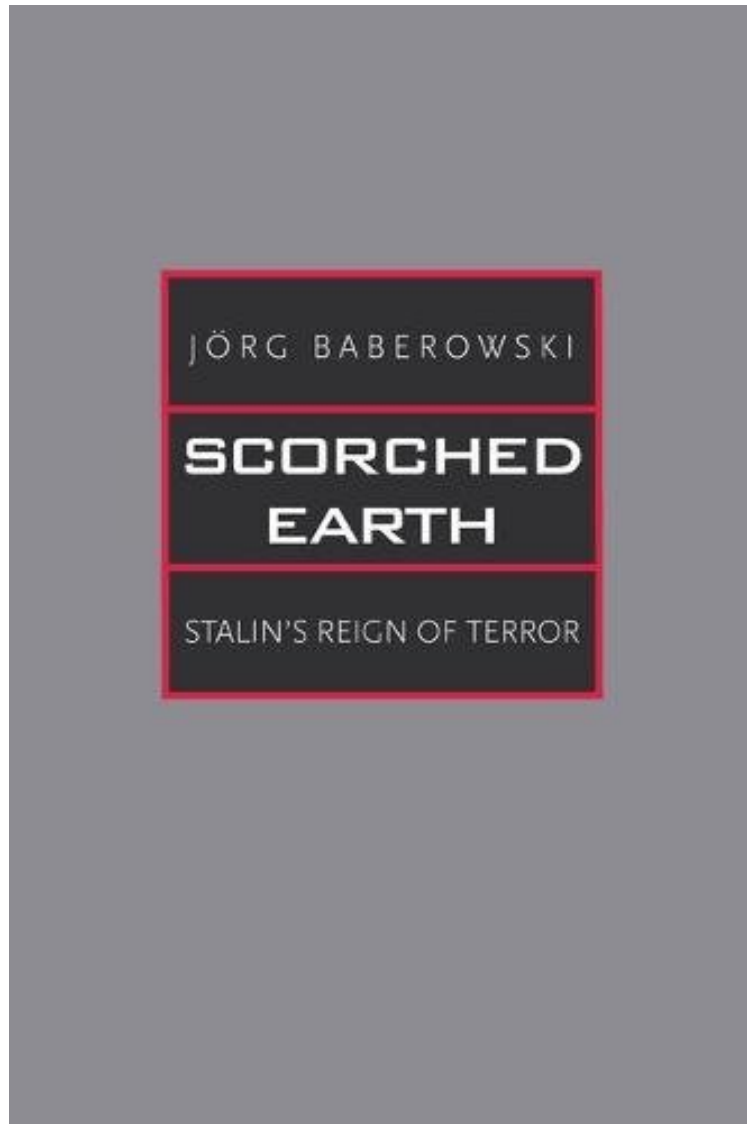


[Pdf free] Scorched Earth: Stalin's Reign of Terror (Yale-Hoover Series on Authoritarian Regimes)

Scorched Earth: Stalin's Reign of Terror (Yale-Hoover Series on Authoritarian Regimes)

Jörg Baberowski

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before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Scorched Earth: Stalin's Reign of Terror (Yale-Hoover Series on Authoritarian Regimes):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Excellent rendition of a grim story. By TruthSeeker This is a grim read, but necessary if one is to understand the Soviet Union. The Bolsheviks and Stalin led the Russian people on the

path of self destruction and genocide long before the word was coined. The guilty are named with facts: names, places, dates of their crimes. How they/he did so is masterfully explained in 437 clearly written pages with 54 pages of endnotes. My only criticism is the paltry six page index. I recommend this book for anyone remotely interested in Russian or Soviet history, the casual reader of history. You will not be disappointed. 2 of 10 people found the following review helpful. Professor Baberowski's work is without any significant intellectual value, ...By Morris Herzog Professor Baberowski's work is without any significant intellectual value, and its publication is largely an expression of the ideological agenda of the Hoover Institution at Stanford University. In Germany, Baberowski is well-known as the foremost advocate of the ultra-right historian Ernest Nolte, who was until his recent death the foremost academic apologist for Adolf Hitler. In an interview published in the English On-Line edition of Der Spiegel, Baberowski stated: "Nolte was done an injustice," says Baberowski. "Historically speaking, he was right." As for his own view on Hitler, Baberowski stated: "Hitler was no psychopath, and he wasn't vicious. He didn't want people to talk about the extermination of the Jews at his table." Those who doubt the accuracy of these quotations can check them at: [...] Baberowski's views on the Third Reich, along with his advocacy of anti-immigrant positions, has gained the attention and approval of the fascistic right on the United States. He was the subject of an admiring article in the US Nazi website, The Stormer [...] Given this record, it is disturbing that Baberowski's book bears the imprimatur of a major US university,

German scholar Jörg Baberowski is one of the world's leading experts on the Stalin era, but his work has seldom been translated into English. This book, an unremitting indictment of the mad violence with which Stalin ruled the Soviet Union, depicts Stalinism as a cruel and deliberate attack on Russian society, driven by "totalitarian ambitions" and the goal of modernizing and rationalizing a backward people. Baberowski takes a twofold approach, emphasizing Stalin's personal role and responsibility as well as the continuity he sees in Communist aims and ideology since 1917. Unlike recent apologist accounts that focus on the challenges of modernization or on the operational complexities of managing the Soviet state, this hard-hitting analysis unequivocally locates the origins of the terror in the culture of violence and the techniques of power. Detailed, well-documented, and including many new details on the workings of the Stalinist state, this powerful work encompasses the dictator's brutal reign from his achievement of total power in 1929 to his death in 1953.

"How often does an historian summon the courage to substantially revise his own work? In *Scorched Earth*, Jörg Baberowski again shows himself to be an elegant stylist and provocative thinker focused on the conundrum of mass violence. He argues that Stalin lusted for power, eagerly unleashed mass violence, indeed spoke through violence; that a state of emergency is a paradise for sadists and psychopaths; that the experience of violence fundamentally changes people; and that murder can induce exuberance. Chilling."--Stephen Kotkin, author of *Stalin*