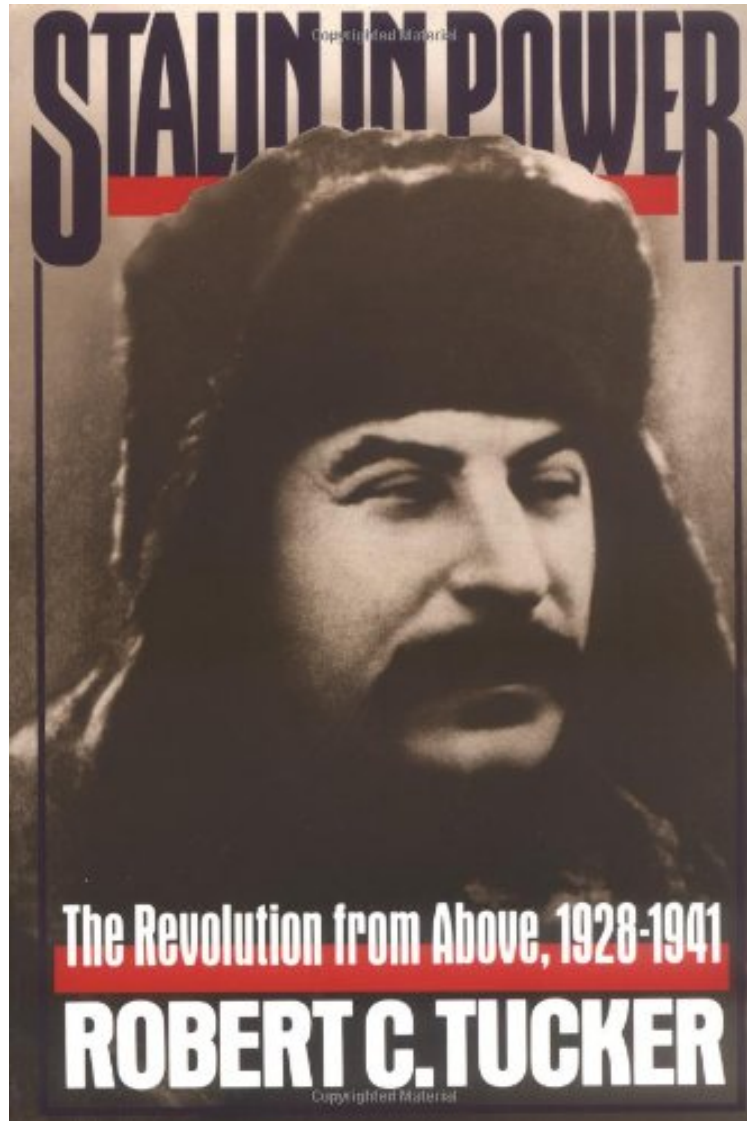


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Stalin in Power: The Revolution from Above, 1928-1941

Robert C. Tucker

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Robert C. Tucker : Stalin in Power: The Revolution from Above, 1928-1941 before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Stalin in Power: The Revolution from Above, 1928-1941:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Verbosity I say; Not Fountain of WisdomBy TruthieRockieI got through first volume on Stalin by this same writer somewhat more easily. Now I am in the middle of the second volume and wonder whether I will be able to read it to the end. Too much minutiae regarding party affairs and activities to the point of comprehensive detailed report on communist party's history. Maybe that has value for

historians or people digging out some specific facts or incidents but for the general reader: boring... Boring and quite repetition is the summary of this book. There is too much guessing of what went (or must have gone) through Stalin's mind as events unfolded and as he did or did not do certain things. Before tackling these two voluminous volumes suggested to me by a former Soviet citizen, I was interested in getting an account of so many lives, estimated at twenty million.. Those lives were wasted because of the poor decisions and 'pigheadedness' of this guy; a lazy youth whose profession was 'being a revolutionary'. The books unfortunately falls far short of accounting for that. What comes through from the two volumes is the evilness of groupthink of social animals and how they get trapped in their own collective behavior. Those stupid people who suffered his purges and persecutions did not have to choose him in the first place! 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. The author does a good job of explaining the actions of Stalin in their ...By Lionel S. Taylor This is an very complete study of one of the most infamous dictators in history. The author does a good job of explaining the actions of Stalin in their wider context as well as what his thought process may have been at the time of making the decision. I found the parts detailing the purge trials and the negotiations with the Nazis to be especially interesting. Even after reading this I was amazed at how someone who least deserves power can mender themselves into it and then maintain it despite various disastrous decisions. This book would make a good reference source also because each of the chapters can be read independently. This is a long but good read. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Stalin in Power: Rob't C. Tucker By WallyWorld I have read many excellent books on Stalin's life, his reign, individual histories of many of Stalin's puppets, and the Great Terror of 1937-1938. Mr. Tucker's book is superb in its depth, breadth and clear understanding of Stalin, his accomplishments and failures, the minions and accomplices who surrounded him, the costs of his bungling, both in human and economic terms, his political purposes, and critically, the psychological forces driving Stalin and his deadly machinations. If you could read only one book about Stalin, Tucker's "Stalin in Power" is it. Essential to any library on the subject, this powerful history will provide you with a deep understanding of the most evil and Machiavellian person in modern history, a person who both horrifies us, and begrudgingly, engenders a certain amount of respect for his single-mindedness.

"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.

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. Copyright 1990 Reed Business Information, Inc. 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 Copyright 1990 Reed Business Information, Inc. "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