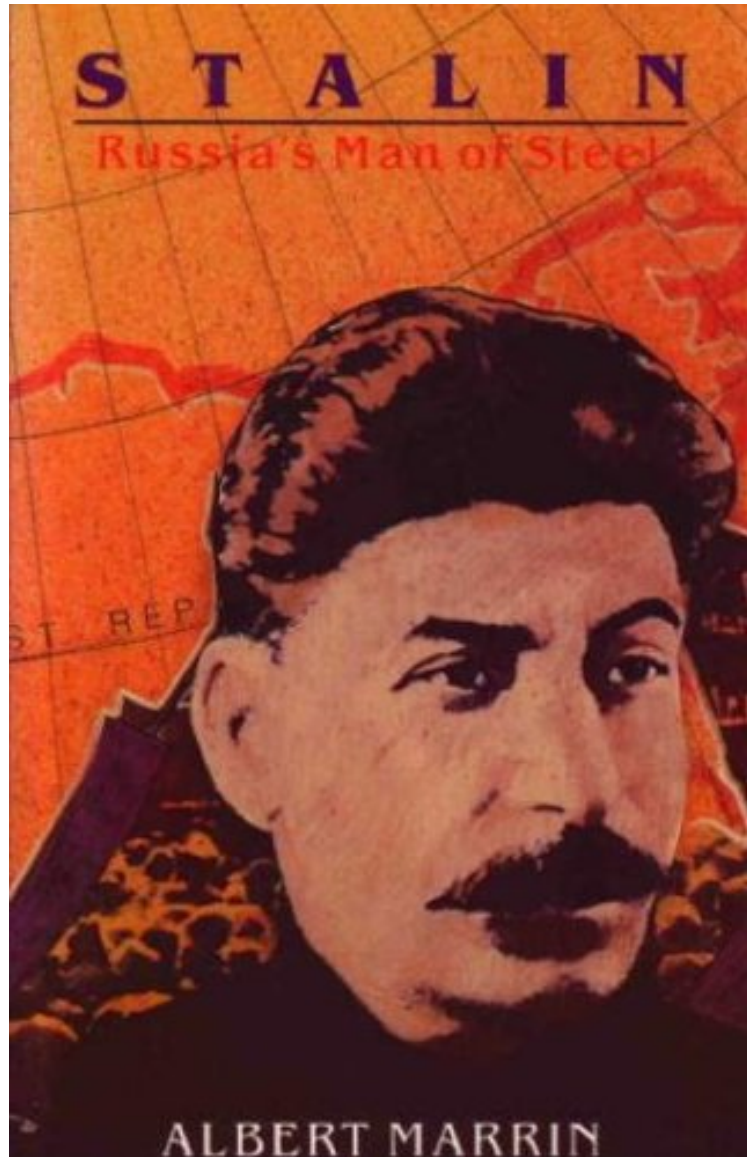


Stalin: Russia's Man of Steel

Albert Marrin

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Albert Marrin : Stalin: Russia's Man of Steel before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Stalin: Russia's Man of Steel:

16 of 16 people found the following review helpful. A short course in modern Russian history . . .By Grandmalf you teach history to the middle grades or have a child of that age interested in history, you know that reading material more advanced than the 40-page survey intended for third graders yet not quite so heavy as to be called a "tome" can be very hard to find. Marrin's work fills the bill.I first learned of Marrin when I acquired The Yanks are Coming: The United

States in the First World War for a unit on WWI for my homeschoolers. A life-long history buff, I found that book to be the single best thing I've read on WWI. Albert Marrin, chairman of the history department at Yeshiva University, is not only knowledgeable about his subject matter, he has the ability to write about history in a way that makes the reader want to keep reading and is adept at providing the big picture view of things. Readers of *Stalin: Man of Steel* are presented with a decent history of the rise of the USSR along with Stalin's biography. One note: *Stalin* was written in 1988, before the fall of the USSR. Educators will want to make mention of that, as a couple of things Marrin speaks of as "continuing to this day" have since changed. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Who really was the most notorious person of WWII? By Richard A. When we think of WWII we think of Hitler but he had an evil twin, Stalin. Albert Marrin writes an eye opening history that breaks your heart when you realize that along with Hitler, Stalin killed so many of his own people and unlike Hitler, he had many, many, more years to exact his cruelty. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Four Stars By kelsey smithevil bastard. but most people know that.

When Joseph Djugashvili was born the son of a poor shoemaker, few suspected he would rise to become one of the twentieth century's most ruthless and powerful dictators. Enamored as a young man with the revolutionary politics of Lenin, he joined the underground Marxist Party and began his pursuit of power by leading strikes and demonstrations. Six times he was exiled to Siberia for his illicit activities, escaping many times despite below freezing temperatures and on one occasion an attack by a pack of wolves. His instinctive ability to command authority and divide the opposition through lies and deceit set him on a path he would follow to become Russia's most absolute dictator. He was never reticent to shed innocent blood in the pursuit of his own ends, and he carefully orchestrated demonstrations that brought about massacres that he then used to his own revolutionary ends. His vision was far reaching, and while his initial purpose was to establish a Soviet socialist state his larger goal was world domination. Ultimately responsible for the deaths of over 30 million 13 million alone in the Ukrainian famine he caused Stalin's life is a sober and heartbreaking account of the reign of terror suffered by countless millions at the hands of one man. Illustrated with photographs.

From Publishers Weekly *Stalin*, Marrin writes, was "among the two or three worst men who ever lived." The numbers bear this out Stalin was directly or indirectly responsible for 14 million deaths in the famine of the 1930s, 12 million deaths in the gulag and 20 million deaths in World War II (an "unnecessarily high" price for victory). This biography of Stalin is gripping, however, because of its complexity and boldness as well as its horrors. The author of numerous books for young adults, Marrin explains the rise of Bolshevism, describes the tenets of socialist thought and shows Stalin's role in the creation of a totalitarian state. Stalin himself his battered youth, his incapacity for expressing gratitude is vividly presented. This is an agile history of a complicated subject, a breakthrough for readers not yet ready for the tomes on adult shelves. Bibliography; index and photos not seen by PW. Ages 12-up. Copyright 1988 Reed Business Information, Inc. From School Library Journal Grade 7-10 This excellent biography of Stalin follows the same pattern as Marrin's outstanding *Hitler* (Viking, 1987). He chronicles Stalin's early life and then turns to the history of the USSR and the influence Stalin had on it, emphasizing that Stalin was the USSR during his long regime. Marrin provides exceptional historical background, explaining how czarist Russia was ready for revolution and how the communists were able to seize power. He spends some time on Lenin and the communist consolidation of power, but most of the book is about the will of Stalin and how he imposed that will on the revolution and the entire country. His manipulations and purges are described in detail, as is his struggle with Hitler and Germany. Throughout the book, Marrin does a superb job of conveying the sheer horror of Stalin's totalitarian regime, describing for readers how one man can be the cause of millions of deaths and enormous suffering. He uses quotations, primary sources, statistics, and excellent writing to make a difficult subject understandable and interesting for intermediate readers. As the USSR enters the age of glasnost, this title is very timely and fills a need for material for this age group. It is better than *Joseph Stalin* (Watts, 1969; o.p.) by Liversidge and completely replaces older titles such as Appel's *The Age of Dictators* (Crown, 1968; o.p.). *Stalin* is an outstanding biography. It deserves a place in all libraries serving intermediate and young adult readers. Mary Mueller, Rolla Junior High School, Mo. Copyright 1988 Reed Business Information, Inc. About the Author Albert Marrin is a professor of history who, in more than twenty juvenile nonfiction books, has attempted to make the past accessible to young readers. In award-winning books such as *1812: The War Nobody Won*, *Cowboys, Indians, and Gunfighters: The Story of the Cattle Kingdom*, and "Unconditional Surrender": U. S. Grant and the Civil War, he has created a tapestry of United States history by focusing on dramatic moments and famous personalities. With biographies of leaders and tyrants from Napoleon to Hitler, Marrin has also interpreted the events of a larger world stage for juvenile readers. Additionally, his several books on the First and Second World Wars provide well-organized introductions to many aspects of those struggles. Chairman of the history department at New York's Yeshiva University, Marrin's books for young readers complement his academic duties and writings. One of his earliest such books, *Victory in the Pacific*, is indicative of Marrin's thorough, no-nonsense approach to history. Albert Marrin from Authors and Artists for Young Adults. ©2005-2006 Thomson Gale, a part of the Thomson Corporation. All rights reserved. Dr. Albert Marrin is a master at weaving personal perspective and historical material smoothly to

give readers an interesting and reliable account of the subject. He has written over two dozen award-winning nonfiction books for young people which have been called "addictive reading" by The Horn Book. This is a wonderful clue to the type of author Marrin is. We at BFB respect his work and are so pleased to be publishing several of his titles. Three of his books, including *Hitler and Stalin: Russia's Man of Steel*, were School Library Journal Best Books of the Year.