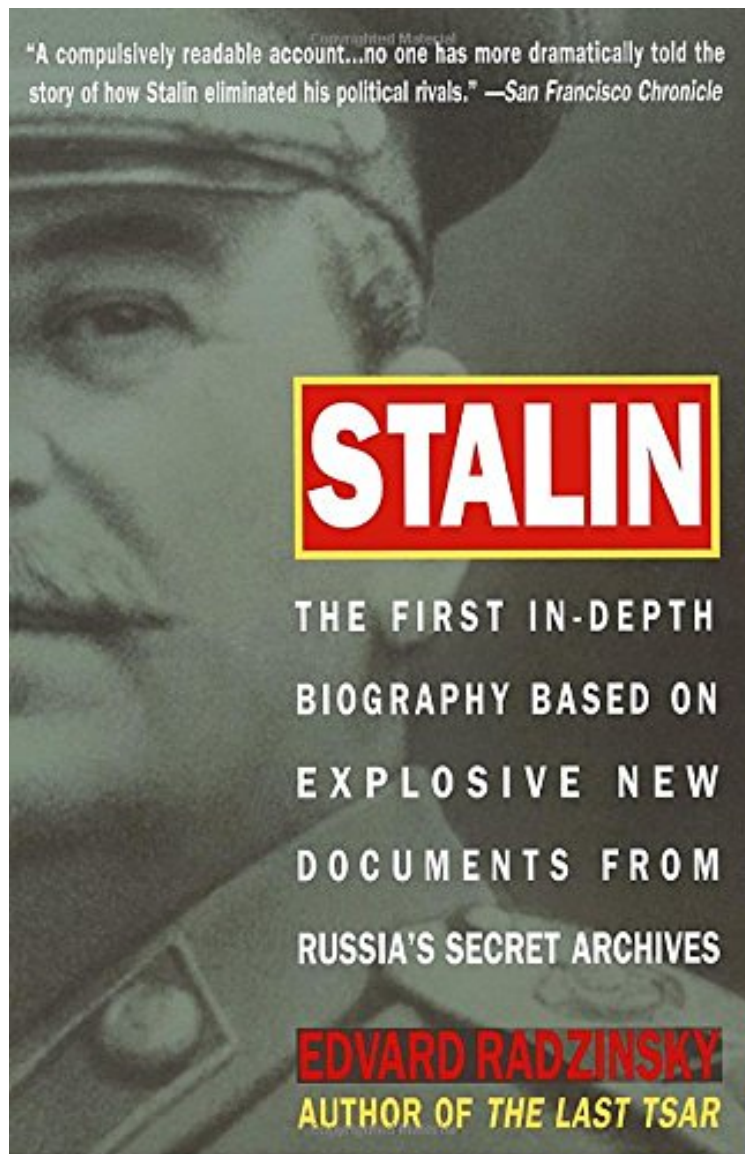


(Mobile ebook) Stalin: The First In-depth Biography Based on Explosive New Documents from Russia's Secret Archives

## Stalin: The First In-depth Biography Based on Explosive New Documents from Russia's Secret Archives

*Edvard Radzinsky*

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**Edvard Radzinsky : Stalin: The First In-depth Biography Based on Explosive New Documents from Russia's Secret Archives** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Stalin: The First In-depth Biography Based on Explosive New Documents from Russia's Secret Archives:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. An intriguing history of such a powerful manBy SadFlowerA beautifully written review of a fascinating book for anyone who wishes to know the truth about Stalin. I've been interested in the history of the Soviet Union and Stalin for many years, having grown up during the Cold War. Taken from documents now available in Russia's secret archives, Radzinsky obviously did his research. To think that such evil existed, and some of his victims included family and friends... It makes a strong case for Stalin finally being murdered by those close to him who knew from the 1930s what lay ahead for them in the early 1950s, especially in light of his plans for the future. My one problem was in keeping everyone straight from when and how they knew Stalin, to their fate at being murdered, exiled or sent to the camps. It will definitely be a book to be reread, and it might be interesting for me to do a chart of their relationship to Stalin and their fate at his hands. Few were lucky to live to tell the tale...2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Little DisappointingBy StewThis was my first book on Stalin, and it was a little disappointing. It's geared more to the in-depth history of the Bolshevik Party, I thought, than to Stalin. It started out pretty good as to his rise to power then became a multiple character episode, that bounced around in dates of time, which I found hard to follow and comprehend. Mr. Radzinsky didn't get into the true atrocities of the Stalin era and would only mention or touch on the subject as though you already new of the subject. If you have studied Russian history and want to advance or read a different prospective of newly released documents this might be your type of read, if you're new to the subject and want a comparative read about Stalin and the terror of atrocities that he put on the Russian people you might want to look elsewhere. It is not my intentions to criticizes Mr. Radzinsky and his writing, but, his book was not well constructed in taking the reader through a historic time that is important to remember and understand.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Hitler's Evil TwinBy E. Joseph Anna"Stalin" by Edvard Radzinsky paints a dark picture of the Russian leader, Joseph Stalin. Stalin was probably responsible for more deaths (26 million) than the arch devil Hitler. A great number of those deaths were of his own people. Radzinsky portrays Stalin as either playing a chess game or writing a novel with his co-revolutionaries as victims to ensure his sole grip on power for 25 years. He used terror to ensure that no opposition to him arose. Later dictators like North Korea's Kim or Iraq's Saddam followed his game plan. Probably one of the more frightening things is that only Stalin's death avoided all out war with the West. This is a memorable biography.

From the author of *The Last Tsar*, the first full-scale life of Stalin to have what no previous biography has fully obtained: the facts. Granted privileged access to Russia's secret archives, Edvard Radzinsky paints a picture of the Soviet strongman as more calculating, ruthless, and blood-crazed than has ever been described or imagined. Stalin was a man for whom power was all, terror a useful weapon, and deceit a constant companion. As Radzinsky narrates the high drama of Stalin's epic quest for domination--first within the Communist Party, then over the Soviet Union and the world--he uncovers the startling truth about this most enigmatic of historical figures. Only now, in the post-Soviet era, can what was suppressed be told: Stalin's long-denied involvement with terrorism as a young revolutionary; the crucial importance of his misunderstood, behind-the-scenes role during the October Revolution; his often hostile relationship with Lenin; the details of his organization of terror, culminating in the infamous show trials of the 1930s; his secret dealings with Hitler, and how they backfired; and the horrifying plans he was making before his death to send the Soviet Union's Jews to concentration camps--tantamount to a potential second Holocaust. Radzinsky also takes an intimate look at Stalin's private life, marked by his turbulent relationship with his wife Nadezhda, and recreates the circumstances that led to her suicide. As he did in *The Last Tsar*, Radzinsky thrillingly brings the past to life. The Kremlin intrigues, the ceaseless round of double-dealing and back-stabbing, the private worlds of the Soviet Empire's ruling class--all become, in Radzinsky's hands, as gripping and powerful as the great Russian sagas. And the riddle of that most cold-blooded of leaders, a man for whom nothing was sacred in his pursuit of absolute might--and perhaps the greatest mass murderer in Western history--is solved.

.com Granted privileged access to Russia's secret archives, Edvard Radzinsky has broken down the iron curtain of myth, secrecy and lies that has surrounded Stalin's life and career, painting a picture of the Soviet strongman as more calculating, ruthless and blood-crazed than has ever been described or imagined.From Publishers WeeklyRussian historian and playwright Radzinsky, whose bestselling *The Last Tsar* chronicled the assassination of the Romanov royal family, has produced a vivid, astonishingly intimate biography of Joseph Stalin. By drawing heavily on previously unavailable primary-source documents in recently opened party, state and KGB archives, he portrays the Soviet dictator as even more sadistic and methodically demoniacal than Western historians had supposed. Pointing to the young revolutionary's repeated escapes and trips abroad, Radzinsky builds an intriguing circumstantial case that Stalin was a double agent working for both the Bolshevik cause and the czarist secret police. He documents how Lenin recruited Stalin into terrorist violence and used him to tame and crush dissidence within the party ranks. Through interviews with Stalin's granddaughter and with the niece of Nadezhda Alliluyeva, the dictator's wife, Radzinsky pieces together the violent quarrel between Stalin and his wife that led to her suicide weeks before she was to have major surgery. Using oral testimonies, the author deduces that Stalin's murderous anti-Semitic campaign of 1953--whose goal was the deportation of hundreds of thousands of Jews to Siberia and Kazakhstan--was a prelude to

his plan to launch a third world war. Radzinsky also tracked down one of Stalin's bodyguards, Peter Lozgachev, whose testimony that Stalin's guards deliberately denied him medical attention and left him to die adds weight to the author's hypothesis that Stalin was eliminated by close aide Lavrenti Beria (who reportedly boasted, "I took him out") as part of a conspiracy to avert nuclear Armageddon. Stalin died in 1953, aged 74 by standard sources, although Radzinsky maintains he was a year older. Photos. 50,000 first printing; major ad/promo; author tour. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal Radzinsky (The Last Tsar, Audio s, LJ 11/15/93) presents a fascinating study of one of modern history's truly evil personalities. His biography of Stalin, masterfully read by David McCallum, uses sources from secret archives heretofore unavailable to historians to paint a portrait of a man so driven by deceit and the need for absolute power that he would stop at nothing to destroy those who knew him before he became "the man of steel." The author reveals information that sheds light on the mystery of the enigmatic dictator's birth as well as his probable murder by other powerful figures in the Kremlin hierarchy. Radzinsky details evidence of Stalin's early involvement in terrorism, stormy relationship with Lenin, assumption of political control, secret dealings with Hitler, and much more. The author's careful research through both written documentation and, perhaps more importantly, through the oral history of the era, has produced a thrilling record of the private world of the Soviet ruling class. Short musical interludes interspersed throughout are at times distracting, however. Highly recommended for large biography collections. ?Germaine C. Linkins, SUNY at Potsdam Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc.