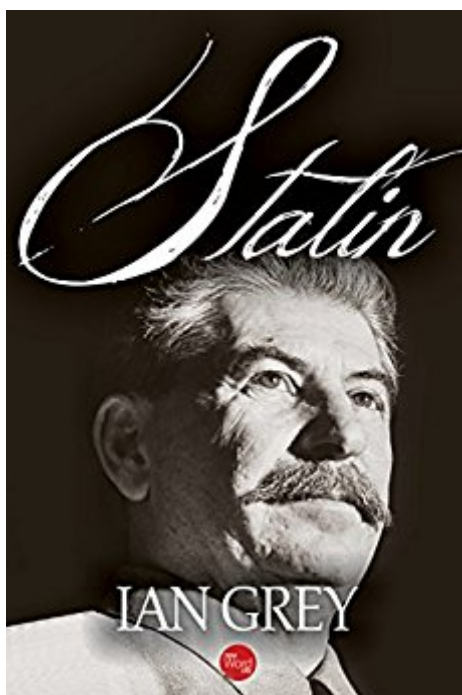


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Stalin



Synopsis

Joseph Stalin was one of the most frightening figures of the twentieth century. His name brings to mind brutal terrorism and ruthless oppression. Yet, as New York Times bestselling author Ian Grey shows, at the core of the Man of Steel was a humble, puritanical Georgian peasant. What set him above others was his intelligence, discipline, perception, indomitable will, and above all, a messianic determination to lead Russia to a grand destiny. Grey's comprehensive biography portrays Stalin as a complex, paradoxical figure - a leader whose power was rooted in the tsarist traditions he abhorred and whose tyranny was based on an ambition to ensure the strength of his party. In his single-minded dedication to the growth of Russia under communism, Stalin was able to disregard all sense of morality. Yet, through his magnetism, he commanded the respect of his colleagues and the adulation of his people. Even Winston Churchill held him in awe. Stalin is a powerful history of Russia's evolution from backward nation to world power, as well as a dramatic portrait of a man who was called both "The Implacable" and "Beloved Father."

Book Information

File Size: 4550 KB

Print Length: 363 pages

Publisher: New Word City, Inc.; 1 edition (April 11, 2017)

Publication Date: April 11, 2017

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B06Y62WTZV

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #101,210 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #85

in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > History > Russia & Former Soviet Republics #97 in Books >

Biographies & Memoirs > Historical > Europe > Russia #179 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks >

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Customer Reviews

It's hard to exaggerate the importance of Joseph Stalin to history. He was one of a group of revolutionaries who, in the early twentieth century, established the first significant Marxist state, and as its dictator, he implemented the communist agenda with stunning ruthlessness. During World War II, he led his country to victory; after the war, he pushed the Soviet Union's boundaries farther and farther east and west. The son of a poor, drunken shoemaker, he held onto power through the strength of his character and his dark character. He is responsible for the executions of more than 1 million people; another 2 to 3 million died in his labor camps. The author of this book compares Stalin to Peter the Great because Russia has not undergone such a dramatic, wrenching change since Peter the Great's time. He also compares Stalin to Ivan the Terrible in his brutality. This well-written book vividly recounts Stalin's life story. We see not only the bad but the good – he was a man of incredible courage, for example. It is a flesh-and-blood portrait that I found hard to put down and one that is incredibly relevant today and helps explain why Putin is the way he is. Highly recommended.

Good in depth examination of Stalin's life, including the background of the Russian revolution and ultimate rise of communism. Not always easy to push through, but ultimately worth it. The author does a decent job of revealing the entire complex person that was Stalin; the good, the bad, and the ugly.

This book presents insights about Stalin that are not typically covered. It reveals a man who had a deep understanding of people and of war. He comes across as being both a good deal more intelligent than Winston Churchill and a leader who stood by his promises. The book describes clearly the moment when Winston Churchill made the decision that ultimately led to the ongoing conflict between east and west in modern times.

This is a great objective biography that may change your beliefs about Stalin and the early Soviet Union.

Very informative...full of history! Really enjoyed.

different view of him than most biographies

It's ok.

Reality, history, entertainment, in plain English and easy to understand. Passionate story that helps understanding many events in today's societies

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