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Stalinist Perpetrators on Trial: Scenes from the Great Terror in Soviet Ukraine (Hardback)

By Lynne Viola

Oxford University Press, United Kingdom, 2017. Hardback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. The Great Terror (1937-38) in the Soviet Union occupies a central role in the history of twentieth-century mass violence. During a sixteen-month period, the Stalin regime arrested over 1.5 million people, mostly on trumped-up charges of counterrevolutionary and anti-Soviet activity, of whom about half were summarily executed and the rest were sent to the Gulag. While we now know a great deal about the experience of victims, we know almost nothing about the perpetrators. One explanation for this lacuna is that there were no public trials-no equivalent of the postwar prosecution of Nazi war criminals-of Soviet perpetrators. Yet there were secret trials of NKVD (secret police) officials, the subject of this new book by eminent Soviet historian Lynne Viola. In what has been dubbed the purge of the purgers, almost one thousand secret police officers were prosecuted by Soviet military courts for violations of Soviet criminal procedure. They were charged with multiple counts of fabrication of evidence, falsification of interrogation protocols, use of torture to secure confessions, and murders during pre-trial detention of suspects. As a rule, these trials were held in strict observance of...



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