

An introduction to a groundbreaking new book and its author

## 1937: Stalin's Year of Terror

Vadim Rogovin  
29 December 1998

Mehring Books is pleased to announce publication of *1937: Stalin's Year of Terror* by Vadim Z. Rogovin (584 pages, ISBN 0-929087-77-1, \$US 29.95 plus shipping - available online).

*1937: Stalin's Year of Terror* is the first major study by a Russian Marxist historian of the most tragic and fateful year in the history of the Soviet Union. Possessing an encyclopedic knowledge of Soviet source material, including archival documents that have only recently been released, Professor Vadim Rogovin presents a detailed and penetrating analysis of the causes, impact and consequences of Stalin's purges.

Rogovin demonstrates that the principal function and aim of the terror was the physical annihilation of the substantial socialist opposition to Stalin's bureaucratic regime. Moreover, Rogovin places at the very center of this historical tragedy the crucial political figure whom most contemporary historians tend, for various ideological reasons, to ignore: Leon Trotsky. Rogovin insists that it is impossible to understand the purges apart from Stalin's determination to stamp out all vestiges of Trotsky's influence which, despite years of repression, had remained a powerful current with considerable support and revolutionary potential within the USSR.

Although the first to be translated into the English language, *1937: Stalin's Year of Terror* is the fourth volume in a projected six-volume history of the political conflicts within the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and the Communist International between 1922 and 1940. Five volumes of this series have already been published, to steadily growing acclaim, in Russia. The sixth volume will be completed before the end of 1998. All six volumes will be translated into English and published by Mehring Books.

In this exhibit we unveil the table of contents,

introduction and first chapter of *1937: Stalin's Year of Terror*. We also present three lectures that have been delivered by Professor Rogovin on the socialist opposition to Stalinism in the USSR. Additionally, we reprint the text of tributes paid to Vadim Rogovin on the occasion of his 60th birthday in May, 1997 by David North, national secretary of the Socialist Equality Party in the US; Ulrich Rippert, national secretary of the Partei fur Soziale Gleichheit (Socialist Equality Party) in Germany; and Barbara Slaughter, member of the Central Committee of the Socialist Equality Party in Britain.

*1937: Stalin's Year of Terror* can now be ordered online, by phone, or by mail. Two of Vadim Rogovin's lectures, *Stalin's Great Terror*:

*Origins and Consequences* and *Leon Trotsky and the Fate of Marxism in the USSR*, can also be purchased in pamphlet form (39 pages, ISBN 1-875639-13-6, \$US 8.95 plus shipping).



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