TERROR AND DEMOCRACY IN THE AGE OF STALIN

*Terror and Democracy in the Age of Stalin* is the first comprehensive study of popular participation in the “Great Terror,” a period in which millions of people were arrested, interrogated, shot, and sent to labor camps. The book shifts attention from the machinations of top party leaders to the mechanisms by which repression engulfed Soviet society. In the unions and the factories, repression was accompanied by a mass campaign for democracy. Party leaders urged workers to criticize and remove corrupt and negligent officials. Workers, shop foremen, local party members, and union leaders adopted the slogans of repression and used them, often against each other, to redress long-standing grievances, shift blame for intractable problems in production, and advance personal agendas. Repression quickly became a mass phenomenon, not only in the number of victims it claimed, but also in the number of perpetrators it spawned. Using new, formerly secret, archival sources, *Terror and Democracy in the Age of Stalin* takes us into the unions and the factories to observe how ordinary people moved through clear stages toward madness and self-destruction.

Terror and Democracy in the Age of Stalin

The Social Dynamics of Repression

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This book is dedicated to my children

Eva Jane Rediker

and

Ezekiel Kalman Rediker

in the hope that the past will prove useful to them in building a better future.
Contents

Photos viii
Acknowledgments ix

Introduction: Toward a Social History of the Terror 1
1 The Social Crisis of Industrialization 11
2 From Murder to Mass Conspiracy 55
3 Mobilizing Mass Support for Repression 95
4 The Campaign for Union Democracy 133
5 Victims and Perpetrators 163
6 Rituals of Repression in the Factories 204
Conclusion 252
Index 263
Photos

1. Serp i Molot (Hammer and Sickle) factory, 1935  
2. Serp i Molot, 1935  
3. Krasnyi Proletarii (Red Proletarian) factory, 1935  
4. Funeral of Sergei M. Kirov with Stalin by the coffin  
5. Nikolai I. Ezhov, head of the People’s Commissariat of Internal Affairs  
6. Nikolai I. Ezhov  
7. Meeting of workers in Serp i Molot’s open hearth furnace, 1936  
8. Meeting of workers in Trekhgornaia Manufakutra  
9. Women workers in the Kauchuk Rubber Factory at an election meeting, June 1937  
10. Workers cast secret ballots in multicandidate elections for the factory committee in the Chicherin Machine Building factory, Moscow, June 1937  
11. Aleksandra V. Artiukhina, head of the Union of Cotton Textile Workers in Moscow and Leningrad  
12. Nikolai M. Shvernik, head of the All Union Central Council of Unions  
13. P. F. Stepanov, director of Serp i Molot, 1933  
14. Workers in the Likernovodochnyi (Spirits and Vodka) factory pouring vodka into bottles, 1937  
15. Workers in Krasnyi Proletarii listen to a speech by a party organizer, 1939  
16. Meeting of workers in Serp i Molot, 1939
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