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978-0-521-86614-9 - Terror and Democracy in the Age of Stalin: The Social Dynamics of Repression

Wendy Z. Goldman

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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.

Wendy Z. Goldman is a professor of history at Carnegie Mellon University. She is author of *Women, the State and Revolution: Soviet Family Policy and Social Life, 1917–1936* (Cambridge, 1993), winner of the Berkshire Conference Book Award, as well as *Women at the Gates: Gender and Industry in Stalin’s Russia* (Cambridge, 2002).

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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.*

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