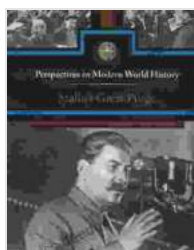


# Stalin's Great Purge: Perspectives on Modern World History

The Great Purge, also known as the Great Terror, was a campaign of political repression and persecution in the Soviet Union from 1936 to 1938. It was initiated by Joseph Stalin, the General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, and involved the arrest and execution of millions of people.



## Stalin's Great Purge (Perspectives on Modern World History) by Leon Trotsky

★★★★☆ 4.3 out of 5

Language : English

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X-Ray for textbooks : Enabled



The purge was sparked by Stalin's paranoia and his desire to eliminate any potential threats to his power. He accused his rivals within the party of treason, sabotage, and espionage. Anyone who was seen as a potential threat, including members of the intelligentsia, the military, and the peasantry, was targeted.

The purge was carried out by the NKVD, the Soviet secret police. The NKVD used a variety of methods to extract confessions from its victims,

including torture, sleep deprivation, and psychological pressure. Once a confession had been obtained, the victim was typically executed.

The Great Purge had a devastating impact on Soviet society. Millions of people were killed or sent to labor camps. The purge also destroyed the Soviet intelligentsia and weakened the military. The purge created a climate of fear and suspicion in the Soviet Union that lasted for decades.

The Great Purge continues to be a topic of debate and research today. Some historians argue that the purge was necessary to eliminate potential threats to the Soviet Union. Others argue that the purge was a brutal and unnecessary campaign of terror.

### **Perspectives on the Great Purge**

There are a variety of perspectives on the Great Purge. Some historians argue that the purge was necessary to eliminate potential threats to the Soviet Union. Others argue that the purge was a brutal and unnecessary campaign of terror.

### **The Necessity of the Purge**

Some historians argue that the Great Purge was necessary to eliminate potential threats to the Soviet Union. They point to the fact that the Soviet Union was facing a number of threats at the time, including:

\* The threat of war from Nazi Germany. \* The threat of counter-revolution from within the Soviet Union. \* The threat of sabotage and espionage from foreign agents.

They argue that the purge was necessary to eliminate these threats and to ensure the security of the Soviet Union.

## The Brutality of the Purge

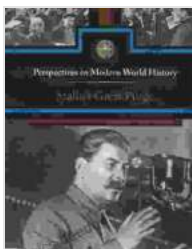
Other historians argue that the Great Purge was a brutal and unnecessary campaign of terror. They point to the fact that millions of people were killed or sent to labor camps, many of whom were innocent of any crime. They argue that the purge was a gross violation of human rights and that it did nothing to improve the security of the Soviet Union.

## The Legacy of the Purge

The Great Purge had a lasting impact on Soviet society. It created a climate of fear and suspicion that lasted for decades. It also weakened the Soviet military and destroyed the Soviet intelligentsia. The purge continues to be a source of shame and embarrassment for the Russian government.

## The Great Purge in the Modern World

The Great Purge is a reminder of the dangers of totalitarianism. It is also a reminder of the importance of human rights and the rule of law. The lessons of the Great Purge are still relevant today, as the world continues to face threats from terrorism, extremism, and other forms of political violence.



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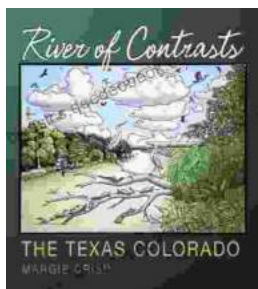
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