



Stalin: History in an Hour

Rupert Colley

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Arguably no person in history had such a direct and negative impact on the lives of so many as Joseph Stalin. Under the Red Tsar terror knew no limits, it did not discriminate; no one was safe, no institution, no single town or village was immune. Yet, following his death in 1953, Stalin was deeply mourned. He had 'received the country with a wooden plough, and left it with a nuclear missile shield'. And no-one else, some claimed, could have led the Soviet Union to victory in the Second World War.

So who was Joseph Stalin, what was his role during the Russian Revolution; how did he come to power, what made him such a destructive tyrant, and how did he impose his will on the Soviet Union for so long?

Love history? Know your stuff with History in an Hour...

Stalin: History in an Hour Details

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From Reader Review Stalin: History in an Hour for online ebook

Anna says

Another enjoyable introduction to a topic from the history in an hour series. With so many works published about Stalin this makes for a good starting point. Some have described this as merely a chronology but I would argue that it provides a sufficiently detailed narrative of the life of Stalin and his regime. Overall I enjoyed this book having limited previous knowledge of life of Stalin post Lenin's death.

Judith Huang says

Clear and concise. I wish it had gone into more detail about the cult of personality surrounding Stalin though, there was little mention about this in the book and that had been what I was interested in reading about.

Jessica says

This short book was wonderful. I knew a bit about Stalin, now I'm quite interested in learning so much more. That's the beauty of this series, it awakens your interest and forces you to go out and learn a bit more

Highly recommend!

Chu-Salyer Sharon says

Don't know much about Stalin, but this book makes me want to read up on the man and find out more on him.

Barry says

It tells the potted history of Stalin and you can read it in about an hour.

Matt says

As you'd expect from something called "History in an Hour" the book moves briskly, skimming across the top of a broad lake of facts. A single reading or listening (for the audiobook) will only give a vague impression, while subsequent visits to the text allows for greater elucidation. One of my chief grumbles, however, is the single bias in the portrayal of Stalin. While I do not believe that Stalin was someone to be necessarily admired or held in high regard -- and he did many things that were unquestionably cruel and brutal -- the text is so clearly biased in its uniformly "evil man" image of him that it becomes a little hard to

take at its word, even though it is true. My own knowledge of Stalin's history is not as well-informed as I wish it were, which is why I was drawn to a speedy but detailed overview. This book is that to be certain; however, my interest is invited to more in-depth biographies simply because this goes a little too much like a bullet-point list of the vicious and self-interested acts of a simply paranoid and evil man. There must be more to the story, or at least a more removed, journalistic approach to the presentation of these events. However, the history does in many ways speak for itself, and the book is still a useful look, balancing a wealth of information within its objective of brevity quite well. And the horrors of Stalin's former rule are undeniable, so my comments on the apparent bias of the book should not be taken as censure. If anything, the book gave me a much greater idea of the depth and reach of the terrors Stalin inflicted.

Joseph Ramsden says

This is a great little series. The books give you a nice overview of the topic. This one on Stalin is no different.

Tole says

interesting enough but quite short as the title suggests.

Lu says

Simple overview
Touches on historical highlights and personality

Michael Legge says

Shame he dies in the...actually, no it isn't.

Oana Bradulet says

Perfect for a quick history read - short and concise yet immensely insightful.

Brian says

stalin worked his way into a couple of the other history in an hour books i read. so, i feel like i got more out of this because i came into it with a little bit of knowledge.

anyway, not a cool dude. died because because were too scared of helping him wrong.
