

A drawing and description by Evfrosiniia Kersnovskaia, a former Gulag prisoner.

First we were made to strip naked and were shoved into some roofless enclosures made out of planks. Above our heads the stars twinkled; below our bare feet lay frozen excrement... the naked people were led across a courtyard "the camp version of a foyer" into a special building where our documents were 'formulated' and our things were "searched."

The goal of the search was to leave us with rags, and to take the good things sweaters, mittens, socks, scarves, vests, and good shoes for themselves. Ten thieves shamelessly fleeced these destitute, barely alive people.

Courtesy of Evfrosiniia Kersnovskaia Foundation, Moscow. Accessible here: https://gulaghistory.org/nps/onlineexhibit/stalin/women.php.html

Source 1: A drawing and description from a former Gulag prisoner.



A father and a son, the father, a Russian skilled worker in a Moscow factory and the son a member of the Young Communist League, stood glaring at one another. The father trembling with numbers of us workers and the little food there is uneatable. That is what you have done to our Mother Russia. excitement, lost control of himself and shouted at his Communist son. It is terrible now. We workers are starving. Look at Chelyabinsk where I once worked. Disease there is carrying away

which resounded everywhere I went and that was: "There is no bread." "Construction indeed!" Was the father's reply: "What's the use of construction when you have destroyed all that's best in Russia?" ... What did the peasants say? There was one cry The son cried back: "But look at the giants of industry which we have built. Look at the new tractor works. Look at the Dniepostroy. That construction has been worth suffering for."

[T]oday the famine is everywhere, in the formerly rich Ukraine, in Russia, in Central Asia, in North Caucasia - everywhere.

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Accessible here: https://www.garethjones.org/soviet articles/famine rules russia.htm Gareth Jones, FAMINE RULES RUSSIA - The 5-year Plan Has Killed the Bread Supply. The London Evening Standard, March 31st, 1933.

Jones who explores the impact of Stalin's 5-Year Plans. Source 2: An article from The Evening Standard, a newspaper. Punblished on 31st March, 1933. The article is by Gareth

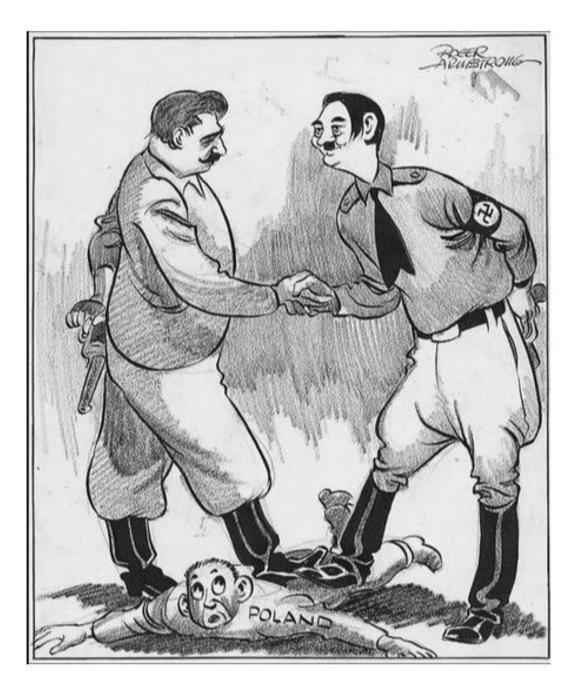


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Source 3: An extract from *Beria letter to Stalin on Katyn, BBC News, 2010*

Stalin's signature on a document that approved the execution of "bourgeois" Poles following the Soviet invasion of eastern Poland in 1939. As a result, around 22,000 Polish officers and intellectuals were executed by Soviet secret police at Katyn Forest and other locations in western Russia in April-May 1940. This event was blamed on the Nazis by the Soviet government.





Source 4: A cartoon depicting the Nazi-Soviet Pact by Roger Armstrong, a political cartoonist, 1939.





Both High Contracting Parties obligate themselves to desist from any act of violence, any aggressive action, and any attack on each other, either individually or jointly with other Powers.

The question of whether the interests of both parties make desirable the maintenance of an independent Polish States and how such a state should be bounded can only be definitely determined in the course of further political developments. In any event both Governments will resolve this question by means of a friendly agreement...

This protocol shall be treated by both parties as strictly secret.

Source 5: A photograph of Soviet Foreign Minister Vyacheslav Molotov signing the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact as Joseph Stalin watches, 1939.



A district Party conference was under way in Moscow Province. It was presided over by a new secretary of the District Party Committee, replacing one recently arrested. At the conclusion of the conference, a tribute to Comrade Stalin was called for...The small hall echoed with "stormy applause, rising to an ovation." For three minutes, four minutes, five minutes...palms were getting sore and raised arms were already aching. And the older people were panting from exhaustion. It was becoming insufferably silly even to those who really adored Stalin. However, who would dare be the first to stop? The secretary of the District Party Committee could have done it...But he was a newcomer. He had taken the place of a man who'd been arrested. He was afraid! After all, NKVD men were standing in the hall applauding and watching to see who quit first!... Then, after eleven minutes, the director of the paper factory assumed a business like expression and sat down in his seat...To a man, everyone else stopped dead and sat down...That, however, was how they discovered who the independent people were. And that was how they went about eliminating them. That same night the factory director was arrested. They easily pasted ten years on him on the pretext of something quite different.

Source 6: An extract from *The Gulag Archipelago 1918-1956* by Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, published in 2002. Solzhenitsyn was a famous Soviet dissident who was imprisoned and then deported from the USSR due to his writings. His writings explore Soviet repression, especially the Gulag system.





Credit: Fine Art Images/Heritage Images/Getty Images & AFP/GettyImages. Accessible here: <u>https://www.history.com/news/josef-stalin-great-purge-photo-retouching</u>

Source 7: A photograph published in www.history.com shows Nikolai Yezhov, pictured right of Stalin, later fell from favour and was removed from this photograph at the Moscow Canal.





463. Говорков В. Спасибо любимому Сталину — за счастливое детство! 1936

Source 8: A propaganda poster by Govorkov, 1936. The text reads, "*Thank you beloved Stalin - for a happy childhood*"



The large cities had limited sewerage systems, but they did not extend to the majority of the population. Most smaller industrial towns had virtually no sewerage at all...The main stumbling block was lack of investment in sanitary infrastructure. Millions of new workers and their families poured into towns and cities, but the state made almost no effort to erect the housing, sanitary facilities, or water supply that such population shifts demanded

Very few people lived in buildings with indoor plumbing. People had to fetch water from street pumps and then haul it in buckets back to their flats. Supplies were also unreliable.

Given the difficulties most urban residents had in accessing clean water and the general dirtiness of the environment, people relied heavily on the traditional Russian bathhouse to keep themselves clean. Here, too, however, facilities could meet only a small fraction of overall need. Most people could bathe just once or twice a month.

Source 9: An extract from Donald Filtzer, *The Hazards of Urban Life in late Stalinist Russia: Health, Hygiene, and Living Standards, 1943-1953.*

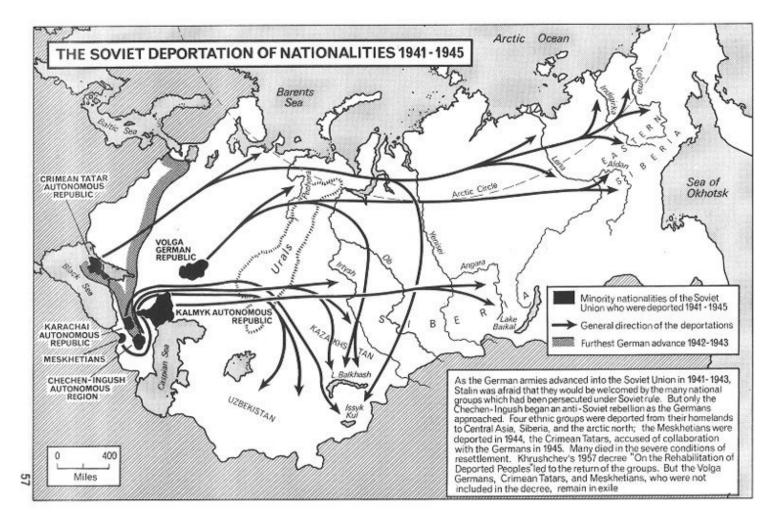




Accessible here: https://www.history.com/news/ukrainian-famine-stalin

Source 10: A photograph of an armed man guarding emergency supply grain during the Ukrainian famine of the early 1930s.





Source 11: A map by Martin Gilbert and Arthur Banks, 1979. It shows the Soviet deportation of nationalities during the Second World War.





The Finnish language does not allow our Finns to grow culturally together with all the Soviet people and take part in the development of the socialist culture. On the contrary, it paves the way for the development of a bourgeois culture in the spirit of nationalism. Ignorance of the Russian language puts Finns below Russians...The Russian language is the language of Lenin and Stalin, the language of Revolution that opens a wide road for our youth.

Quote accessible here (p. 109-110):

https://sh.diva-portal.org/smash/get/diva2:1164774/FULLTEXT02.pdf

Source 12: An extract from a newspaper, Polaron Collectivist. The Polaron Collectivist was the official newspaper of the Finnish national district of the Murmansk region. Murmansk is near the Finnish border, and many people living there speak Finnish as a first language. It was written by Nikolay Ivanov in 1938.