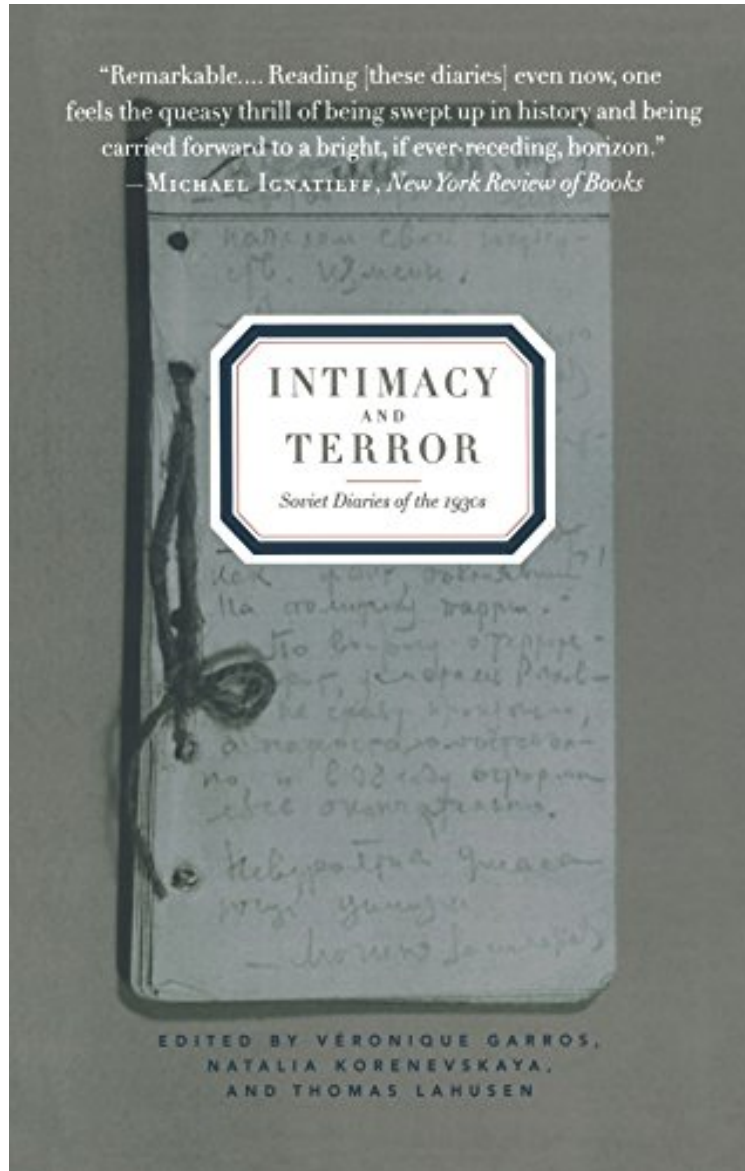


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Intimacy and Terror: Soviet Diaries of the 1930s

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From Brand: New Press, The : Intimacy and Terror: Soviet Diaries of the 1930s before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Intimacy and Terror: Soviet Diaries of the 1930s:

13 of 14 people found the following review helpful. The unthinkable, the unspeakable -- and the mundane By Eileen G. Fascinating, absorbing, upsetting and boring -- these diaries are all of the above. Soviet Russia's not replete with oral histories of the 30's (they didn't have a WPA; they had Stalin), nor with many trustworthy contemporary accounts.

They're in here, though. It's heartbreaking to read of everyday annoyances and delights, and to know the fate that was soon to befall many of these diarists. "A Chronicle of the Year 1937" is almost more than I could bear. A sad and good book, well worth reading. 0 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Formulaic Success By Nathan Douglas Harvey Kudos to authors who demurred in comment or interpretation beyond that required to move the text from one vernacular to another. Very substance of result illustrates inefficacy to render judgment over any other's existence, proof being the eclectic representation of each life portrayed. This collection of précis portrays element of personality which Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels seemingly dismissed in deference to unitary, singular goal. Collective farmer, life defined by weather condition. Ne'er do well whose tumultuous life was a study in hilarity, yet whose inner turmoil, simply expressed in common eloquence, spoke to a revolving theme of human enterprise. Dyed-in-the-wool allegiant whose peasant origin catalyzed insecurity, a force necessarily expugnable in a reformulated embrace. Bard whose suppressed expression by mandate of existence lived only in diary. My lesson learned from this reading: Communism's ideals exist personally endogenous. Government with its unending litany of futility is not the vehicle of inducement. Thank you, people of Russia and satellite attache, for that enlightenment. May I expand lesson to lesson(s)? As a necessary adjunct, communism cannot be the ubiquitous embrace of country. Bannered demarcation of domestic and foreign cannot perceive common. Your lessons will be different. Conclusively apropos, the last diary entry speaks of a dream, one whose transcendence liberated yet another object of subjugation. Bas relief remolded into bold relief, the final character, on September 6, 1953, made infinite the dream which he penned fourteen years prior. A dream which mortality had so spartanly conceived, even more astringently achieved. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. This would make a great textbook. By Meaghan. Although I was never able to finish this, it wasn't because it was a bad book; on the contrary, it's an excellent collection that would be a worthy textbook for a Russian history course. I like how the diarists were not all famous people or anything; one, for example, was just a poor middle-aged farmer. It was just that this is hardly pleasure reading and I found I couldn't commit to the whole thing, 400+ pages of small print.

The result of a unique international collaborative investigation by Russian, French, and Swiss scholars into hundreds of private, unpublished diaries found in remote libraries, archives, and family holdings, *Intimacy and Terror* paints a broad picture of Russian life during the harshest years of Stalin's reign. The ten diaries reveal the day-to-day thoughts of ordinary citizens, some far removed from political turmoil, some closely enmeshed. Together they paint an extraordinarily broad portrait of Russian life in the thirties; their insights into the daily life of that time have astonished even the Russian historians who read the original manuscripts. The diarists range from the ambitious literary bureaucrat who moves forward by denouncing his colleagues to the young unlettered careerist learning the ways of Soviet success; from the wife of a government bureaucrat, who writes in a pure Stalinist prose, to the candid thoughts and uncertainties of a dissident; from a provincial sailor on a distant Arctic vessel to Moscow intellectuals who meet and recount their conversations with Anna Akhmatova. Some of the diarists are wholly oblivious to the terrors of Stalin's purges; others see the failures of the regime as clearly as those writing today. To set the diaries in context, the book begins with a "Chronicle of the Year 1937"—an extraordinary montage comprised of excerpts from the daily newspaper *Izvestiya* juxtaposed with corresponding entries from a collective farmer's diary—and also includes a chronology of major events in the Soviet Union during the latter half of the decade. The diaries bring us the true-life counterparts of characters we remember from classic Russian literature. *Intimacy and Terror* provides an unprecedented, intimate view of daily life in Russia at the height of Stalinism.

From Publishers Weekly This interesting anthology of 10 Soviet diaries from the 1930s mixes voices of protest and despair with those of people who seemingly accommodated themselves to Stalinist oppression. Lyubov Shaporina, founder of the Puppet Theater, expresses moral outrage at the wave of arrests and mass deportations sweeping Leningrad, mingled with grief at the death of her little daughter three years earlier. Andrei Arzhilovsky, a farmer killed by a firing squad in 1937, offers a scathing critique of the Soviet regime's monstrous crimes in diary excerpts dated 1936-1937. Moscow poet Lev Gornung records literary chitchat with Anna Akhmatova. With self-conscious lyricism, Vladimir Stavsky, editor of the journal *Novy mir* and general secretary of the Union of Soviet Writers, evokes his inner turmoil but neglects to mention his denunciation of Osip Mandelstam, which led to the poet's arrest and to his death in a labor camp. Among the other diarists are a struggling mother of four and a Moscow actor who murdered his lover. Garros is former Moscow correspondent for *Le Monde*; Lahusen, a Slavic professor at Duke; Korenevskaya, a scholar with Progress Publishers in Moscow. Photos. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal To make more known of the everyday lives of most Soviet citizens during the Stalinist purges of the 1930s, a group of international scholars collaborated in locating and selecting nine private diaries to publish in this anthology. An introductory chapter chronicles events of 1937 from the government newspaper *Izvestiya*. The diarists speak for themselves: a traveler to the Soviet Far East, a Moscow poet, a farmer resistant to the regime, a mother and community activist, a party journalist and editor, a mining engineer, a party functionary, a sympathizer of the traditional intelligentsia, and an actor. The accounts span a broad range of experience, class, geography, and point of

view?and achieve the editors' aims. This carefully chosen and edited anthology belongs in collections of Soviet history and literature.?Rena Fowler, Humboldt State Univ., Arcata, Cal.Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc.
"Compelling and fascinating. . . The title of this book cannot accurately convey its cumulative power." #8212Boston Book "Soviet history in a new key. . . A rare and extraordinary portrait of Soviet society in a critical decade, comprising fear, bravery, bathos, tragedy, and even humor—in sum, the broad range of human responses to inhumanity." #8212Kirkus s"Eloquent. . . . An impressive collection of personal diaries written in the Soviet Union during the harshest years of Joseph Stalin's rule." #8212Wilson Quarterly