The Great Terror of the 1930’s- The Suppressors and the Suppressed

Denisse Cordova

Junior Division

Individual Website

Annotated Bibliography

**Primary Sources**

Applebaum, Anne *Iron Curtain.* New York: Doubleday, 2012. Print.

Even though this book is written by a person who did not experience the Great Terror directly, I chose to categorize it as a primary source because the sections of information that I used from this book were indeed primary. For example, I analyzed a quote from Lavrentii Beria, who was the second in command of the NKVD during the Great Terror.

“Archive.” *Gulag Many Days Many Lives.* 2008-2014. Roy Rosenzwerg Center for History New

Media. 25 March 2014. Web.

This webpage provided me with photographs from the time of the terror, especially from

the Gulag. I was able to use these photographs in my “Gulag “webpage.

“Article 58, Criminal Code of the RSFSR (1934).” *Cyber USSR.* 1999. Hugo S.Cunningham. 25

March 2014. Web.

This article of the Soviet Constitution outlines the rights and responsibilities of citizens.

I used Article 58-12 in my website because it explains the citizen’s denunciating

responsibility and the consequences of failing to report any knowledge of

counterrevolutionary activity. This proved to be a conflicting responsibility.

“Art of the Gulag.” *The Gulag Museum on Communism*. 2014. The Gulag-The Victims of

Communism Memorial Foundation. 25 March 2014. Web.

These paintings were painted by Nikolai Getman, who experienced the Great Terror and was a prisoner in the Gulag. His paintings range from NKVD agents to burials to escape attempts from the Gulag. The paintings that I used in my website helped me convey to the readers the mood of the Great Terror.

Bonnell, Victoria E. *Iconography of Power Soviet Political Posters Under Lenin and Stalin.* Los

Angeles: The Regents, 1997. Print.

This book contained a variety of posters that were distributed during Stalin’s

rule. They allowed me to analyze the propaganda citizens dealt with on a daily basis.

I used several posters in my website to make viewers sympathize with the citizens’ perspective.

Brent, Jonathan. *Inside Stalin Archives.* New York: Atlas & Co. Publishers, 2008. Print.

This primary source presented me with the adulation citizens had for their great leader

Stalin. It allowed me to understand the different perspectives citizens held during the

Great Terror.

Cawthorne, Nigel. *Stalin- The Murderous Career of the Red Tsar.* London: Arcturus Publishing

Limited, 2012. Print.

This book provided a compilation of various quotes, statistics, decrees, and images related to the Great Terror, some of which I integrated into several pages of my website. The most helpful information to me was the contradicting confession of Krestinsky.

“Cover of the Soviet Constitution (1937).” *Seventeen Moments in Soviet History.* 2013. 26 Nov.

2013. Web.

This is an image of the 1936 Constitution of the U.S.S.R., which I can be seen in

my main page titled “Context.”

Chase, William J. *Enemies within the Gates? The Cominterm and the Stalinist Repressions,*

*1934-1939.* New Haven: Yale University Press, 2001. Print.

In this primary source, I found an important document that revealed the thoughts of

Soviet citizens after Kirov’s murder. The author of the document blames Trotsky for the

orchestration and execution of Kirov’s death. This is logical because Stalin had

indoctrinated in Soviet citizens that Trotsky was the reason for any failures in the Soviet

Union.

Deutscher, Isaac. “Boris Efimov: Ezhov’s Iron Glove (1937).” *Seventeen Moments in Soviet*

*History.* 2013. 26 Nov. 2013. Web.

This political cartoon illustrates Ezhov strangling several Soviet citizens. This cartoon emphasizes the suppressive role he played as the head of the NKVD during the Great Terror.

Haugen, Brenda. *Joseph Stalin- Dictator of the Soviet Union.* Minneapolis: Compass Poit Books,

2006. Print.

Although I was not able to view the entirety of this book, I was still able to analyze a

letter that was written to Stalin by a defendant during one of the Show Trials. The defendant thought the government had made a genuine mistake in arresting him and asked Stalin to reevaluate his case.

Hill, Laura. “The Great Purge of Stalinist Russia.” *Guided History.* 2013. 10 Jan. 2014. Web.

This website contained an important video that narrated the first Show Trial. It allowed

me to connect the Kirov Decree with the absence of one of the defendants. I used a

segment of this video in my website in order to validate one of my statements.

Khlevniuk, Oleg V. *The History of the Gulag.*  Binghamton: Yale University, 2004. Print.

This source focused on the Gulag labor camps. It provided revealing information on the

arrests, trials, and experiences of the prisoners that lived and worked in the Gulag.

Koenker, Diane P. “Thank you, Comrade Stalin, for our Happy Childhood (1936).” *Seventeen*

*Moments in Soviet History.* 2013. 26. Nov. 2013. Web.

This image is an example of the ubiquitous propaganda during the Great Terror in the U.S.S.R. It helped me understand the type of information Soviet citizens were frequently faced with.

Kuromiya, Hiroaki. *The Voices of the Dead- Stalin’s Great Terror in the 1930’s.*  Yale

University Press, 2007. Print.

This book focused on the cases of individuals who were arrested and sentenced to the Gulag labor camps. The most useful bits of information to me were the speeches and relayed accounts various Soviet citizens, including important leaders, made regarding their opinions and experiences during the Great Terror.

“Music Index for the Cyber- USSR.” *Cyber USSR.* 1998. Hugo S. Cunningham. 1 Jan.

2014. Audio.

This website contained an instrumental piece and lyrics that I was able to incorporate into

my website. The lyrics expressed the gratitude many citizens felt towards their great

leader Stalin.

Laurie, Richard. *The Autobiography of Joseph Stalin.* Washington, D.C.: Counterpoint, 1999.

Print.

This autobiography was vital to my research. Stalin wrote about the fear he had of

Trotsky and the interrogations he conducted. Many of the things written in here incriminate Stalin and the NKVD.

Persson, Gudrun. “And they all confessed…” *The Art Bin*. Gudrun Persson.30 March 2014.

Web.

This website supplied me with several pictures of the people involved in the terror on

both sides- the suppressed and the suppressors. It helped me organize my thoughts

because I was able to imagine a persons’ visage while I was analyzing material.

Vyshinksy’s picture can be seen in my “Show Trials” webpage.

Radzinsky, Edvard. *Stalin- The First In- Depth Biography Based on Explosive New Documents*

*From Russia’s Secret Archives.* New York: Doubleday, 1996. Print.

This book provided a couple of images depicting the adulation Soviet citizens felt for their beloved leader Stalin because they were not aware of the fact that he was a key orchestrator of the Great Terror.

Rayfield, Donald. *Stalin and His Hangmen- The Tyrant and those who killed for Him.* New

York: Random House, 2004. Print.

This source presented me with various primary documents, and the information that proved to be the most useful was Kirov’s Decree, which essentially empowered the NKVD and stripped many Soviet citizens of some of their rights.

Rogovin, Vadim. “Stalin’s Great Terror: Origins and Consequences.” *World Socialist Web Site.*

25 Nov. 2013. Web.

This is an image of Stalin signing one of thousands of death warrants, and I used it in

the “Troikas and NKVD” page of my website.

“Sentenced to Death in Stalin’s Great Purge.” *Radio Free Europe Radio Liberty.* 5 March 2013.

Radio Free Europe/ Radio Liberty. 3 Jan. 2014. Web.

This website presented brief biographies of citizens who were accused and executed during the Great Terror. I was able to use the pictures and biographies of the accused in my website in order to increase the impact of my website on its readers.

Service, Robert. *Stalin- Biography.* Cambridge: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press,

2005. Print.

This book brought forth the personal and political life, motives, and beliefs of Joseph Stalin throughout his rule, and it prompted me to view the actions of Stalin in a new light.

“The Gulag.” *Ibiblio.* 25 Nov. 2013. Web. <www.ibiblio.org/expo/soviet.exhibit/gulag.html>

This primary source is a letter of a very revealing account of a prisoner that lived and worked in the Gulag. The letter was, of course, written in Russian, but it was fortunately translated into English. I used it in the “Gulag” page of my website, and it proved to be a vital source.

Thurston, Robert W. *Life and Terror in Stalin’s Russia 1934- 1941.* Binghamton: Yale

University, 1996. Print.

This book contained much information, but the most important thing to me was the

political cartoon that insinuated that the rule of Stalin and czarism shared so many characteristics they were practically the same thing.

“Verdict of the Court (1938).” *Seventeen Moments in Soviet History.* 2013. 26 Nov. 2013. Web.

This primary video demonstrated the atmosphere of the court room during one of the Show Trials and the interaction Vyshinsky, the state prosecutor, had with the audience.

“Verdict of the People (1938).”  *Seventeen Moments in Soviet History.* 2013. 26 Nov. 2013.

Web.

This primary video demonstrated what the public’s opinion was regarding the Show Trials. It shows a man speaking in front of a crowd defending Stalin and his actions.

Viola, Lynne. *The Unknown Gulag- The Lost World of Stalin’s Special Settlements.* New York:

Oxford University Press, 2007. Print.

This book provided information on Ezhov’s actions and speeches. Also, it contained a

picture of an orphanage with orphans that were sent there in accordance to order no. 00486.

“1936: Childhood under Stalin.” *Seventeen Moments in Soviet History*. 2014. Seventeen

Moments in Soviet History. 25 March 2014. Audio.

This song, sung by a children’s choir, praises Stalin. I used it in my website in order to

show readers the perspective of Soviet citizens regarding their leader Stalin. I concluded

that this was a primary source because it was written and sung during the terror by Soviet

children.

“1936 Constitution of the U.S.S.R.“ Bucknell *University.* 1996. Robert Beard. 25 Nov. 2013.

Web.

After reading the 1936 Constitution of the U.S.S.R., I learned about many of the rights

and responsibilities Soviet citizens had during the Great Terror. I used several of its articles in my website to support some of my points.

“1936: Stalin Constitution.” *Seventeen Moments in Soviet History.* 2014. Seven Moments in

History. 25 March 2014. Web.

After analyzing this image, I realized that the Soviet citizens believed that the 1936 Constitution was a direct result of Stalin’s leadership. I used it in my “Soviet Constitution” webpage in order to convey this.

“1936; Year of the Stakhanovite*.” Seventeen Moments in Soviet History*. 2014. Seventeen

Moments in Soviet History.25 March 2014. Web.

This image demonstrated the amount of faith Soviet citizens had in Stalin. It helped me

understand why the majority of Soviet citizens did not speak out against the terror.

**Secondary Sources**

Ali, Tahseen. “To: Denisse Cordova, from Dr. T.H. Ali, University of Houston-main campus:

responses to your questions on the USSR in the 1930s.” Email to Denisse Cordova. 2 Feb. 2014. Email.

Because I still had several questions about the Great Terror after my research, I emailed Dr. Tahseen Ali, and she responded with thoughtful answers. I recorded myself reading part of her reply and uploaded it onto my website to support my thesis.

Applebaum, Anne, “Gulag: Understanding the Magnitude of What happened.” *The Heritage*

*Foundation.* 16 Oct 2003. The Heritage Foundation. 25 March 2014. Web.

This Gulag article analyzed the consequences ignoring our history has on our future.

Her conclusions were insightful, and I agreed with her article wholeheartedly.

Atkin, Muriel, “Re: NHD Email Interview.” Email to Denisse Cordova.26 March 2014. Email.

Professor Atkin confirmed my assumptions on the fact that the overwhelming majority of

the people accused were not responsible for any of the accusations that the NKVD forced

on them.

Coleman, Fred. *The Decline and Fall of the Soviet Empire- The Forty Years that Shook the*

*World, From Stalin and Yeltsin.* New York: St. Martin’s Press, 1996. Print.

This secondary source explained why the Great Terror occurred when it did, which was

an important piece of information for my “Context” page. I incorporated different quotes

from this book in my website that were thought provoking..

Cooper, Julian (Editor), Maureen Perrie, and E.A. Rees. *Soviet History 1917-53.* Basingstoke:

Macmillian Press, 1995. Print.

The most significant details that this book provided were the duties, powers, and

cases that the troikas handled. I used some of its information in the “Troikas and the NKVD” webpage of my website.

Daniels, Robert V. “Leon Trotsky.” *Encyclopedia Britannica*. 30 October 2013. Encyclopedia

Britannica. 23 March 2014. Web.

This webpage delved into Trotsky’s life, which helped me understand why Stalin was so

adamant on Trotsky being an enemy of the Soviet Union. I also used a quote from this

page in my website to explain to readers what occurred after the Bolshevik Revolution.

“Death of Stalin.” *Gulag: Soviet Forced Labor Camps and the Struggle for Freedom.*2006-2014.

George Mason University. 24 March 2014. Web.

This source helped me organize a conclusion to my website. It explained the events that

occurred after Stalin’s death in 1953. I also used a quote about Stalin’s successor, Nikita

Krushchev, in my website.

“Emerging from the Gulag.” *Gulag: Soviet Forced Labor Camps and the Struggle for Freedom.*

2006-2014. George Mason University. 24 March 2014. Web.

This webpage analyzed the impact the Great Terror had on the history of the Soviet

Union. It made me ponder the consequences it has on today’s Russia.

Gellately, Robert. *Lenin, Stalin, and Hitler- The Age of Social Catastrophe.* New York: Alfred

1. Knopf, 2007. Print.

This secondary source had a range of information- from letters that were intercepted by the NKVD to the thoughts of various Soviet political leaders.

Gellately, Robert. *Stalin’s Curse Battling for Communism in War and Cold War.* New York:

Random House, 2013. Print.

This book explained the purges Stalin ordered based on the ethnicity of Soviet citizens.

After further analyzation, I was able to connect the purges that occurred during the Great

Terror to the present day.

Getty, J. Arch and Oleg V. Naumov. *The Road to Terror- Stalin and the Self- Destruction of*

*Bolsheviks.* Binghamton: Vail- Ballou Press, 1999. Print.

This secondary source touched on evidence that proved defendants were tortured privately during their trial in order to extract information. It also spoke about the accusations and arrests innocent people encountered.

Hale, Henry, “NHD Email Interview.” Email to Denisse Cordova. 26 March 2014. Email.

Professor Hale helped me understand the underlying cause for the Great Terror. I knew

that advanced technology during the late 1930’s encouraged the terror, but I did not

know exactly why.

Hochschild, Adam. *The Unquiet Ghost Russians Remember Stalin.* New York: Penguin Group,

1994. Print.

This book provided many intriguing details of the Show Trials and the Gulag that I was able to draw conclusion from and incorporate into my website. Most importantly it contained a brief timeline of the Great Terror that I used in my “Context” page. This timeline provided an overview for the readers.

“Introduction: Gulag.” *Gulag: Soviet Forced Labor Camps and the Struggle for Freedom*.2006-

2014. George Mason University. 24 March 2014. Web.

This website depicted the environment of the Gulag labor camps. Even though I did not

use this source directly in my website, it helped me understand the experiences that

prisoners had to endure, which I think was an important part of my research.

“Joseph Stalin: Red Terror.” *YouTube.*25 Nov. 2013. Video.

In this video, a former Gulag prisoner talks about the propaganda Soviet citizens were swamped in during the Great Terror. I used one of his quotes in the “Propaganda” webpage of my website.

Kennedy, Ryan, “Re: NHD Email Interview.” Email to Denisse Cordova. 29 March 2014. Email.

Professor Kennedy’s email helped support my thesis indirectly. It helped me draw conclusions on the suppressed and suppressors during the Great Terror. I decided to use some of his quotes in my conclusion.

“Life Under Stalin: The Purges.” *Discovery Education.* 1999. Discovery Education. 29 Oct.2013.

Web.

This video focused on the purges the Red Military experienced and the Show Trials. I was not able to use all of this information in my website, but it was still important to my research because it provided context for the Great Terror.

“Living in the Gulag.” *Gulag: Soviet Forced Labor Camps and the Struggle for Freedom*. 2006-

2014. George Mason University. 24 March 2014. Web.

This source provided startling pictures of the conditions Gulag prisoners experienced

at camps. I used several pictures in my website in order to share with the readers the

thin clothing, meager food rations, and old utensils workers had.

McCauley, Martin. *Stalin and Stalinism*. New York: Longman. Print.

This secondary source revealed that recent evidence suggests that Stalin was involved

in Kirov’s murder. This changed my entire perspective on the Great Terror because it

made me realize that Stalin had planned it from the very beginning.

Ragsdale, Hugh.  *The Russian Tragedy- The Burden of History.* Armonk: M.E. Sharpe, Inc.,

1996. Print.

The information that I gathered from this secondary source was mainly about the Show Trials and the NKVD. It was especially useful to the “The Show Trials” and “Troikas and NKVD” web pages of my website.

Satter, David. *It was a long time ago, and it never happened anyway.* New Haven: Yale

University Press, 2012. Print.

Before conducting an adequate amount of research, I was puzzled by the fact the Soviet citizens did not speak out against the terror. But, after reading this secondary source, I realized that there were several reasons why. I used quotes from the book to help explain the citizens’ perspective in my website.

“Sergey Mironovich Kirov.” *Encyclopedia Britannica.* 2014. Encyclopedia Britannica. 23 March

2014. Web.

This website focused on Kirov’s life. Kirov was an important cause of the Great

Terror because his death indirectly initiated it, and the webpage helped me

understand how important Kirov was at the time before his death.

Smith, Kathleen Kelly.”NHD Email Interview.” Email to Denisse Cordova. 23 March 2014.

Email.

The responses Professor Smith had for my questions were thought provoking. She

mentioned Stalin’s paranoia, the NKVD’s quotas, and the Soviet Constitution. I decided

to use some of her quotes in the beginning of my website.

Strayer, Robert. *Why did the Soviet Union Collapse?* Armonk: M.E. Sharpe, Inc., 1998. Print.

This book focused on the impact the Great Terror had on the Soviet Union. It explained

de- Stalinization and the political reforms that were enacted. This was an informative source, especially for my conclusion.

Streissguth, Thomas. *Life in Communist Russia.* San Diego: Lucent Books, Inc. 2001. Print.

The most important parts of this book were the sections where it analyzed Lenin, the Bolshevik Revolution, and Soviet propaganda. It helped me put my topic into context. I used various quotes from the book throughout my website.

“Video-Labor in the Gulag.” *The Gulag Museum on Communism.* 2014. The Gulag-The Victims

of Communism Memorial Foundation. 25 March 2014. Video.

In this video, Anne Applebaum discusses the conditions of the Gulag. It helped me

decide on the rights prisoners were being denied. I used this video in my Gulag webpage.

“Videos-Were Trials Held For Gulag Prisoners.” *The Gulag Museum on Communism.* 2014. The

Gulag- The Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation. 25 March 2014. Video.

Dr. Richard Pipe discusses the question “were trials held for gulag prisoners.”

After watching this video and reading other sources, I determined that the Soviet

government was neglecting one of its responsibilities and denying citizens a right.

“Vladimir Lenin (1870-1924).” *BBC History*. 2014. BBC. 23 March 2014. Web.

This source was not directly related to the Great Terror, but after some research, I

realized that I needed to research the time before the late 1930’s in order to fully

understand the terror, and this webpage helped me accomplish that.

Ward, Chris. *Stalin’s Russia.* New York: Arnold Publishers, 1999. Print.

This secondary source presented me with statistics of the Gulag and accusations that many defendants faced.

Ward, Chris. *The Stalinistic Dictatorship.* New York: Arnold Publishers, 1998. Print.

This book focused on the motives, thoughts, and beliefs of Joseph Stalin. It helped me form an unbiased conclusion to my project.

“Women in the Gulag.”*Gulag: Soviet Forced Labor Camps and the Struggle for Freedom*. 2006-

2014. George Mason University. 24 March 2014. Web.

Before reading this webpage, I had yet to come across a source that focused solely on

women’s experiences during the Great Terror. The most startling section of this webpage

to me was a drawing by a female prisoner, illustrating a scene that implied the abuse of

women in the Gulag.

Wood, Allen. *Stalin and Stalinism.* New York: Lancaster Pamphlets. Print.

This book revealed the fact no material evidence was used against the defendants of the

first Show Trial. In essence, there was no trial because the defendants were being accused

unfairly. I was able to use a quote from this book in my “Show Trial” webpage.

“Working the Gulag.” *Gulag: Soviet Forced Labor Camps and the Struggle for Freedom*.2006-

2014. George Mason University. 24 March 2014. Web.

“Working in the Gulag” helped me understand the feelings the Soviet authorities had

towards the Gulag prisoners. I was also able to view an image that depicted prisoners

working in the Gulag which I decided to use in my website.

Ziegler, Charles E. *The History of Russia.* Westport: Greenwood Publishing Group, Inc., 1999.

Print.

This book gave an in-depth description of what occurred in the Soviet Union after the death of Joseph Stalin. It was very helpful to my conclusion because it informed me about every aspect of Soviet life during de- Stalinization.

Zuehlke, Jeffrey. *Joseph Stalin.* Minneapolis: Twenty First Century Books, 2006. Print.

This book allowed me to learn about the events and actions that lead to the Great Terror of the 1930’s. It helped me better understand the occurrences that took place during this time period.