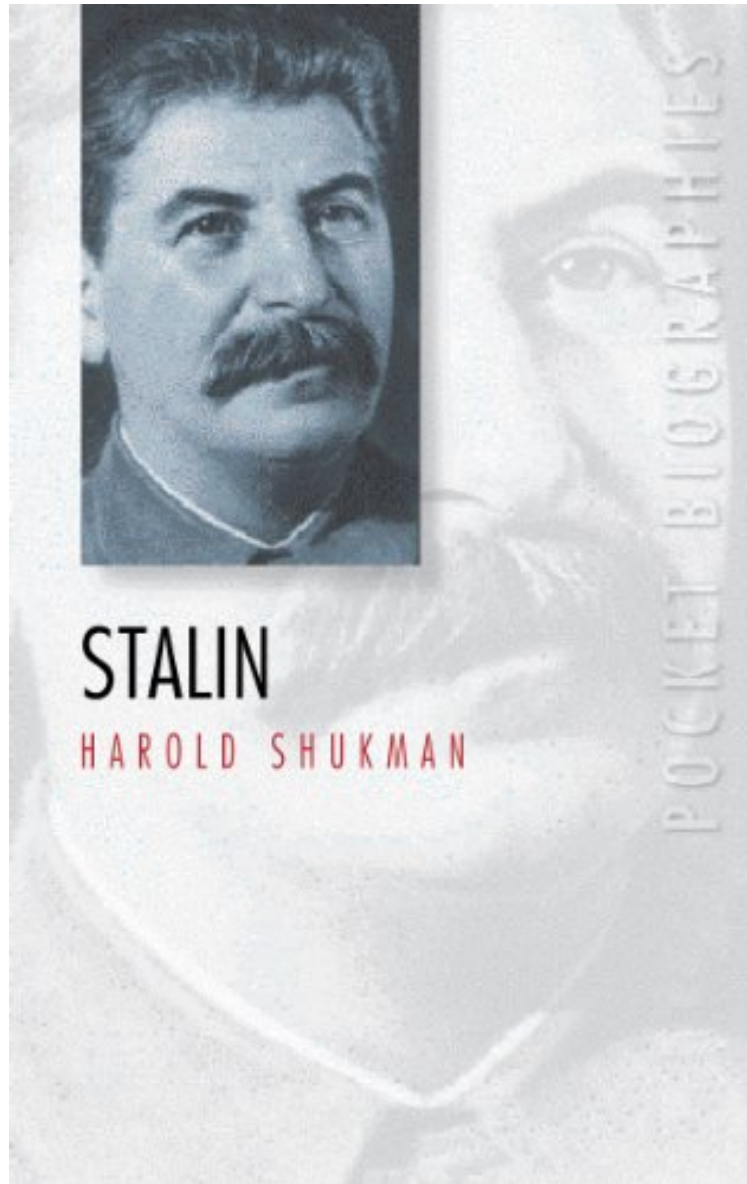


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## Stalin (Sutton Pocket Biographies)

*Von Harold Shukman*

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**Von Harold Shukman : Stalin (Sutton Pocket Biographies)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Stalin (Sutton Pocket Biographies):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. a dry, informative, giant dull readVon Al KriegerThis book is well researched, filled with facts, and is complete. It is excellently written, and complete; right down to the last detail about Stalin and those who surrounded him. The above

are the good points about this long, large 600 page plus book. The bad side is that the narrative is repetitive, boring, dull and seemingly endless. There are hundreds upon hundreds of complicated Russian names that no one can pronounce that leave you confused as to just who is on first base. This work reminds me of the Russian version of War and Peace. It was so long and dull, filled with so many Russian names and characters that you forgot half of them before you got to page 200. I had to read this mammoth work in stages with large helpings of much lighter reading in between to keep up my interest. I eventually finished the book, and was glad that it was over. I would not ever buy another Russian biography again. It is well worth the asking price, and if you have the time and patience, is worth the time once you finally finish it. Not one of my favorites by any stretch of the imagination. My e-mail address is welderal@yahoo.com

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A four star Stalin

Von Ein Kunde

I am giving this book 4 stars because it tends to be slightly superficial in its biographical analysis of Stalin and in its description of the Russian condition the book explores in its 600 pages. The author takes for granted you know the detailed history of Russian and Stalin and therefore glosses over certain events or aspects of events that Stalin engendered. At times you feel left out of the book because the important detail is missing e.g. a description of the plight of the peasants during the collectivization effort would have been valuable to better understand and feel the malignancy of this action which offended Bukharin so deeply. You tend to view the man more than get into his skin or even into the hearts and minds of the cast of characters and the events the author covers. I feel that I was seriously enlightened by the book and found it valuable. I guess my problem with it was Volkogonov's style (particularly after reading Pipes' three volumes on the history of Russia...a beautiful writer). Read the book, it's worth it, but it is not a 5 star achievement in general.

END

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A truly \*awesome\* historical biography ...

Von Ein Kunde

Reading "Triumph and Tragedy" is, quite simply, a life-altering experience. Volkogonov was a loyal member of the Red Army and Communist Party when he gained access to the whole of the KGB's archives. As he researched the past, his level of disenchantment grew until the very core of his world-view was torn asunder. This book is written unevenly, as Volkogonov was still struggling to absorb the historical record as he wrote. Nevertheless, the occasional awkwardness serves to drive home the horror of this period. The experience is as if the reader can feel the author there with them, reeling from it all. While the book certainly contains much interesting historical information, particularly with respect to Stalin's purges of the Red Army and its affects on WWII, it is also much, much more. When I read it, the phrase "the horror, the horror" from Conrad's "Heart of Darkness" kept coming into my mind.

**Kurzbeschreibung** Stalin was one of the most ruthless and authoritarian dictators in world history. This concise title presents Lenin's heir from his beginnings for priesthood to General Secretary of the Communist Party.