

# The Commissar Vanishes

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a disturbing glimpse into the manipulation of photographs by stalin shows retouched portraits

this brand new edition of david king's lauded visual history is a unique and brilliant study into the doctoring and propagandising of soviet photographs by stalin's regime from the creator of the award winning red star over russia the commissar vanishes offers a chilling look at how joseph stalin manipulated the science of photography to advance his own political career and to erase the memory of his victims on stalin's orders purged rivals were airbrushed from group portraits and crowd scenes were altered to depict even greater legions of the faithful for example a 1919 photograph showing a large crowd of bolsheviks clustered around lenin became with the aid of the retoucher an intimate portrait of lenin and stalin sitting alone and then in a later version of stalin by himself in each case the juxtaposition of the original and the doctored images yields a fascinating terrifying and tragic insight into one of the darkest chapters of modern history publisher's description

exploring an unjustly overlooked figure in 20th century british visual culture this book offers a comprehensive overview to the work and legacy of david king 1943–2016 whose

fascinating career bridged journalism graphic design photography and collecting king launched his career at britain s sunday times magazine in the 1960s starting as a designer and later branching out into image led journalism he developed a particular interest in revolutionary russia and began amassing a collection of graphic art and photographs ultimately accumulating around 250 000 images that he shared with news outlets throughout his life king blended political activism with his graphic design work creating anti apartheid and anti nazi posters covers for books on communist history album artwork for the who and jimi hendrix catalogues on russian art and society for the museum of modern art in oxford and typographic covers for the left wing magazine city limits this well researched and finely illustrated publication ties together king s accomplishments as a visual historian artist journalist and activist

from 1929 until 1953 iosif stalin s image became a central symbol in soviet propaganda touched up images of an omniscient stalin appeared everywhere emblazoned across buildings and lining the streets carried in parades and woven into carpets and saturating the media of socialist realist painting statuary monumental architecture friezes banners and posters from the beginning of the soviet regime posters were seen as a vitally important medium for communicating with the population of the vast territories of the ussr stalin s image became a symbol of bolshevik values and the personification of a revolutionary new type of society the persona created for stalin in propaganda posters reflects how the state saw itself or at the very least how it wished to appear in the eyes of the people the stalin who was celebrated in posters bore but scant resemblance to the man iosif vissarionovich dzhugashvili whose humble origins criminal past penchant for violent solutions and unprepossessing appearance made him an unlikely recipient of uncritical charismatic adulation the bolsheviks needed a wise nurturing and authoritative figure to embody their revolutionary vision and to legitimate their hold on power this leader would come to embody the sacred and archetypal qualities of the wise teacher the father of the nation the great warrior and military strategist and the saviour of first the russian land and then the whole world this book is the first dedicated study on the marketing of stalin in soviet propaganda posters drawing on the archives of libraries and museums throughout russia hundreds of previously unpublished posters are examined with more than 130 reproduced in full colour the personality cult of stalin in soviet posters 1929 1953 is a unique and valuable contribution to the discourse in stalinist studies across a number of disciplines

the book offers a vast panorama of communism from the perspective of its collapse and inspects the world beyond the fall in the distorting mirror of its imagined prehistory providing in the process a perceptive analysis of a number of the fundamental issues of history writing

in the heat of the sun and devils on the doorstep are two of the finest and most honored

chinese films ever made this title examines these works it uses cinema and photography political history anthropology and philosophy chinese rhetorical traditions and concepts of justice to explore the films visual complexity and intellectual force

presents the history of photography this title covers production values and rare and unusual prints

whither china presents an in depth and wide angled picture of chinese intellectual life during the last decade of the millennium as china struggled to move beyond the shadow of the tiananmen tragedy because many cultural and intellectual paradigms of the previous decade were left in ruins by that event chinese intellectuals were forced in the early 1990s to search for new analytical and critical frameworks soon however they found themselves engulfed by tidal waves of globalization surrounded by a new social landscape marked by unabashed commodification and stunned by a drastically reconfigured socialist state infrastructure the contributors to whither china describe how instead of spearheading the popular mandated and state sanctioned project of modernization intellectuals now find themselves caught amid rapidly changing structures of economic social political and cultural relations that are both global in nature and local in an irreducibly political sense individual essays interrogate the space of chinese intellectual production today lay out the issues at stake and cover major debates and discursive interventions from the 1990s those who write within the chinese context are joined by western observers of contemporary chinese cultural and intellectual life together these two groups undertake a truly international intellectual struggle not only to interpret but to change the world contributors rey chow zhiyuan cui michael dutton gan yang harry harootunian peter hitchcock rebecca karl louisa schein wang hui wang shaoguang xudong zhang

this collection of essays focuses on the haunting themes of religion politics and remembering the past spanning europe from ukraine to spain the contributors consider ways in which memory is used at the local level both to legitimate and to contest claims to power status and social and cultural capital the result is a rich and innovative set of texts on memory and silence on the place of the past in the present and on the ideologies and practices which constitute memory at the local level

how the jewish popular press in the russian and ottoman empires helped construct modern jewish identities this original and lively study yields new perspectives on the role of print culture in imagining national and transnational communities

the only internationally successful million selling group to emerge from the late 1970s london punk scene the clash set out to change the world with a potent mix of politics iconic imagery and blazing rock n roll it was an agenda mirrored in the clash s music which swiftly

evolved from ferocious punk rock to incorporate reggae ska funk jazz soul and hip hop passion is a fashion draws on over 70 interviews with key participants in the story roadies producers friends and fans but most of all it draws on conversations with the clash themselves joe strummer mick jones paul simonon and topper headon the first book to give real insight into what went on behind the scenes during the clash s ten year career passion is a fashion charts the band s picaresque progress from their days in the early punk scene and their groundbreaking rock against racism gigs it describes the arduous touring to break out in america chronicles the making of the classic london calling album and follows the band s story all the way to their eventual dissolution and the sudden sad death of frontman joe strummer book jacket

anatolii fomenko is a distinguished russian mathematician turned popular history writer founder of the so called new chronology school and part of the explosion of alternative historical writing that has emerged in russia since the collapse of the soviet union among his more startling claims are that the old testament was written after the new testament that russia is older than greece and rome and that the medieval mongol empire was in fact a slav turk world empire a russian horde to which western and eastern powers paid tribute while academic historians dismiss fomenko as a dangerous ethno nationalist or post modern clown fomenko s publications invariably outsell his conventional rivals just as putin has restored russia s faith in its future fomenko and an army of fellow alternative historians are determined to restore russia s faith in its past for fomenko the key to russia s greatness in the future lies in ensuring that russians understand the true greatness of their past fomenko and other pseudo historians have built upon existing russian notions of identity specifically the widespread belief in the positive qualities of empire and the special mission of russia he has drawn upon previous attempts to establish a russian identity ranging from slavophilism through stalinism to eurasianism while fantastic fomenko s pseudo history strikes many russian readers as no less legitimate than the lies and distortions peddled by communist propagandists tsarist historians and church chroniclers

a career spanning selection of work by a widely respected american poet including a generous gathering of new poems david wojahn was awarded the 2007 o b hardison poetry prize for this collection

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