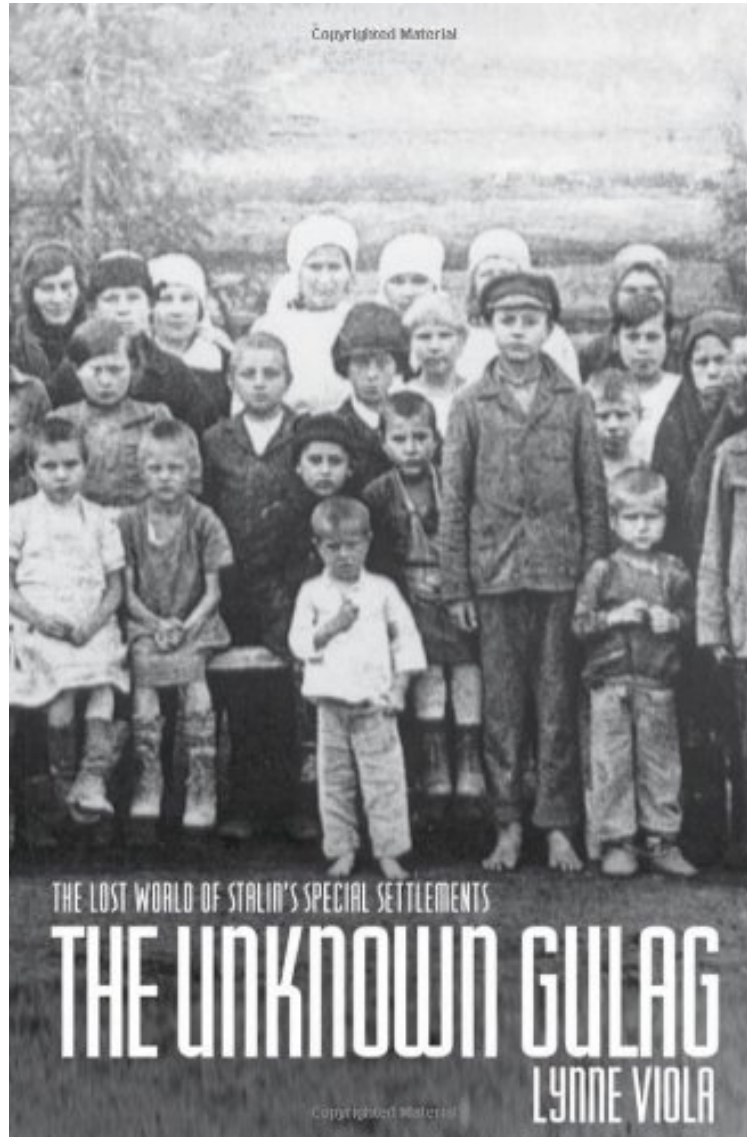


(Library ebook) The Unknown Gulag: The Lost World of Stalin's Special Settlements

The Unknown Gulag: The Lost World of Stalin's Special Settlements

Lynne Viola

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Lynne Viola : The Unknown Gulag: The Lost World of Stalin's Special Settlements before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Unknown Gulag: The Lost World of Stalin's Special Settlements:

6 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Very good information for a researcher or graduate studentBy Jason AdamikI won't add much to what was said above. The book is well-written and I've never seen such thorough

documentation in any non-academic book. But...it is tough going: it's full of /extremely/ detailed lists, numbers of settlers, how many went to which region, etc., etc. Full of so many different acronyms that even the student of Russian history will find it very difficult to keep up with. There is a five page glossary of terms and abbreviations such as OGPU, DGO, GPU, GAVO, GAOPDF AO, GAAO, GARF, RGASPI, etc., etc., etc. The only comment I'd make about the style is this - although Dr. Viola appears to be extremely fluent in Russian (bravo) due to the sources she quotes, she uses a vexing and unorthodox transliteration system. The part of this seemingly self-made system that bothered me the most was that although all the systems I've seen use the apostrophe ' to indicate the 'soft sound' and the " to indicate 'hard sound' she uses the quote mark sometimes when there is no soft sound in the original word. For example, on page xxiii she writes ob' "edinennoe, which indeed has a hard sound after the b but there is no possibility in Russian for a soft sound + a hard sound immediately following. There are many more examples. The other unusual parts of this system are only a little less irritating to students of the Russian language and if you are familiar with the standard transliteration systems you will know what I mean but if you don't know Russian you wouldn't care about it. There are only 193 pages before all the appendix and notes section, but luckily the discounted price makes it not too expensive for a short book. Good for the researcher, but not for the person who is just interested in reading about the subject. 0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Loved it. Very informative in the study of Russian ...By Judy Walker Loved it. Very informative in the study of Russian history. 0 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Some interesting information, but not the most exciting read ...By William H. Trudell Jr. Some interesting information, but not the most exciting read.

One of Stalin's most heinous acts was the ruthless repression of millions of peasants in the early 1930s, an act that established the very foundations of the gulag. Solzhenitsyn barely touched upon this brutal episode in his magisterial Gulag Archipelago and subsequent writers passed over the subject in silence. Now, with the opening of Soviet archives, an entirely new dimension of Stalin's brutality has been uncovered. *The Unknown Gulag* is the first book in English to explore this untold story. Historian Lynne Viola reveals how, in one of the most egregious episodes of Soviet repression, Stalin drove two million peasants into internal exile, to work as forced laborers. The book shows how entire families were callously thrown out of their homes, banished from their villages, and sent to the icy hinterlands of the Soviet Union, where in the course of a decade, almost a half million would die as a result of disease, starvation, or exhaustion. Drawing on pioneering research in the previously closed archives of the central and provincial Communist Party, the Soviet state, and the secret police, Viola documents the history of this tragic episode. She delves into what long remained an entirely hidden world within the gulag, throwing new light on Stalin's consolidation of power, the rise of the secret police as a state within the state, and the complex workings of the Soviet system. But first and foremost, she movingly captures the day-to-day life of Stalin's first victims, telling the stories of the peasant families who experienced one of the twentieth century's most horrific instances of mass repression. A compelling story of human suffering and survival in Stalin's Soviet Union, here is a new chapter in the history of the gulag, virtually hidden from sight until now.

From Publishers Weekly This scholarly, nuanced work shines light on Stalin's forced resettlement of two million Soviet peasants in the 1930s. A professor of history at the University of Toronto, Viola shows how a combination of repressive central government policies and out-of-control regional officials ruined the lives of so many Soviet citizens by deporting them to these "special settlements" to perform forced labor in the harsh tundra. Viola draws on newly opened archives to paint a complete portrait of the lives of the citizens, labeled "kulaks," or wealthy peasants. Hundreds of thousands died of disease or famine. As one child later remembered: "People began to swell and die" and were buried "without coffins, in collective graves." Viola writes clearly, but she is often understandably focused on larger, political questions, such as the nature of the Soviet state and how much of the repression was ordered by Stalin, and how much was ad hoc and locally ordered. This focus might limit Viola's readership, but this book is likely to become the scholarly standard on one of the 20th century's most horrific crimes. 25 bw photos. (Apr.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. "After years of archival and field research, Viola reproduces whole an obscured segment of Stalinism's barbarity in which half a million perished and nearly two million agonized."--Foreign Affairs "Magnificently wide-ranging"--Times Literary Supplement "A path-breaking and authoritative work."--Douglas Smith, The Seattle Times "This scholarly, nuanced work shines light on Stalin's forced resettlement of two million Soviet peasants in the 1930s. ...likely to become the scholarly standard on one of the 20th century's most horrific crimes."--Publishers Weekly "Historians have long been aware of the scale of collectivization and the exile of the kulaks. But *The Unknown Gulag* provides the human voices that were secreted away for decades in formerly closed archives. Ms. Viola's painstaking research lays the foundation for a compelling and, in certain ways, surprising narrative."--The Wall Street Journal "A seamless and quite moving narrative.... a social historian at the top of her game."--Lewis H. Siegelbaum, Slavic About the Author Lynne Viola is Professor of History at the University of Toronto. She is the author of *The Best Sons of the Fatherland* and *Peasant Rebels Under Stalin*, and the

co-editor of *The Tragedy of the Soviet Countryside*.