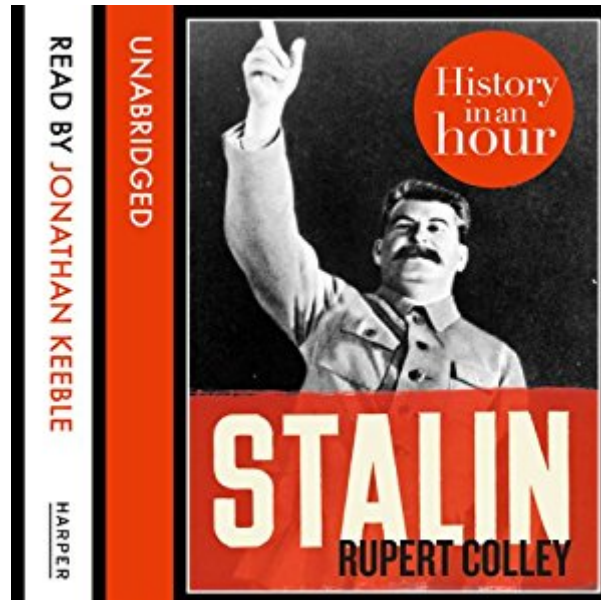




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# Stalin: History In An Hour



## Synopsis

Love history? Know your stuff with History in an Hour. Arguably no person in history had such a direct and negative impact on the lives of so many as Joseph Stalin. Under the Red Tsar terror knew no limits, it did not discriminate; no one was safe, no institution, no single town or village was immune. Yet, following his death in 1953, Stalin was deeply mourned. He had "received the country with a wooden plough, and left it with a nuclear missile shield." And no-one else, some claimed, could have led the Soviet Union to victory in the Second World War. So who was Joseph Stalin, what was his role during the Russian Revolution; how did he come to power, what made him such a destructive tyrant, and how did he impose his will on the Soviet Union for so long? Love history? Know your stuff with History in an Hour....

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I enjoy reading these short stories and always knew.....by reading other books.....that Stalin was the number one bad guy who murdered or caused to murdered more that any other country leader. And the majority of the folks he murdered were his fellow citizens and friends.

Better than most of the one hour history series. Sometimes the dates are not clear. Sometimes context is lost. But I learned a little about this horrific murderer. I hope his name is never rehabilitated as they did with Mao.

Interesting and smooth read. The book outlines Stalin's biography mostly in chronological order. There were only few times where I had to pause the reading to digest the information...in most of the cases, it is a very easy read

As advertised quick short and informative.Has stimulated further interest in the man and the period in time.

Nicely concise tidbits of information to whet the appetite on the topic while providing enough to satisfy the curiosity.

This book honestly reads like a computer generated spam email. Individual sentences make sense, but there is no cohesiveness whatsoever.

Good overview of Stalin's life and MO. I particularly liked the specific examples of how messed up, feared and hated he was by all.

Stalin is yet another fine condensed retelling of history by Rupert Colley. Stalin's atrocities are truly shocking even by 20th century standards. He almost makes Hitler seem like an ineffectually immature tyrant by comparison. As a student of history, I was intrigued by the similarity between Stalin's "Great Purge(s)" and France's "Reign of Terror" after the French Revolution of 1789. Both governments justified their atrocities as a necessity for the creation of the ideal society. Both governments idealized the collective over the individual (providing whoever was making the purging decisions was on top of the heap, of course). This stands in such contrast to our own United States government as conceived by our Founding Fathers (dead white Englishmen all), which, as evidenced through the Bill of Rights -- the first ten amendments to the United States Constitution -- elevates the individual over the collective. Indeed, the Bill of Rights goes so far as to protect the individual from the collective and provides him the means to do this, such as in the right to bear arms in the second amendment. I believe this elevation and protection of the individual against the government, along with its Christian heritage, is the overriding reason why the United States became the overwhelming superpower it was until Democrats took control of government in the latter part of the 20th century. The trend now in the early part of the 21st century -- led mainly by the Democratic party -- seems to be in elevating the collective over the individual -- witness all of the collective-friendly policies the Obama administration passed when the Democrats held the power in

Congress in his first term. As history shows, governments that favor the collective over the individual tend to develop tyrants, who will stop at nothing to see their vision of "utopia" fulfilled. Stalin is certainly a prime example of this, and Colley's history of Stalin brings this message home, loud and clear.

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