



On Stalin` Team : The Years of Living Dangerously in Soviet Politics

Sheila Fitzpatrick



Joseph Stalin was the unchallenged dictator of the Soviet Union for so long that most historians have dismissed the officials surrounding him as mere yes - men. On Stalins Team overturns this view, revealing that behind Stalin were a dozen or so loyal and competent men who formed a remarkably effective team from the late 1920s until his death in 1953, when they accomplished a brilliant transition as a reforming collective leadership. Drawing on extensive original research, Sheila Fitzpatrick provides the first in - depth account of Stalins dedicated comrades - in - arms, who not only worked closely with their leader, but constituted his social circle. Key team members were Stalins number - two man, Molotov the military leader Voroshilov, the charismatic and entrepreneurial Ordzhonikidze the wily security chief Beria and the deceptively simple Khrushchev, who finally disbanded the team in 1957 to become sole leader of the Soviet Union.

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