




# GREAT PURGES



# Reasons for terror

- Distract people from economic failures
  - Obtain cheap working force for national projects
  - Eliminate the opposition
  - Re-write the history of revolution
  - Effective control of population
  - Remove those who may be obstacles in case of war
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# Why Unnecessary Purges

- Whole Country
  - Urgency
  - Paranoia
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# How terror was conducted

- Sekret police (OGPU(1922)NKVD(1934)
- Global fear of enemy from within
- An atmosphere of suspense
- Immediate reason – assassination of Kirov



# Great Purges

- Purge Zero (1921 – menshevics expelled from party, 1932-reyutin platform)
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# 1<sup>st</sup> Moscow trial

- When – August 1936
- Who – Zinoviev and Kamenev
- Accusation -  
Trotskyite-Kamenevite-Zinovievite-Leftist-Counter-Revolutionary Bloc
- Assassination of Kirov and plot to kill Stalin

# 2<sup>nd</sup> Moscow trial

- When – January 1937
- Who – Karl Radek, Yuri Piatakov and Grigory Sokolnikov
- Accusation – “anti-Soviet Trotskyite-centre”

Plotted with Trotsky and Nazi Germany to overthrow government

# 3<sup>rd</sup> Moscow Trial

- When – March 1938
- Who – Nikolay Buharin, Alexei Rykov , Christian Rakovsky, Nikolai Krestinsky and Genrikh Yagoda
- Accused of – Plot to kill Lenin and Stalin, poisoning of Gorky, help Germany to divide russia etc



# A price to pay

- At least 1,710,000 people were arrested
- At least 1,440,000 people were sentenced
- At least 724,000 were executed. Among them:
- At least 436,000 people were sentenced to death by NKVD troikas as part of the Kulak operation (see also figure of 376,202[37])
- At least 247,000 people were sentenced to death by NKVD Dvoikas' and the Local Special Troykas as part of the Ethnic Operation
- At least 41,000 people were sentenced to death by Military Courts
- Among other cases in October 1936-November 1938:
- At least 400,000 were sentenced to labor camps by Police Troikas as Socially Harmful Elements (социально-вредный элемент, СВЭ)
- At least 200,000 were exiled or deported by Administrative procedures
- At least 2 million were sentenced by courts for common crimes; among them 800,000 were sentenced to Gulag camps