



**The Baltic and Arctic Areas under Stalin.
Ethnic Minorities in the Great Soviet Terror of 1937-38.**

**International Workshop
26 – 27 January 2011
Umeå University, Sweden**

The workshop is organized by the Faculty of Arts at Umeå University.

Workshop Sponsors: Swedish Institute and Umeå University.

Short Description

The study of mass killing took a major turn in the post-WWII period because of the Holocaust. However, it has taken a rather long time for researchers to get involved in the ethnic aspects of Soviet terror. Robert Conquest, who popularized the term “Great Terror” in his classic account of Stalin’s purges, depicts these events as repressions against Soviet political, cultural and military elites. The access to previously inaccessible sources from the Soviet archives has shed light on the very little known part of the Great Terror namely the national operations of the Soviet secret police. For 14 months in 1937 - 1938 the NKVD policemen executed 247,000 people representing dozen Northern and Baltic minorities.

The start point of the workshop is to test different interpretations of “national operations” on local materials. The main aim of this meeting is bringing together scholars working on the history of Stalin’s Great Terror against minorities in order to overcome the isolation of national historiographies of Eastern and Northern Europe. The ambition is not just to describe, but to explain one of the darkest sides of Soviet, Baltic and Nordic history. The final aim of this workshop is to contribute to internationalizing of research within humanities at the Umeå University. Therefore the network working group will discuss next steps in order to apply for a big international project.

PROGRAMME SCHEDULE

(May be finalized at later date)

Place: room D 108 (entrance “Humanisthuset”, ground floor)

The working languages are English and Russian.

Day 1: January 26, 2011

Chair: Dr. Andrej Kotljarchuk

10:00-10:15

Prof. Britta Lundgren, Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Umeå University
Welcome Address

10:15-10:45

Keynote Lecture
Prof. Hiroaki Kuromiya (Indiana University, USA)
Japan and Soviet National Minorities: Missing Links.

11:00-11:45

Keynote Lecture
Dr Tomislav Dulic (Hugo Valentin Centre, Uppsala University)
Why Genocide? Legal definitions, theory and mass violence in the Soviet Union

12:00-12:30

Prof. Bogdan Musial (University of Stefan Wyszyński in Warsaw)
The Polish operation” of the NKVD

12:30-13:30

Lunch

14:00-14:30

Prof. Irina Takala (Petrozavodsk University, Russia)
Finnish operation of the NKVD in Soviet Karelia during the 1930s.

14:30-15:00

Prof. Victor Dönninghaus (Albert Ludwig’s University of Freiburg, Germany)
The Western national minorities and the ‘ethnic cleansings’ from 1934 - 1936 as a ‘dress rehearsal’ of the Great Terror. The presentation will be held in Russian. The abstract in English is available for participants and guests.

15:00-15:30

Dr. Iryna Ramanava (National Academy of Sciences of Belarus)
The Repressions against Latvian and German population in the Soviet Belarus. The presentation will be held in Russian. The abstract in English is available for participants and guests.

15:30-16:00

Coffee

16:00-16:30

Dr. Andrey Savin (Siberian Branch of Academy of Sciences of Russia)

Ethnic” cleansings and the NKVD actions under the order № 00447. A case study: repressions of Western Siberia Germans.

16:30-17:00

Erika Aronowitsch (Living History Forum, Sweden)

The Living History Forum’s mission in the understanding of crimes against humanity under communist regimes.

17:00-18:00

Concluding Discussion.

Initial Ideas for Next Steps of the Workshop Working Group

18:30

Dinner

Restaurant “Rex”

Address: *Rådhusstorget*, phone: +4690706050

Day 2, January 27

Chair: Dr. Olle Sundström

09:30-10:00

Dr. Art Leete (Tartu University, Estonia)

Understandings of Change in Western Siberia in the 1930s.

10:00-10:30

Dr. Olle Sundström (Umeå University, Sweden)

Repression of “shamans” in the Soviet North in the 1930s.

10:30-11:00

Prof. Tatiana Bulgakova (Institute of Nordic Peoples in St. Petersburg)

Interpretation of the Anti-shamanic Campaign in the Native Siberian Literature.

11:00-11:15

Coffee

11:15-11:45

Prof. Igor Nabok (Institute of Nordic Peoples in St. Petersburg)

Repressions against the indigenous peoples of the Russian North in the 1930-th as an instrument of socio-economic transformations. The presentation will be held in Russian. The abstract in English is available for participants and guests.

12:00-13:00

Lunch

13:15-13:45

Dr. Marc Junge (Ruhr-University of Bochum, Germany)

Repression along National Lines in the Ukrainian SSR in the Great Terror. Ethnic Cleansing as a Focal Point of the Stalinist Reign of Terror versus a Multifactor Persecution Strategy.

13:45-15:15

Dr. Andrej Kotljarchuk (Umeå University, Sweden)

Spies on the Kolkhoz. The Conceptualization of Great Terror and the Swedish Colonists of Ukraine.

15:15-15:45

Dr. Oleksandr Beznosov (Dnipropetrovs'k National University, Ukraine)

The Great Terror in the German colony of Pavlovka/Osterwick. The presentation will be held in Russian. The abstract in English is available for participants and guests.

15:45-16:00

Coffee

16:00-16:30

MA Stella Sevander (Umeå University, Sweden)

The War as Viewed by North America Finns.

16:30-18:00

Final Discussion.

Summary of Ideas for the Future Project Application.

18:00

Evening Reception at the *Humanisthuset*

21:00

Close

January 28, 2011: Day of Departure

Workshop Coordinator

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The workshop is open for scholars and doctoral students.

In order to obtain further information and register for the workshop, please contact in advance the workshop coordinator.