

Political Humor Under Stalin: An Anthology of Unofficial Jokes and Anecdotes

David Brandenberger

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David Brandenberger : Political Humor Under Stalin: An Anthology of Unofficial Jokes and Anecdotes before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Political Humor Under Stalin: An Anthology of Unofficial Jokes and Anecdotes:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Some things never changeBy MeaghanFrom many people's point of view, the most surprising fact about "Political Humor Under Stalin" is, perhaps, that it existed at all. The Soviets, even during the darkest days of the Great Terror, made the same kind of wisecracks about their government that people do

in any country. And many of the jokes are amusing even to these 21st-century American eyes. The author does a good job explaining the references so you can understand the jokes. They are organized by time period, which information about the context of that time in Stalinist history. (For comparison, see Rudolf Herzog's *Dead Funny: Telling Jokes in Hitler's Germany*. I would totally love to read *Political Humor in North Korea*, if there ever is such a thing.)

"Political Humor under Stalin" is an anthology of jokes, wisecracks, and satire from the Soviet 1930s and 40s that provides a glimpse of everyday dissembling and dissent in one of the modern world's most repressive societies. More than merely a joke book, it offers no less than a folkloric counter-narrative to the official history of the USSR, as well as a ground-breaking discussion of the culture of joke-telling under Stalin.

"Political Humor under Stalin" is a resource that will interest historians and cultural critics, and has the potential to become a class reading in a number of subjects. I enjoyed it immensely: it satisfied the scholar in me, plus it was just plain fun. --James von Geldern, Macalester College