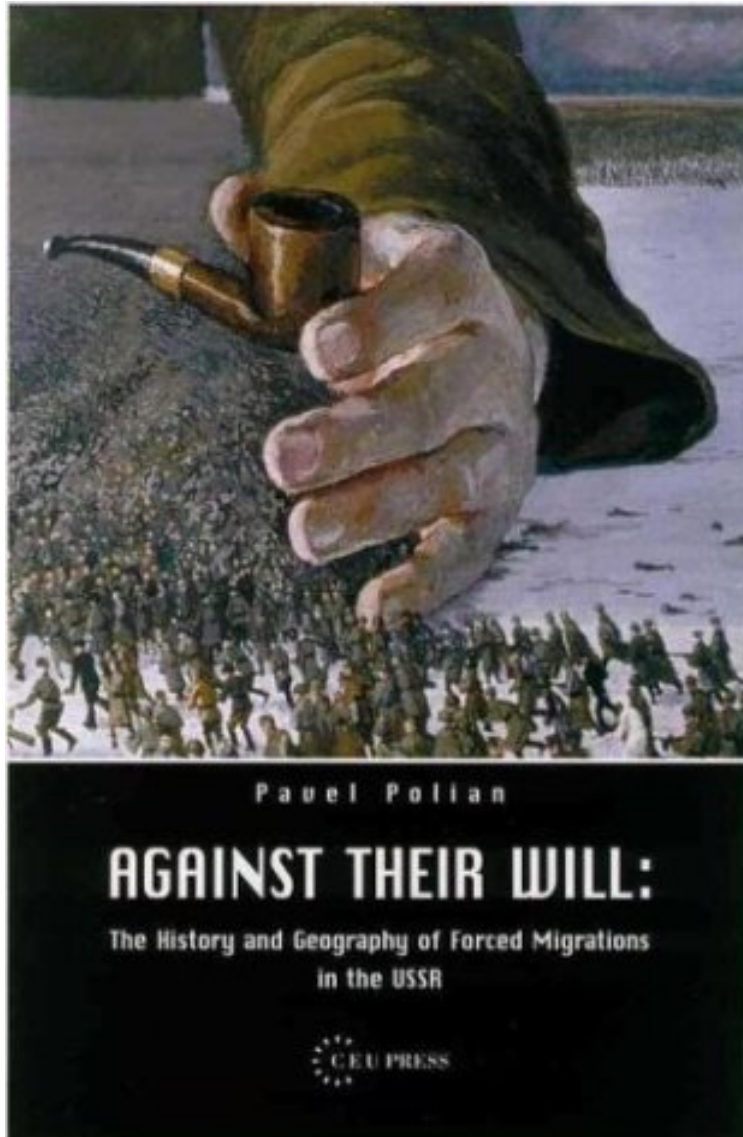


(Free pdf) Against Their Will: The History and Geography of Forced Migrations in the USSR

## Against Their Will: The History and Geography of Forced Migrations in the USSR

*Pavel Polian*

*DOC | \*audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF | ePub*



[Download](#)

[Read Online](#)

#270978 in Books 2003-09-01 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.02 x .90 x 5.981, 1.30 #File Name: 9639241733444 pages | File size: 31.Mb

**Pavel Polian : Against Their Will: The History and Geography of Forced Migrations in the USSR** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Against Their Will: The History and Geography of Forced Migrations in the USSR:

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. An Encyclopedia of Soviet-Sponsored Deportations, With Lowered

FiguresBy Jan PeczkisThe obvious strength of this work is its comprehensiveness. It includes a table (pp. 327-333), covering 1920-1952, that lists the nationality that had experienced deportation, the dates of the deportation, the place of origin, and the destination of the deportation. The reader may be surprised at the numerous nationalities deported, and the very large number of episodes of deportation. The author also touches on the post-WWII movements of ethnic Germans in Poland (vertriebenen), realizing that they (and the deaths caused) occurred largely from German directives. There were three phases in these movements: (End 1944--spring 1945)--evacuation measures enacted by the German authorities, (March/April--July 1945)--the self-directed wild exile by the local Germans, and (only after Potsdam) the actual forced expulsions of the remaining Germans. (p. 40). He also rejects the overall figure of 2 million German dead, and endorses Rudiger Overmans and his figure of 400,000. (p. 40). Now consider pre-WWII eastern Poland. Interestingly, for all the attention that the OSADNIKI had played in both Soviet Communist and Ukrainian nationalist propaganda, not only had their impact on the local populations been greatly exaggerated, but also they were not even all Polish. Polian estimates that 85% of OSADNIKI were Poles; the remainder included Ukrainians and Belorussians. (p. 116). I now focus on the USSR. The Communists had various motives for conducting the deportations, and these motives overlapped. Consider, for example, the anti-kulak campaign (in 1934-1939), as described by Polian in his Reference 114 (quote) Particular peoples, especially Germans or Poles, were treated as kulaks almost indiscriminately, and even Russians, when judged against Koreans or Kazakhs, appeared kulak. Among those banished kulaks from Belorussia or Ukraine, the number of Poles was disproportionately high, and some anti-kulak operations targeted Poles almost exclusively. (unquote)(p. 112). During the later 1939-1941 deportations of Kresy Poles, one quoted NKVD said unabashedly that all the Poles, no matter how many there were, are enemies, and that one cannot, in this generation at least, convert a Pole to Communism. (pp. 117-118). One shortcoming of this work is its skirting of the Holodomor. Another, more fundamental one, is Polian's systematic over-reliance on Soviet archives. For instance, he quotes a figure only 300,000-400,000 Poles deported from Soviet-conquered Eastern Poland in 1939-1941--a figure that he admits is "surprisingly low". (p. 118). For a scholarly defense of the multiples-greater traditional figure, by historian Marek Jan Chodakiewicz, please click on, and read, the Peczkis review of Polish Poetry from the Soviet Gulags: Recovering a Lost Literature. There was a major wave of deportations after WWII, conducted to suppress opposition to Communism, and to punish peoples collectively for allegedly having sided with the Nazi Germans. Interestingly, the Soviets used Nazi methods, such as the burning of the inhabitants in a barn into which they had been herded, and burning of entire villages. (p. 147). Let us now assess the overall policy of deportations. Interestingly, Polian contends that, despite the economic benefits of forced labor and the development of remote areas such as Siberia, the internal deportations actually harmed the Soviet Union, economically and otherwise, in the end. He comments, (quote) On the macroeconomic scale of the state, however, the deportations were disadvantageous, since they scratched millions of well-settled, economically productive families off the production cycle; rendered vast lands and numerous settlements deserted and neglected; caused the loss of population labor skills and traditions, and a dramatic decline in agricultural and industrial production; required additional expenses for the transportation of deportees who settled them down at new locations; and so on and so forth. (unquote)(pp. 319-320). If the foregoing was true within the USSR, how much more so in the Soviet-occupied KRESY (eastern Poland)! Clearly, at least some of the Soviet-enacted deportations qualified as nation-destroying acts--hence genocide. Unfortunately, Pavel Polian does not develop this theme. The reader should consider the fact that deportations are clearly nation-destroying acts in many ways. They scatter the peoples over long distances, making them functionally nonexistent to each other. They deprive the deportees of their national institutions--such as monuments, churches, educational institutions, etc. Finally, they harm the targeted population biologically. Apart from the higher mortality, the deported peoples experience a net lower birth rate--moreover a depressed birth rate sustained over time.

During his reign over the former Soviet Union, Joseph Stalin oversaw the forced resettlement of six million people -- a maniacal passion that he used for social engineering. The Soviets were not the first to thrust resettlement on its population -- a major characteristic of totalitarian systems -- but in terms of sheer numbers, technologies used to deport people and the lawlessness which accompanied it, Stalin's process was the most notable. Six million people of different social, ethnic, and professions were resettled before Stalin's death. Even today, the aftermath of such deportations largely predetermines events which take place in the northern Caucasus, Crimea, the Baltic republics, Moldavia, and western Ukraine. Polian's volume is the first attempt to comprehensively examine the history of forced and semivoluntary population movements within or organized by the Soviet Union. Contents range from the early 1920s to the rehabilitation of repressed nationalities in the 1990s dealing with internal (kulaks, ethnic and political deportations) and international forced migrations (German internees and occupied territories). An abundance of facts, figures, tables, maps, and an exhaustively-detailed annex will serve as important sources for further researches.

From the Publisher "To evict and with a crackle!" this quotation from Stalin is one of the epigraphs to this book. The maniacal passion for forced resettlements of great masses of unpersonalized people as a kind of social engineering is an important characteristic feature of the totalitarian systems. The soviet power was not the first, but it was probably

the strongest from the points of view of quantity, lawlessness of the deportees and specific technologies of deportations. Six million persons of very different social, ethnic, confessional arts who were resettled forcibly only within the USSR before Stalins death. Pavel Polians volume is the first attempt to deal comprehensively with the history of all forced and semi-voluntary population movements within or organized by the Soviet Union. The contents range from the early 1920s to the rehabilitation of the repressed nationalities in the 1990s dealing with both internal (kulak and political deportations, ethnic an compensatory migrations) and international forced migrations (German interneees and occupied territories). Each of the substantive chapters present a precise picture of the geographical origin and destination of each group (of immigrants?). The abundance of facts, figures, tables, maps and exhaustively detailed annex along with descriptions of deportations operations and the relevant normative acts will serve as important sources for further researches. On the ground of a huge empirical data based on primary and secondary sources the author produced a typology, chronology and an entire system in the field of forced migrations in the USSR as well as its connections with such adjoining fields of repressions and population policies as GULAG and so called planned resettlement. By reconstructing the evolution of deportation operations in the USSR and following its historical trajectories he studies its internal logic and logistic. Current political events which take place in the North Caucasus, Crimea, Baltic republics, Moldavia and Western Ukraine are typically largely predetermined by the surviving legacy of the deportations that once took place.About the AuthorPavel Polian is senior researcher at the Institute of Geography of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow. Top authority on forced migrations, forced labour and the prisoners of war during the WWII, and Jewish emigration from the USSR.