



# Young Stalin

By Simon Sebag Montefiore

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This revelatory account unveils how Stalin became Stalin, examining his shadowy journey from obscurity to power—from master historian Simon Sebag Montefiore.

Based on ten years of research, *Young Stalin*—companion to the prizewinning *Stalin: The Court of the Red Tsar*—is a brilliant prehistory of the USSR, a chronicle of the Revolution, and an intimate biography. Montefiore tells the story of a charismatic, darkly turbulent boy born into poverty, scarred by his upbringing but possessed of unusual talents. Admired as a romantic poet and trained as a priest, he found his true mission as a murderous revolutionary. Here is the dramatic story of his friendships and hatreds, his many love affairs, his complicated relationship with the Tsarist secret police, and how he became the merciless politician who shaped the Soviet Empire in his own brutal image. Described by *The New York Times* as "a meticulously researched, authoritative biography," *Young Stalin* is essential reading for anyone interested in Russian history.

Winner of the Costa Book Award for Biography

A *Christian Science Monitor* and *Seattle Times* Best Book of the Year

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## Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Russian historian and author Montefiore presents an exciting, exemplary biography of the nondescript peasant boy who would become the most ruthless leader in Soviet history, a prequel of sorts to his *Stalin: The Court of the Red Tsar*. Born in 1878 in the Caucasus of Georgia to an overprotective mother (who had already lost two sons) and a father opposed to education ("I'm a shoemaker and my son will be one too"), Stalin possessed a talent for poetry and mischief. Amidst his mom's trysts (with men she hoped would further Stalin's education), his father's alcohol-fueled violence and the powder-keg environment of the Caucasus, Stalin turned from priesthood training to gang life and petty crime. As he grew, so did his hatred of Tsarist Russia, leading him to meet the initial Bolsheviks, and to more spectacular and violent capers. From the start, Stalin proved a remarkable talent for meticulous planning, a skill that would become vital to the revolutionaries and, later, to his iron-fisted reign. Using recently opened records, Montefiore turns up intriguing new information (like the "Fagin-like" role he played among "a prepubescent revolutionary street intelligence" network), Montefiore captures in an absorbing narrative both Stalin's conflicted character—marked by powerful charisma and deep paranoia—and the revolution's early years with stunning clarity. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

## Review

"Brilliantly researched. . . . The portrait of Stalin that emerges from these pages is more complete, more colorful, more chilling, and far more convincing than any we have had before." —*The New York Review of Books* "Young Stalin is brilliantly readable, as intricately plotted and full of detail as a good novel, scrupulously researched, and full of hitherto unknown (or unreported) facts about Stalin's life." —*Men's Vogue* "A meticulously researched, authoritative biography. . . . Mr. Montefiore has found the devil in the details, working his way with a fine-tooth comb through previously unread archival material." —*The New York Times* "The most complete, accurate account of the tyrant's early years—a fascinating tale of life in the revolutionary underground, drenched in violence, fear and deceit, filled with a rogue's gallery of bandits, double-agents and terrorists." —*The Seattle Times*

## About the Author

**SIMON SEBAG MONTEFIORE** is a historian of Russia and the Middle East. *Catherine the Great and Potemkin* was short-listed for the Samuel Johnson Prize. *Stalin: The Court of the Red Tsar* won the History Book of the Year Prize at the British Book Awards. *Young Stalin* won the Los Angeles Times Book Prize for Biography, the Costa Biography Award, and le Grande Prix de la biographie politique. *Jerusalem: The Biography* was a worldwide best seller. Montefiore's books are published in more than forty languages. He is the author of the novels *Sashenka* and *One Night in Winter*, which won the Paddy Power Political Fiction Book of the Year Award in 2014. A Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature, Dr. Montefiore graduated from Cambridge University, where he received his PhD. He lives in London.

[www.simonsebagmontefiore.com](http://www.simonsebagmontefiore.com)

## Users Review

**From reader reviews:**

**Karen Wilson:**

Spent a free the perfect time to be fun activity to complete! A lot of people spent their spare time with their family, or their own friends. Usually they accomplishing activity like watching television, about to beach, or picnic inside the park. They actually doing ditto every week. Do you feel it? Do you need to something different to fill your own personal free time/ holiday? Could possibly be reading a book may be option to fill your totally free time/ holiday. The first thing that you ask may be what kinds of book that you should read. If you want to consider look for book, may be the reserve untitled Young Stalin can be excellent book to read. May be it is usually best activity to you.

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