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Etkind, Alexander, Rory Finnin, et al. *Remembering Katyn*. Cambridge, UK and Malden, MA: Polity Press, 2012.

In *Remembering Katyn*, Alexander Etkind and Rory Finnin et al. give us a perspective of the Katyn massacre that affirms how complex and far-reaching the event truly was. The massacre, which claimed approximately 22,000 Polish nationals in the spring of 1940, stands out as a defining memory for an entire people oppressed by the Soviet occupation. The authors provide thorough documentation that highlights the social, cultural, political and artistic ramifications the massacre had on Poland, Russia, Ukraine, the Baltic states and in the Polish émigré culture over the last seventy years. Finally, the authors discuss the recent death of Polish President Lech Kaczynski (1949-2010) en route to a Katyn memorial: his plane crashed in Smolensk, just miles from its destination and the Katyn forest.

The Katyn Massacre was one of many atrocities committed by the occupying Soviet forces during the Second World War, but few atrocities suffered as greatly from misinformation and propaganda. The actual discovery of some of the mass graves of the victims of Katyn wasn't made until 1943, when invading German forces unearthed the bodies of thousands of victims and promptly used the occasion as a propaganda tool against the Soviets. The Soviets immediately denied the allegations and blamed the Nazis for the mass graves. Even after the war, the Soviets would continue to maintain Nazi guilt for the killings until 1990, when they officially acknowledged their guilt and the cover-up. Despite this admission, however, many of the official documents pertaining to the truth behind the Katyn massacre are still restricted from scholars and independent research committees.

The details of this cover-up and the attempts of Poles within and without Poland to commemorate and raise awareness for the massacre are presented and established through thorough research by the authors. Furthermore, Etkind and Finnin et al. successfully show the ramifications that the event had on neighboring Ukraine and the Baltic states, who saw the massacre as a symbol of their own tribulations and suffering at the hand of the People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs (NKVD), the Soviet secret police. The book also discusses in depth the troubles that Katyn scholars and victims had (and have) in gaining complete access to archives and other materials that may aid in discovering answers to many lingering questions, including the possible existence of several yet-undiscovered mass graves spread throughout eastern Europe that may contain more victims of the Katyn massacre.

Remembering Katyn also spends considerable time looking at the massacre through the lens of *Katyn*, the 2007 film by Andrzej Wajda. *Katyn* was hailed by many as a historical document that gave emotional legitimacy to the victims of the massacre and offered a way for the victims to grieve. The film has also served as vehicle for expressing the true story of Katyn to nations outside of Poland and particularly to Russia, where denial of the Soviet involvement in the Katyn

massacre among some still causes challenges to reconciliation and closure between the two nations.

Etkind and Finnen et al. achieve in *Remembering Katyn* a case study of an event whose complete truth has yet to fully emerge. It profiles the efforts of victims to uncover and of perpetrators to bury the events leading up to, during, and after the massacre. It raises difficult questions and parallels about how nations deal with their past and shows us how, even after more than seventy years, an event as complex as Katyn was almost completely eradicated from public record by a sophisticated Soviet machine of propaganda and misinformation.

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