

HIST 5568: Stalinism
BOOK ANALYSIS NO. 1
Due Date: March 4, 2024

Write a 4-page (single-spaced) review of Stephen Kotkin's *Magnetic Mountain*. As you can imagine, the challenge here is to synthesize a vast amount of information into such a short space. As a guide, consider the following organization of the four pages:

- Introductory paragraph or two: Introduce the book and the subject matter of the book with some broader historical background material (e.g., provide some details of the Five-Year Plan, explain what Magnitogorsk is, why it's important, how many worked there, what Kotkin is looking at, etc.).
- About 1 page: Summarize Part 1 of the book (which is Chapters 1, 2, and 3) giving a sense of what each chapter is about and the overall theme of the entire set of chapters.
- About 1 page: Summarize Part 2 of the book (which is Chapters 4, 5, 6, and 7). Remember to not just focus on the theme or topic but also the argument/thesis he is making. The latter might be more subtly expressed but it's there.
- About 1 page: I would like you to zone in on Chapter 5 and provide some sense of the content and argument(s) advanced in this chapter.
- Conclusion: Explain in a paragraph or two what he means by the notion of "Stalinism as Civilization" which he summarizes in the Afterword.

As part of the assignment, there are two requirements:

1. I want you to use quotes from the Kotkin book as appropriate. These should be relevant to the point you are making. Do not use quotes longer than a couple of lines (no block quotes!). If you're thinking of quoting something that is several lines long, it's better not to quote, and instead paraphrase it in your own words.
2. I want you to cite three other secondary sources on Soviet industrialization. These secondary sources could be journal articles or books written by a historian. I have listed a few possible books below that you can use, but you are welcome to go beyond them. If you'd like to use journal articles, you can find them through the [JSTOR database](#) at the Fordham Library. In JSTOR, you can search for "Soviet industrialization," for example. **Make sure that the book or article you cite was published after 1980.** The idea is to mention other sources either as a point of comparison with Kotkin or to deepen our knowledge of an aspect of the topic that Kotkin describes.

When you refer to something in the text or use a quote, please note the page number from *Magnetic Mountain*. For example, you could say: "Kotkin argues that bananas were the reason Stalin initiated industrialization" (45).

The paper should be approximately four pages long, **single-spaced**. All papers should be on 8" X 11" paper, in 12 pt font in Times New Roman, with 1" X 1" margins.

The paper is due in class on Monday, March 4.

Possible Secondary Source Books

Donald Filtzer, *Soviet Workers and Stalinist Industrialization: The Formation of Modern Soviet Production Relations, 1928-1941* (Armonk, NY: M.E. Sharpe, 1986).

Hiroaki Kuromaya, *Stalin's Industrial Revolution: Politics and Workers, 1928-1932* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1988).

Melanie Ilic, *Women Workers in the Soviet Interwar Economy: From "Protection" to "Equality"* (New York: St. Martin's Press, 1999).

Jeffrey J. Rossman, *Worker Resistance under Stalin: Class and Revolution on the Shop Floor* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2005).

David R. Shearer, *Industry, State, and Society in Stalin's Russia, 1926-1934* (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 1996).