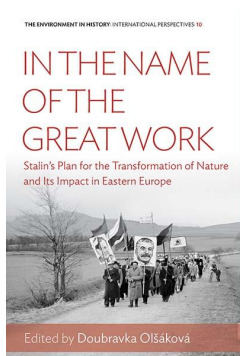




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***In the Name of the Great Work: Stalin's Plan for the Transformation of Nature and its Impact in Eastern Europe***

Olšáková, Doubravka, ed.



*In the Name of the Great Work.* Cover.

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Olšáková, Doubravka, ed. *In the Name of the Great Work: Stalin's Plan for the Transformation of Nature and its Impact in Eastern Europe*. New York, Oxford: Berghahn Books, 2016.

Beginning in 1948, the Soviet Union launched a series of wildly ambitious projects to implement Joseph Stalin's vision of a total "transformation of nature." Intended to increase agricultural yields dramatically, this utopian impulse quickly spread to the newly communist states of Eastern Europe, captivating political elites and war-fatigued publics alike. By the time of Stalin's death, however, these attempts at "transformation"—which relied upon ideologically corrupted and pseudoscientific theories—had proven a spectacular failure. This richly detailed volume follows the history of such projects in three communist states—Poland, Hungary, and Czechoslovakia—and explores their varied, but largely disastrous, consequences. (Text from [Berghahn Books](#) )

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Introduction: The Name of the Great Work

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**Further readings:**

- Auer, Matthew R., ed. *Restoring Cursed Earth: Appraising Environmental Policy Reforms in Eastern Europe and Russia*. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2004.
- Gestwa, Klaus. *Die Stalinschen Großbauten des Kommunismus: Sowjetische Technik- und Umweltgeschichte, 1948–1967*. München: Oldenbourg, 2010.
- Weiner, Douglas R. *A Little Corner of Freedom: Russian Nature Protection from Stalin to Gorbachëv*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1999.

**Websites linked in this text:**

- <http://www.berghahnbooks.com/title.php?rowtag=OlsakovaIn>
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