



## SURVIVING KATYŃ

A reconstruction of the massacre and its cover-up

**Author:** Jane Rogoyska **Publisher:** Oneworld Publications **Price:** £10.99

**T**he first thing that's striking when reading Jane Rogoyska's *Surviving Katyń* is the extent of the research that has gone into writing this book. Brought to life by the small, meticulously details, this immersive account of the Polish soldiers captured by the Soviets and how they were eventually led to their deaths is harrowing. Rogoyska's own writing combines smoothly with the testimonies of those who survived the mass killings and those who helped to uncover the truth about the brutality of the Soviet NKVD secret police.

Beginning with the capture of thousands Polish soldiers at the start of WWII, *Surviving Katyń* follows their stories from the camps they were held prisoner in from 1939 to the present day. The decision to

massacre 22,000 POWs is laid bare by Rogoyska, who questions why Stalin and the NKVD took such a barbaric course of action.

What is most shocking about this book, though, is the extent to which the Soviet Union attempted to cover up the killings which have become known as the Katyń Massacre. Rogoyska traces decades of lies to untangle the reality from the false narratives created by the Soviets, evidencing the truth with the experiences of those who were there as witnesses, victims and perpetrators. Rogoyska's empathy for the Poles who suffered at the hands of Stalin's NKVD, and their families, permeates her book, ensuring that once read this story will not be easily forgotten. **ES**

