

The “Great Terror” in the GULAG: A Case Study of the White-Sea Baltic Combine and
the Camp of the NKVD

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Abstract

The paper is devoted to the exploration of the Soviet repressive operations of 1937-1939, the so-called “Great Terror” in the GULAG system on an example of the regional camp complex. In particular, it focuses on the reconstruction of the mechanism of repressive operations, identification and quantitative analysis of the chief target groups among the camp hired staff and the prisoners, and the NKVD personnel that carried out the repressions. The paper notes how in the White-Sea Baltic Combine and Camp of the NKVD, as in many other localities, the “Terror,” at first ideologically motivated, became indiscriminate, and on the basis of the analysis of the criminal cases of the persecuted prisoners shows what social categories for particular reasons became vulnerable to the extermination.