

The Times Must Change

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“Political leaders prefer to project a noble history, sometimes by turning complicity in atrocities into claims of victimhood,” the *New York Times* informed us last Sunday. “In Russia, Mr. Putin and many of his lieutenants came from the K.G.B. and resisted fully confronting its repressive history. And they, like many of their countrymen, prefer to portray Stalin not only as the architect of the Gulag but also as the leader who built Russia’s industrial might and led it to victory in the Great Patriotic War.”

The Gray Lady here marks the passing of Arseny Roginsky, an organizer and activist who kept alive the memory of state mass murder in his homeland. The *Times* quotes the late

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hero as insisting that common talk of “victims of repression” is nowhere near enough. The repression did not merely descend upon the people as “a plague.”



The victims were targets of “state terror.”

But there was something missing in this too-brief notice. Though the Nazis were mentioned, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics wasn’t.

Communism was not.*

State terror did not infect its perpetrators biologically, like the world’s worst case of x-oplasmosis. It neither descended from the heavens nor ascended from the swamps. *The infection was ideological* — the result of Marxian socialism, of unworkable communism.

By not mentioning socialism or communism or even the USSR, the *New York Times* carries on its sad history of leftist apologetics. The case of the lying propagandist Walter Duranty — the *Times*’ award-winning foreign correspondent and author of *Mission to Moscow* — should have been the last of that.

It isn’t, apparently. The *Times* still protects its safe-space socialist readers.

This is Common Sense. I’m Paul Jacob.

* *The omissions were also present in the Times’ initial obituary.*