

*Kliment Voroshilov, Vyacheslav Molotov, Stalin and Nikolai Yezhov at the shore of the Moscow-Volga Canal. April 22, 1937. The National Archives.*

<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20120203152804/http://www.tate.org.uk/tateetc/issue8/erasurerevelation.htm>.

Nikolai Yezhov was the head of NKVD, the Soviet Union's secret police agency, from 1936 to 1938. Yezhov orchestrated the Great Purge in which the NKVD arrested, imprisoned, and executed Communist Party officials, wealthy landowners, Red Army leaders, and people opposed to Stalin's regime. He soon fell out of favor. In 1940, he was executed as part of Stalin's Terror. In the original photograph, Yezhov stood together with Stalin, Molotov, and Voroshilov. After Yezhov's execution, he was removed from the photograph, thus erasing Yezhov's existence from history.