

## HERTOG 2021 SUMMER COURSES

### GROSSMAN'S *LIFE & FATE*

Flagg Taylor, Professor, Skidmore College

Led by Professor Flagg Taylor, fellows will engage in close study of the novel to understand the nature of “ideological tyranny” or “totalitarianism” and its effects on the human person and human relations. What enabled human beings to carry out horrific crimes against their fellow man? Why did human beings suffer rule by ideological lies for so long, and what kept them open to the truth? What are we to make of the relationship between totalitarianism and the foundational principles of liberal modernity? In reflecting on these and other questions, fellows will consider more general themes that resonate throughout a broad tradition in political philosophy: tyranny, justice, and political responsibility.

This seminar will meet online weekly on **Thursdays** from **6 PM to 8 PM ET** on the following dates: June 10, 17, 24, July 1, 8, & 15

#### Course Materials:

- Vasily Grossman, *Life & Fate*, trans. Robert Chandler (NYRB Classics, 1980)

**Discussion Papers:** Each fellow will be responsible for completing a brief discussion paper (1-2 pages, single spaced). See below for your assignment. **Papers are due the day before your assigned session by 5 PM ET.** They should be posted on the course Slack channel and will be part of the assigned readings for the session. Paper-writers should be ready to briefly present their ideas during the seminar.

**Films:** In addition to the novel, we would like you to view three films. All three are available via streaming services for a minimal rental charge, and you may be able to access them for free through your local or university library.

We will also host **class viewing parties** via Kast before each film's assigned session, and will poll you on the best dates and times.

- [\*Dear Comrades!\*](#), dir. Andrey Konchalovskiy (2020) – Watch by Session I
- [\*Katyń\*](#), dir. Andrzej Wajda (2007) – Watch by Session III
- [\*The Lives of Others\*](#), dir. Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck (2006) – Watch by Session V

**Three Recommended Readings on Totalitarianism:** These essays can all be found in our instructor's edited volume, [\*The Great Lie: Classic and Recent Appraisals of Ideology and Totalitarianism\*](#) (ISI Books 2011). Contact Prof. Taylor if you would like a PDF: [ftaylor@skidmore.edu](mailto:ftaylor@skidmore.edu).

- Hannah Arendt, "[Ideology and Terror: A Novel Form of Government](#)," *The Review of Politics* Vol. 15, No. 3 (July 1953)
- Alain Besançon, "Moral Destruction," from *A Century of Horrors: Communism, Nazism, and the Uniqueness of the Shoah* (1998)
- Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, "[Our Muzzled Freedom](#)," from *The Gulag Archipelago*, Part IV, Ch. 3

## Resources:

To learn more about the ideas and figures discussed in this course, we encourage you to explore a project supported by the Hertog Foundation: **The Great Thinkers** (<http://thegreatthinkers.org/>) and **Contemporary Thinkers** (<http://contemporarythinkers.org/>) websites. These sites are aimed at introducing important thinkers in Western thought, with a particular emphasis on politics and philosophy.

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**Thursday, June 10, 2021**

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**6 PM – 8 PM ET**

**Session I**

## Readings:

- *Life & Fate*, Part I, Chs. 1–38 (pp. 19–174)
- Film: [Katyń](#), dir. Andrzej Wajda (2007)

Chs. 1–7	(A)	German Camp
Chs. 7–14	(B)	Soviet officers at Stalingrad
Chs. 15–20	(C1)	Shaposhnikov family and circle (Kazan)
Chs. 21–22	(D)	Getmanov in Ufa
Chs. 23–25	(E)	Yevgenia Shaposhnikova in Kuibyshev
Chs. 26–34	(C1)	Shaposhnikov family and circle (Kazan to Saratov)
Chs. 35–38	(F)	Russia Air Force

## Discussion Questions:

1. How are relationships changing in the Shaposhnikov / Shtrum family as a result of the war?
2. What does Viktor's mother choose to tell him about life in the Jewish ghetto?

3. What is Yevgenia's life like in Kuibyshev? Who are some of her fellow tenants?
4. Who is Getmanov and what has his life been like as a member of the Communist Party?

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**Thursday, June 17, 2021**

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**6 PM – 8 PM ET**

**Session II**

**Readings:**

- *Life & Fate*, Part I, Chs. 39–71 (pp. 174–322)

Chs. 39–41	(G)	Russian Labor Camp
Chs. 42–51	(H)	To the Gas Chamber
Chs. 52–53	(I)	Tank Corp (Novikov, Getmanov, et.al.)
Chs. 54–56	(B)	Soviet officers at Stalingrad
Chs. 57–60	(J)	Soldiers in House 6/1
Ch. 61	(K)	Stalingrad power station
Ch. 62	(C1)	Shaposhnikov family and circle
Chs. 63–64	(C2) (C3)	Viktor's colleagues & Viktor's circle
Chs. 65–66	(L)	Darensky, the Kalmyk steppe
Chs. 67–71	(A)	German Camp

**Discussion Questions:**

1. What is Arbachuk's relation to the Communist idea?
2. These chapters chronicling life in a Soviet labor camp are followed by chapters which follow prisoners of the Nazis on their way to a death camp. How does Grossman want us to think about this comparison between the Nazis and Communists?
3. What is Viktor's relationship like with Karimov and Madyarov? What is the significance of their discussion of Russian literature?
4. What sorts of challenges does Mostovskoy face as a prisoner in a Nazi camp? Who are his fellow prisoners?

**Thursday, June 24, 2021**

**6 PM – 8 PM ET**

**Session III**

**Readings:**

- *Life & Fate*, Part II, Chs. 1–27 (pp. 322–470)
- Film: [Dear Comrades!](#), dir. Andrey Konchalovskiy (2020)

Chs. 1–2	(I)	Novikov
Ch. 3	(I/E)	Novikov / Yevgenia
Ch. 4	(I)	Novikov
Ch. 5	(E)	Novikov
Ch. 6	(C1/C2)	Viktor
Chs. 7	(C2)	Viktor
Ch. 8	(C1/C3)	Viktor
Ch. 9	(C1)	Viktor
Chs. 10–12	(M)	Officers of the German Army at Stalingrad
Ch. 13	(L)	Darensky, the Kalmyk steppe
Chs. 14–15	(A)	German Camp
Chs. 16–17	(J)	Soldiers in House 6/1
Chs. 18–19	(B/J)	Soviet officers at Stalingrad / Soldiers in House 6/1
Ch. 20	(J)	Soldiers in House 6/1
Ch. 21	(B)	Soviet officers at Stalingrad
Ch. 22	(J)	Soldiers in House 6/1
Ch. 23	(B)	Soviet officers at Stalingrad
Ch. 24	(C1)	Shaposhnikov family and circle
Ch. 25–27	(C2)	Viktor's colleagues & Viktor's circle

**Discussion Questions:**

1. How is Novikov different from Getmanov and Nyeudobnov?
2. How does Viktor's new discovery change his outlook and behavior? What changes are afoot at the scientific institute where Viktor works? How does Viktor react to them?
3. What is striking about Liss's interrogation of Mostovskoy? What are Liss's intentions and how does Mostovskoy react?

4. What is the atmosphere like in House 6/1? What kind of leader is Grekov and how does he exercise authority?

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**Thursday, July 1, 2021**

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**6 PM – 8 PM ET**

**Session IV**

**Readings:**

- *Life & Fate*, Part II, Chs. 28–63 (pp. 471–611)

Chs. 28–31	(A)	German Camp
Chs. 32–34	(I)	Krymov
Ch. 35	(B/I)	Krymov
Ch. 36–37	(B)	Krymov
Ch. 38	(K)	Krymov
Chs. 39–40	(A)	German Camp
Chs. 41–50	(H)	To the Gas Chamber
Chs. 51–56	(C1/C2)	Viktor's colleagues & Viktor's circle
Ch. 57–59	(L)	Darensky, the Kalmyk steppe
Chs. 60–62	(K)	Stalingrad power station
Ch. 63	(F)	Russia Air Force

**Discussion Questions:**

1. Why is Krymov suddenly being treated differently by the people around him? Does Krymov himself have an answer to this?
2. According to Liss what are the different categories of leaders that emerge in Nazi Germany?
3. How does Grossman choose to portray the systematic murder of the Jews by the Nazis?
4. What is this questionnaire that Viktor and others at the Institute must fill out? How does Viktor react to it?

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**Thursday, July 8, 2021**

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**6 PM – 8 PM ET**

**Session V**

**Readings:**

- *Life & Fate*, Part III, Chs. 1–30 (pp. 615–728)
- Film: [The Lives of Others](#), dir. Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck (2006)

Chs. 1–3	(B)	Krymov
Chs. 4–6	(N)	Krymov at Lubyanka
Chs. 7–13	(I)	Tank Corp (Novikov, Getmanov, et.al.)
Ch. 14		Stalin
Ch. 15		Reflections on Stalingrad
Ch. 16		Hitler
Chs. 17–18	(B)	Soviet officers at Stalingrad
Ch. 19		Meaning of Stalingrad for Russians
Chs. 20–27	(C2/C1)	Viktor’s colleagues & Viktor’s circle
Ch. 28	(L)	Darensky, the Kalmyk steppe
Ch. 29	(L/I)	Darensky/ Novikov
Ch. 30	(C1)	Alexandra Vladimirovna

**Discussion Questions:**

1. How does Krymov react to his arrest?
2. What does Grossman emphasize in these chapters on the meaning of Stalingrad?
3. How does Krymov’s arrest affect Yevgenia and her relationship to Novikov?
4. How does Viktor’s denunciation affect his self-understanding and his marriage?

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**Thursday, July 15, 2021**

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**6 PM – 8 PM ET**

**Session VI**

**Readings:**

- *Life & Fate*, Part III, Chs. 31–61 (pp. 729–871)

Chs. 31–38	(M)	Officers of the German Army at Stalingrad
Chs. 39–41	(C1)	Shaposhnikov family and circle
Chs. 42–43	(N)	Krymov at Lubyanka
Chs. 44–49	(M)	German surrender
Chs. 49–51	(I)	Tank Corp (Novikov, Getmanov, et.al.)
Chs. 52–55	(C1/C2)	Viktor’s colleagues & Viktor’s circle
Chs. 56–57	(N)	Krymov at Lubyanka
Chs. 58–60	(K)	Stalingrad power station
Ch. 61		

## Discussion Questions:

1. How does Grossman portray the conclusion of the Battle of Stalingrad?
2. What is Krymov’s attitude toward signing a statement of confession?
3. How does Grossman want us to think about Viktor and his evolution over the course of the novel?
4. Why does Grossman conclude the novel the way he does? We conclude with relatively minor characters (Spiridonov, Vera, et.al.) and in the final chapter the characters are not even named.

## Life & Fate Map

\* Letters correspond to the site/character groupings supplied by Robert Chandler in his “List of Chief Characters” on pp. 873–80. Note that the grouping below is not ordered according to the “List” but according to the order of the characters’ appearance in the novel.

### Part I

<b>Chs.</b>	<b>Grouping</b>	<b>Site/Characters</b>
Chs. 1–7	(A)	German Camp
Chs. 7–14	(B)	Soviet officers at Stalingrad
Chs. 15–20	(C1)	Shaposhnikov family and circle (Kazan)
Chs. 21–22	(D)	Getmanov in Ufa
Chs. 23–25	(E)	Yevgenia Shaposhnikova in Kuibyshev
Chs. 26–34	(C1)	Shaposhnikov family and circle (Kazan to Saratov)
Chs. 35–38	(F)	Russia Air Force
Chs. 39–41	(G)	Russian Labor Camp
Chs. 42–51	(H)	To the Gas Chamber
Chs. 52–53	(I)	Tank Corp (Novikov, Getmanov, et.al.)
Chs. 54–56	(B)	Soviet officers at Stalingrad
Chs. 57–60	(J)	Soldiers in House 6/1
Ch. 61	(K)	Stalingrad power station
Ch. 62	(C1)	Shaposhnikov family and circle
Chs. 63–64	(C2) (C3)	Viktor’s colleagues & Viktor’s circle
Chs. 65–66	(L)	Darensky, the Kalmyk steppe
Chs. 67–71	(A)	German Camp

**Part II**

<b><i>Chs.</i></b>	<b><i>Grouping</i></b>	<b><i>Site/Characters</i></b>
Chs. 1–2	(I)	Novikov
Ch. 3	(I/E)	Novikov / Yevgenia
Ch. 4	(I)	Novikov
Ch. 5	(E)	Novikov
Ch. 6	(C1/C2)	Viktor
Chs. 7	(C2)	Viktor
Ch. 8	(C1/C3)	Viktor
Ch. 9	(C1)	Viktor
Chs. 10–12	(M)	Officers of the German Army at Stalingrad
Ch. 13	(L)	Darensky, the Kalmyk steppe
Chs. 14–15	(A)	German Camp
Chs. 16–17	(J)	Soldiers in House 6/1
Chs. 18–19	(B/J)	Soviet officers at Stalingrad / Soldiers in House 6/1
Ch. 20	(J)	Soldiers in House 6/1
Ch. 21	(B)	Soviet officers at Stalingrad
Ch. 22	(J)	Soldiers in House 6/1
Ch. 23	(B)	Soviet officers at Stalingrad
Ch. 24	(C1)	Shaposhnikov family and circle
Ch. 25–27	(C2)	Viktor's colleagues & Viktor's circle
Chs. 28–31	(A)	German Camp
Chs. 32–34	(I)	Krymov
Ch. 35	(B/I)	Krymov
Ch. 36–37	(B)	Krymov
Ch. 38	(K)	Krymov
Chs. 39–40	(A)	German Camp
Chs. 41–50	(H)	To the Gas Chamber
Chs. 51–56	(C1/C2)	Viktor's colleagues & Viktor's circle
Ch. 57–59	(L)	Darensky, the Kalmyk steppe
Chs. 60–62	(K)	Stalingrad power station
Ch. 63	(F)	Russia Air Force

**Part III**

<b>Chs.</b>	<b>Grouping</b>	<b>Site/Characters</b>
Chs. 1–3	(B)	Krymov
Chs. 4–6	(N)	Krymov at Lubyanka
Chs. 7–13	(I)	Tank Corp (Novikov, Getmanov, et.al.)
Ch. 14		Stalin
Ch. 15		Reflections on Stalingrad
Ch. 16		Hitler
Chs. 17–18	(B)	Soviet officers at Stalingrad
Ch. 19		Meaning of Stalingrad for Russians
Chs. 20–27	(C2/C1)	Viktor's colleagues & Viktor's circle
Ch. 28	(L)	Darensky, the Kalmyk steppe
Ch. 29	(L/I)	Darensky/ Novikov
Ch. 30	(C1)	Alexandra Vladimirovna
Chs. 31–38	(M)	Officers of the German Army at Stalingrad
Chs. 39–41	(C1)	Shaposhnikov family and circle
Chs. 42–43	(N)	Krymov at Lubyanka
Chs. 44–49	(M)	German surrender
Chs. 49–51	(I)	Tank Corp (Novikov, Getmanov, et.al.)
Chs. 52–55	(C1/C2)	Viktor's colleagues & Viktor's circle
Chs. 56–57	(N)	Krymov at Lubyanka
Chs. 58–60	(K)	Stalingrad power station
Ch. 61		

**Chapters grouped by location/characters:**

<b>German Camp (A)</b>	
I: 1–7, 67–71	II: 14–15, 28–31, 39–40
<b>Soviet Officers at Stalingrad (B)</b>	
I: 7–14, 54–56	III: 1–3, 17–18
II: 18–19, 21, 23, 35–37	
<b>Shaposhnikov family/Viktor Shtrum (C)</b>	
I: 15–20, 26–34, 62–64	III: 20–27, 30, 39–41, 52–55
II: 6–9, 24–27, 51–56	
<b>Getmanov in Ufa (D)</b>	
I: 21–22	
<b>Yevgenia Shaposhnokova in Kuibyshev (E)</b>	
I: 23–25	II: 3, 5
<b>Russia Air Force (F)</b>	
I: 35–38	II: 63
<b>Russian Labour Camp (G)</b>	
I: 39–41	
<b>To the Gas Chamber (H)</b>	
I: 42–51	II: 41–48
<b>Tank Corp (Novikov, Getmanov, et.al.) (I)</b>	
I: 52–53	III: 7–13, 29, 49–51
II: 1–5, 32–35	
<b>Soldiers in House 6/1 (J)</b>	
I: 57–60	II: 16–20, 22
<b>Stalingrad power station (K)</b>	
I: 61	III: 58–60
II: 60–62	
<b>Darensky, the Kalmyk Steppe (L)</b>	
I: 65–66	III: 28–29
II: 13, 57–59	
<b>Officers of the German Army at Stalingrad (M)</b>	
II: 10–12	III: 31–38
<b>Lubyanka (N)</b>	
III: 4–6, 42–43, 56–57	

## Life & Fate Timeline

- 1905** Grossman is born on December 12 in Berdychiv, Ukraine to a Jewish family. His father Semyon Osipovich (1870–1956) was a chemical engineer, while his mother, Yekaterina Savelievna (1871–1941) taught French. Grossman’s original name is Iosif Solomonovich, which is later “Russified.”
- ca. 1910–12** Grossman spends a few years in Switzerland, likely attending the local school. His parents separate in these years. Upon returning to Berdychiv, mother and son move to the home of her sister.
- 1914** Russian-Austrian rivalry in Balkans contributes to outbreak of World War I, in which Russia fought alongside Britain and France. Grossman enrolls in the Modern Lyceum in Kiev.
- 1917** Amid poor performance in the war and civil unrest, liberal leaders force Tsar Nicholas to abdicate. In November, the Bolsheviks overthrow the provisional government and establish a ‘Dictatorship of the Proletariat’ under Communist Party rule that crushes religious and political dissent.
- ca. 1918–22** Russian Civil War begins. Grossman returns with his mother to Berdychiv. Famine and civil war tear apart the country and Ukraine in particular. During this period, strong anti-Jewish pogroms break out.
- 1922** The Bolsheviks win the civil war against White Russians. They reorganize the remnants of the Russian Empire as the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR).
- 1921–23** Grossman enrolls in the Kyiv High School of National Education. During this time, he lives with his father.
- 1923** In autumn, Grossman enrolls at Moscow State University in the Chemistry section of the Faculty of Physics-Mathematics.
- 1924** Lenin dies, and is replaced by Joseph Stalin.
- 1924–29** Grossman attends university. Much to his parents’ dismay, he loses interest in science, while nurturing a passion for literature. His cousin Nadja Almaz, five years older than Grossman, a member of the Communist Party, has a great influence on his education.

Adoption of the first Five-Year Plan, collectivizing agriculture and industrializing the economy. A famine results, killing millions.

- 1928** On a holiday in Kiev for the New Year, Grossman meets his schoolmate Anna Petrovna Matsuk. He marries her after a few months, but Anna remains in Kiev while Grossman continues his studies in Moscow. Over the summer, he participates in a mission of young party activists in Uzbekistan. Upon his return, on July 7, he publishes his first article on a collectivized farm in Uzbekistan.
- 1929** Grossman completes a compulsory graduation internship at a soap factory. He graduates in December.
- 1930** Grossman's daughter Yekaterina is born in January. The child is soon sent to Berdychiv to live with her grandmother. Grossman manages to get hired at the Institute of Pathology and Health of Workers in Stalino and moves to Donbass. His wife continues to live in Kiev.
- 1932** Grossman is diagnosed with incipient tuberculosis, and in February, he is sent to the Sukhumi sanatorium in Georgia. Although the diagnosis is incorrect, Grossman uses it to leave Donbass and return to Moscow. He and his wife divorce. In Moscow, he lives with his cousin Nadja, and gets a job as a chemist at the Sacco and Vanzetti pencil factory.
- 1933** On March 28, the secret police (OGPU) arrest Nadja on charges of Trotskyism. Grossman is questioned. In June, Nadja is expelled from the Party and exiled for three years in Astrakhan. She will then be sentenced to three further years of "re-education" to be served at the Vorkuta-Pečersk concentration camp.
- 1934** Grossman publishes the short story, "In the Town of Berdychiv." Gorky invites him to his house on May 5, a meeting that confirms his reputation as a writer. Grossman thus becomes part of the Soviet literary elite, which enjoys advantages and favors. From 1934 to 1936 he publishes two short story collections.
- 1935** Grossman begins an affair with Olga Mikhailovna Guber, the wife of his friend, the writer Boris Guber. Grossman and Olga began living together in October 1935, and they married in May 1936, a few days after Olga and Guber divorced.
- 1937** As part of the Great Purge, Guber is arrested and shot. Grossman becomes a member of the Union of Soviet Writers.
- Grossman begins his first novel, which is published in installments between 1937 and 1940, and will remain incomplete.

- 1938** On February 7, Olga is arrested as Guber's wife. Grossman adopts her two children, thus saving them from being sent to orphanages. On February 28, he undergoes NKVD interrogations to convince officials of his wife's innocence. He also writes a letter to Nikolay Yezhov, the head of the NKVD. Olga is released.
- 1939** Stalin concludes a non-aggression pact with Nazi Germany, seizing eastern Poland, parts of Romania and Czechoslovakia, and then the Baltic States after the start of World War II.
- 1941** On June 22, Nazi Germany invades the Soviet Union. It is the beginning of the "Great Patriotic War." Grossman enlists as a volunteer in Moscow. Due to his social position and profession, he is employed as a Special War Correspondent for the *Red Army* newspaper. On August 5, he is assigned to the central front.
- His mother is trapped in Berdychiv by the invading German Army, and eventually murdered together with 30,000 other Jews.
- 1942** Grossman finishes a short novel about his war experiences, which achieves considerable success. He arrives in Stalingrad at the end of August, during the German offensive. The siege begins in September.
- Olga's eldest son, from her first marriage, is killed by a stray bullet in front of the police station.
- 1943** Grossman leaves Stalingrad on January 3 and is assigned to the 1st Ukrainian front. On July 4, he witnesses the immense battle between tanks near Kursk. He begins writing an epic novel about the Battle of Stalingrad.
- In January, Grossman goes to Berdychiv, where he discovers the mass graves in which his mother died.
- 1944** In August, with the Red Army, he enters Treblinka, the extermination camp the Nazis had destroyed after a revolt by the internees. Grossman carries out investigative work, detailed in his essay, "The Hell of Treblinka." Grossman follows the Red Army to Warsaw and then into German territory.
- 1945** On April 26, Grossman enters Berlin. In early June, he returns to Moscow and retires to the countryside where he stays for almost a year to recover from a nervous breakdown. He becomes a director of the Black Book, a project of the Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee to document the crimes of the Holocaust.

After the war, Grossman publishes a collection of articles and short stories under the title *In the War*.

**1946** In August, Stalin launches a campaign against “cosmopolitanism,” an accusation with which Soviet Jews were persecuted until Stalin’s death. In September, Grossman is accused of “ideological errors” in his literary work.

**1947** “Cold War” with the West begins in earnest as the Soviet Union consolidates power in Eastern Europe and promotes pro-Soviet revolution in China, the Middle East, and Asia.

**1948** In January, the president of the Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee is assassinated; the Committee is dissolved; and its members arrested on charges of high treason and “Jewish nationalism.” The previous year, the Black Book was seized while in press.

**1949–52** Grossman delivers a manuscript of *Stalingrad*, the first novel in his epic, to the literary magazine *New World* in August 1949. From that moment, Grossman begins three years of “struggle” to obtain its publication, a struggle fought on several fronts: with the committee of editors at the magazine, with the leaders of the Writers’ Union, and with the Party organs.

**1952** From July to October, in four installments, *New World* publishes the novel in a heavily redacted version under the title *For a Just Cause*. It is an immediate success.

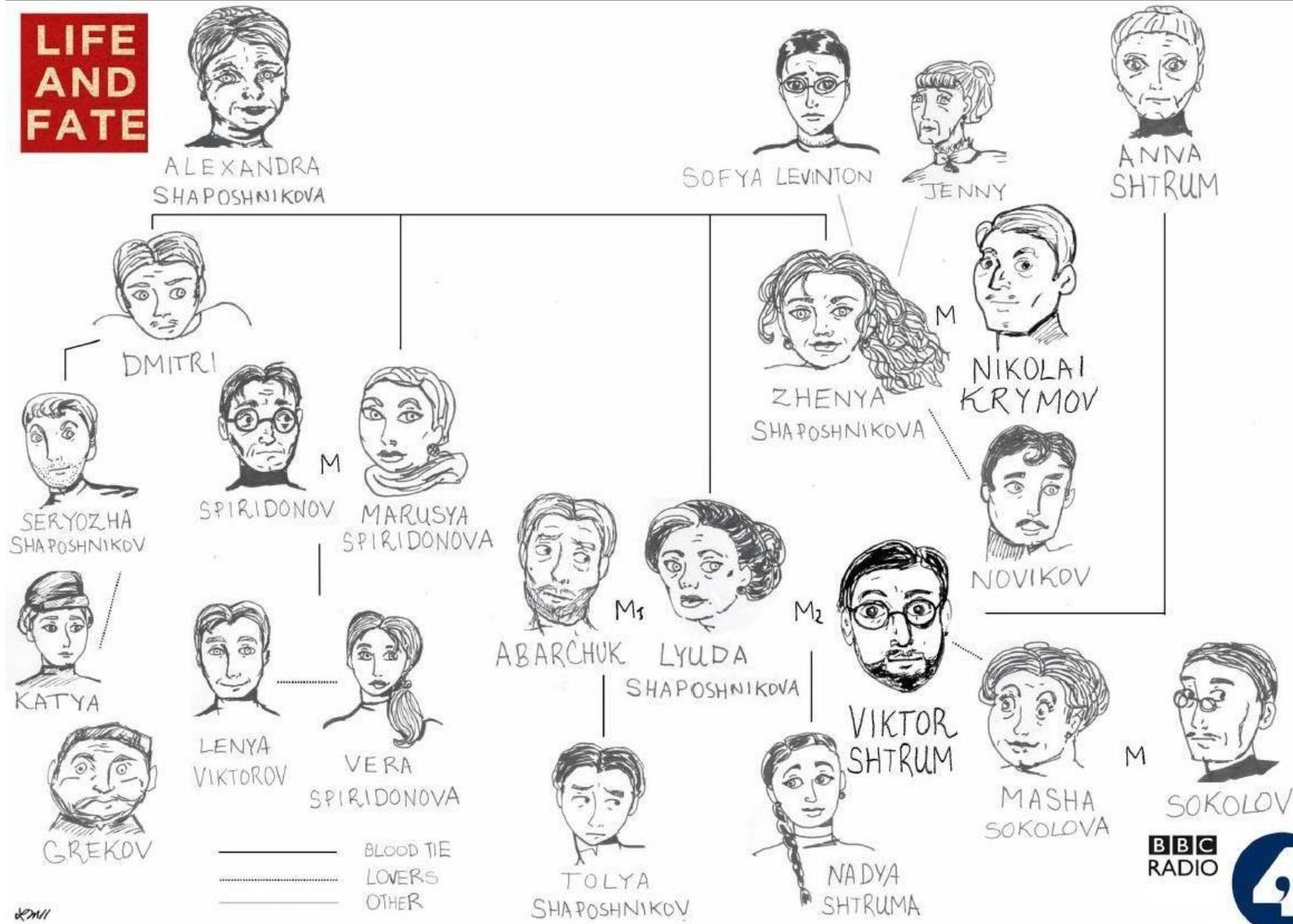
In September, several Kremlin doctors are arrested for allegedly plotting to kill Stalin and other senior politicians in what came to be known as the “Doctors’ Plot.” The majority of the accused are Jewish.

**1953** Grossman begins to suffer a series of political attacks. On February 13, he is harshly criticized in *Pravda*. The editors of *New World* confess that they were wrong in publishing his novel. In this moment of great tension, Grossman signs an open letter, with other distinguished “Jewish citizens,” in which he demands punishment of the leaders of the so-called “conspiracy of Jewish doctors.” The letter is to be published in *Pravda* at the behest of Stalin, but Stalin suddenly dies.

Grossman continues work on his second novel about Stalingrad (*Life and Fate*).

- 1955–56** Grossman's father dies. Between 1955 and 1956, he completes much of *Everything Flows*, a novel about the return of a Gulag prisoner to daily life. During this time, Grossman also devotes himself to finishing *Life and Fate*, and forms a relationship with Ekaterina Vasilievna Zabolockaja, wife of the writer Nikolaj Zabolockj.
- 1956** At the 20th Party Congress, Khrushchev delivers the "Secret Speech," denouncing Stalin's purges and ushering in a less repressive era in the Soviet Union.
- 1960** Grossman completes *Life and Fate*. He submits it to the literary magazine, *The Banner*, which declines to publish it for "serious political errors."
- 1961** On January 5, Grossman receives a letter from the editorial office, stating the novel is "unsuitable for the press" for "ideological-political reasons." On February 14, three KGB officers ransack Grossman's apartment and confiscate everything related to the manuscript, including his carbon paper and typewriter ink spools. Copies left with friends and his typist are also taken. Grossman is arrested, but is soon released.
- In November, Grossman leaves for Armenia, where he has a contract to oversee the Russian translation of an Armenian novel. He returns to Moscow two months later.
- 1962** On February 23, Grossman writes a letter to Khrushchev to get his manuscript returned. His request is denied. He devotes himself to the completion of *Everything Flows*.
- 1963** Grossman is diagnosed with stomach cancer.
- 1964** In the summer, he is admitted to the Pervogradskaja hospital. He asks to be buried in the Jewish cemetery of Vostrjakovo. He dies on September 14. Contrary to his wishes, his ashes are buried in the Troyekurovskoye Cemetery on the edge of Moscow.
- 1980** *Life and Fate* is first published in Russian in Switzerland, thanks to fellow dissidents – the physicist Andrei Sakharov secretly photographed draft pages preserved by Semyon Lipkin, and the writer Vladimir Voinovich smuggled the photographic films abroad. The book is finally published in the Soviet Union in 1988.

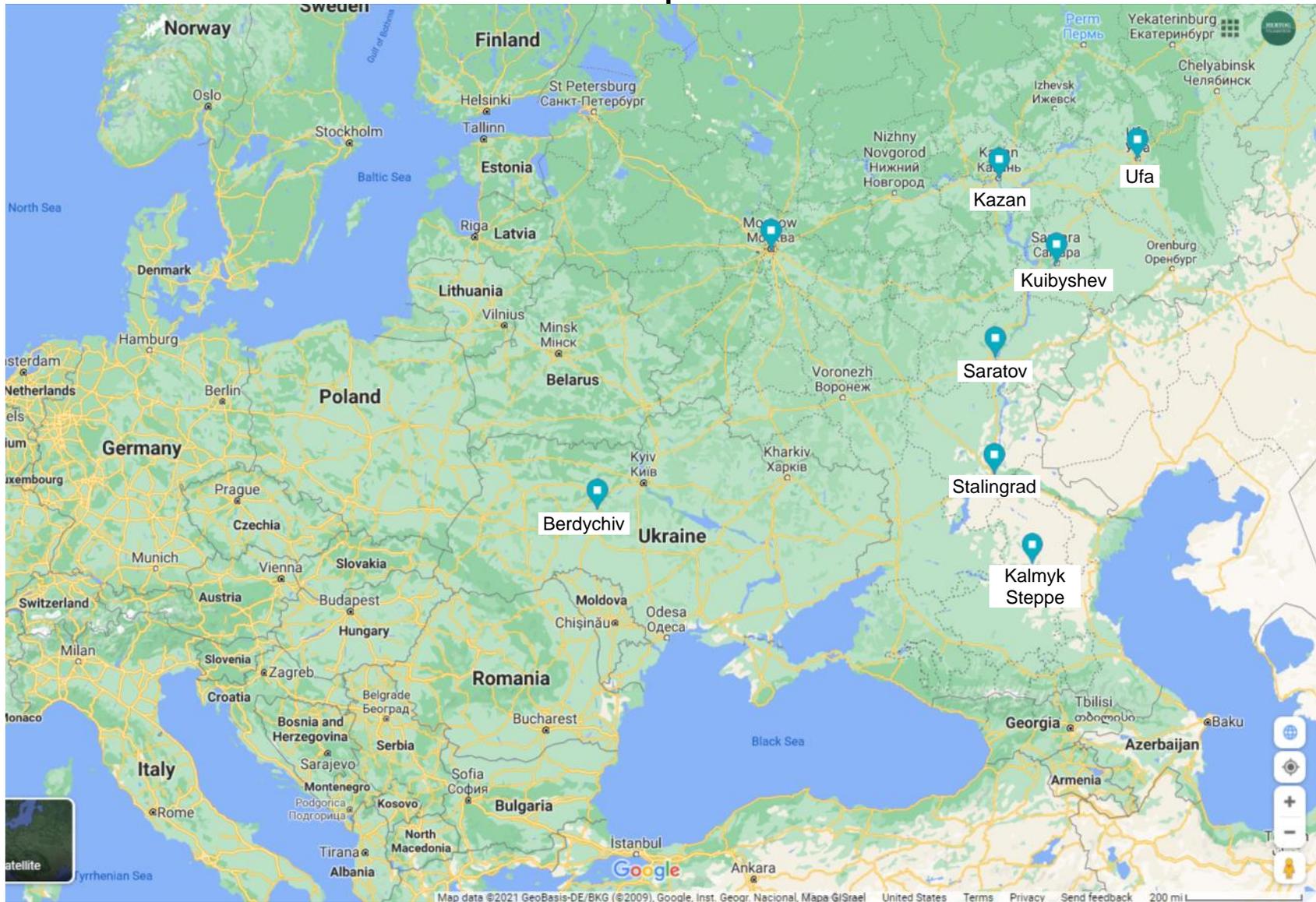
**LIFE AND FATE**



BBC RADIO



# Maps



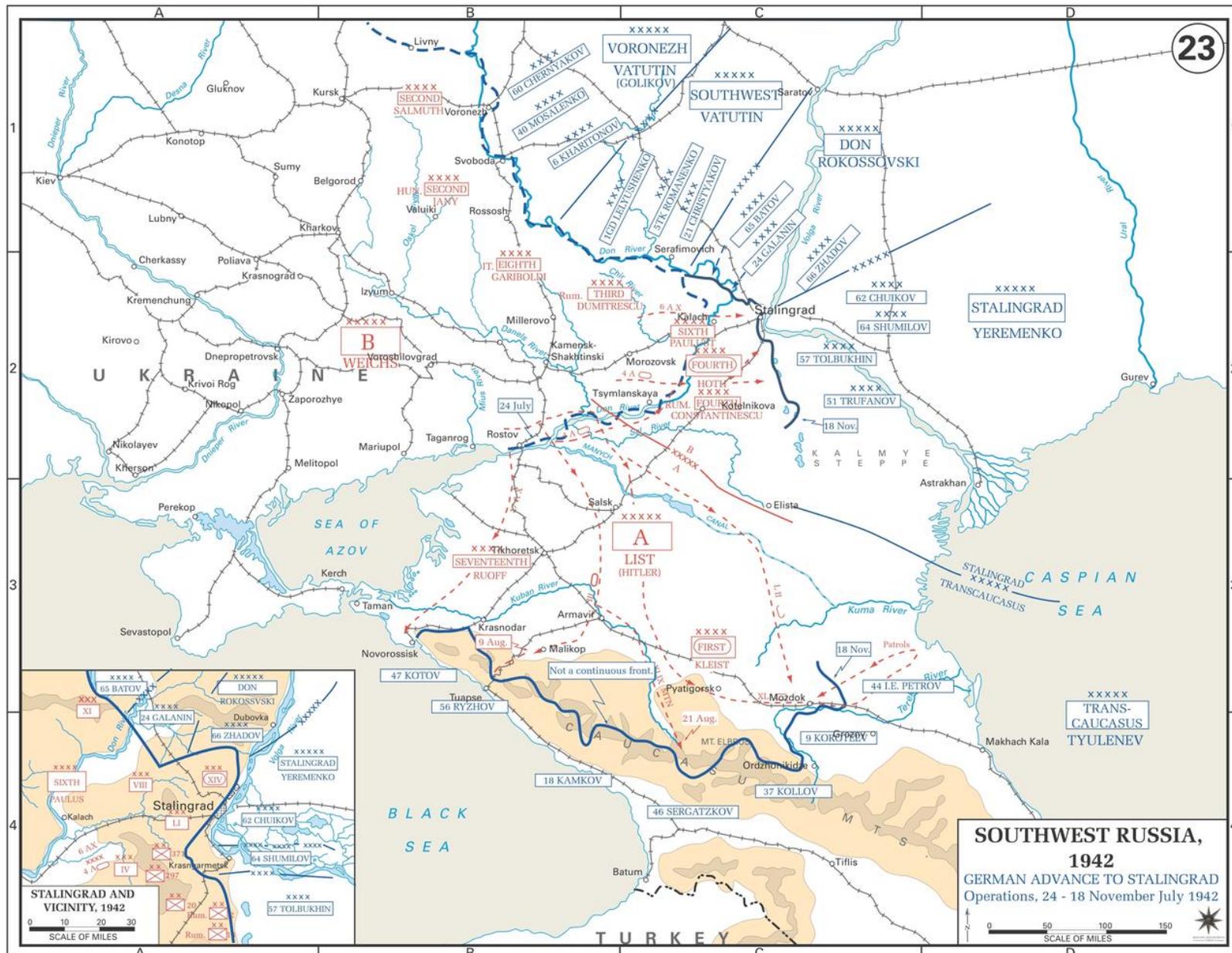


***Volga River Watershed***



**Map of Ukraine**





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