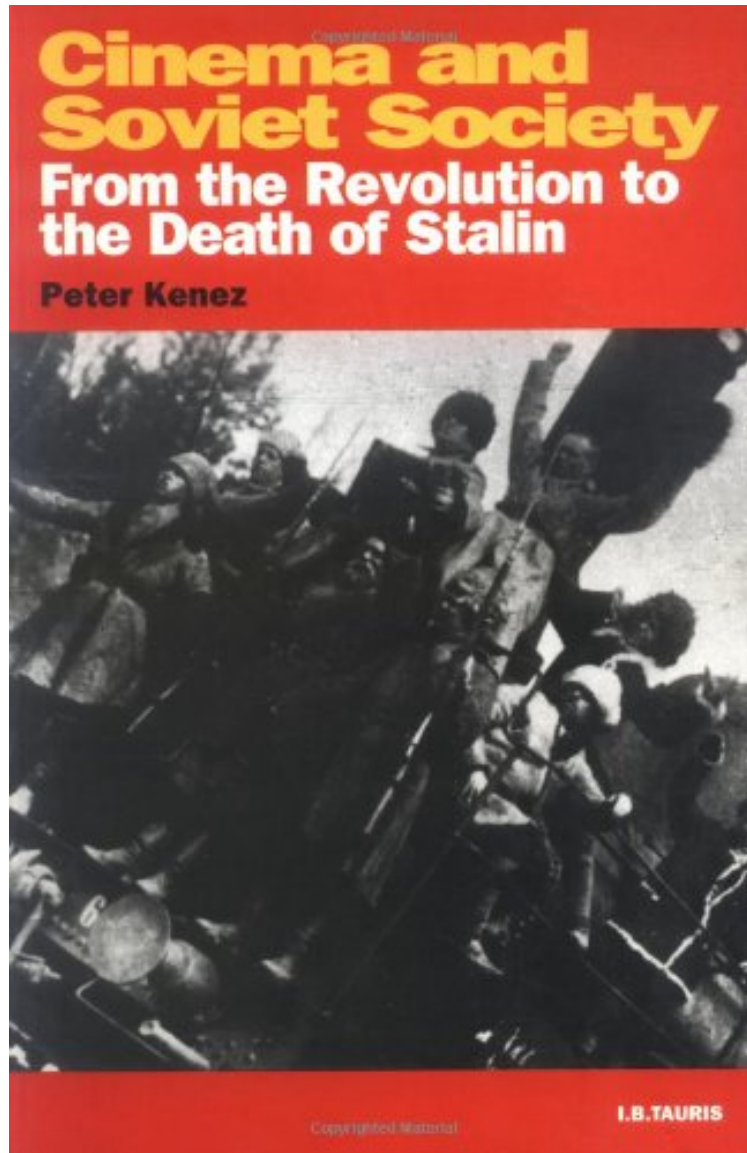


Cinema and Soviet Society: From the Revolution to the Death of Stalin (KINO - The Russian Cinema)

Peter Kenez

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Peter Kenez : Cinema and Soviet Society: From the Revolution to the Death of Stalin (KINO - The Russian Cinema) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Cinema and Soviet Society: From the Revolution to the Death of Stalin (KINO - The Russian Cinema):

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VargasI am reading it with great enthusiasm. A scholarly approach. He states if you want to read about popular films (my words) that can be found elsewhere. He presents a scholarly review of the times, the organizations, censorship (more so "collaboration") that went into surveillance of and censorship of films. Turns out serendipity, naivete, and political repression (including murder by camp of directors) was rampant.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great Buy!!By LisaPerfect...not too big...not too small!6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. An Essential Book on Soviet CinemaBy Michael SamerdykeAnyone who wants to understand the movies of the Soviet Union should start with this book. It is very thorough and written in a lively, bright style that is free of academic jargon.Kenez begins with the pre-Revolutionary film industry and shows how it broke down and was built back up by the Soviets. He pays equal attention to the "high art" films that were famous in the West for decades (those of Eisenstein and Pudovkin) and the entertainment films that attracted the average Soviet citizen (such as the musical comedies of the 1930s, like "Volga-Volga.") He shows how Soviet movies responded to the imposition of Socialist Realism, World War II, and the cultural freeze of the late Stalin era.The only problem with this book is that it is TOO SHORT. Upon reaching the end, the reader wants to see Kenez tackle the films of the Khrushchev Thaw and the Brezhnev era. However, one should be thankful for what one has, and in this volume, one has a truly indispensable book.

The story of Soviet film in the period covered by Peter Kenez is central to the history of world cinema. The author explores the roots of Soviet cinema in the film heritage of pre-Revolutionary Russia; the changes in content, style, technical means, and production capacities generated by the Revolution of 1917; the constraints on form and subject imposed from the 1930s in the name of Socialist Realism; the relative freedom of expression accorded to film-makers during World War Two; and the extraordinary repression during the final years of the Stalin era.

About the AuthorPeter Kenez is Professor of History at University of California at Santa Cruz.