Vasily Grossman and Ilya Ehrenburg: Soviet Jews on the Nazis and Soviets

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Vasily Grossman and Ilya Ehrenberg were both significantly influential writers in the Soviet Union during and after World War II. Grossman and Ehrenberg were both Jewish war correspondents and witnessed Nazi war crimes. Prosecutors at the Nuremberg Trial used *The Hell of Treblinka*, written by Grossman, as evidence. Following the war, Joseph Stalin and the Soviet Union began to implement increasingly antisemitic policies. Jewish citizens faced discrimination, the Soviet state opposed “dividing the dead” of World War II, and it culminated in the Jewish Doctors Plot in 1953. Both writers covered extensively the Holocaust and how to treat Germany after the war. Grossman was more conciliatory compared to Ehrenberg’s fierce hostility. Both also elaborated on discrimination within the Soviet Union. Grossman, in particular, took it a step further and compiled highly damaging comparisons between Soviets and Nazi policies.