

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910453444603321
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Titolo	The Kirov murder and Soviet history / / Matthew E. Lenoe ; translations by Matthew E. Lenoe ; documents compiled by Mikhail Prozumenshchikov
Pubbl/distr/stampa	New Haven, [Connecticut] ; ; London, [England] : , : Yale University Press, , 2010 ©2010
ISBN	0-300-14242-0
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (xxiii, 833 p.) : ill., maps ;
Collana	Annals of Communism Series
Disciplina	947.084/2
Soggetti	Political purges - Soviet Union - History Political atrocities - Soviet Union - History Electronic books. Soviet Union History 1925-1953
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- Contents -- List of Maps -- Acknowledgments -- Note on Translation, Transliteration, and Dates -- Note on Soviet Government and Territorial Structures -- Note on the Documents and Citations -- List of Acronyms and Abbreviations -- List of Archives Cited -- Introduction -- Chapter 1. From Kostrikov to Kirov, 1886-1925 -- Chapter 2. Conquering Leningrad, 1925-1929 -- Chapter 3. Kirov in Leningrad, 1930-1934 -- Chapter 4. The Scene of the Crime -- Chapter 5. Leonid Nikolaev -- Chapter 6. Nikolaev Agonistes -- Chapter 7. Stalin Responds -- Chapter 8. Fingering the Zinovievites -- Chapter 9. The Trials of the Moscow and Leningrad "Centers" -- Chapter 10. Investigating the Leningrad NKVD -- Chapter 11. The Kirov Murder and the Great Terror -- Chapter 12. Rumors, Speculation, and the Martyr Cult -- Chapter 13. The Kirov Murder in the West, 1934-1956 -- Chapter 14. The Politics of Rehabilitation and the Kirov Murder, 1953-1957 -- Chapter 15. Shatunovskaya's Investigation and After -- Conclusion -- Appendix. Biographical Sketches -- Notes -- Index of Documents -- General Index -- Books in the annals of communism series

Sommario/riassunto

Drawing on hundreds of newly available, top-secret KGB and party Central Committee documents, historian Matthew E. Lenoe reexamines the 1934 assassination of Leningrad party chief Sergei Kirov. Joseph Stalin used the killing as the pretext to unleash the Great Terror that decimated the Communist elite in 1937-1938; these previously unavailable documents raise new questions about whether Stalin himself ordered the murder, a subject of speculation since 1938. The book includes translations of 125 documents from the various investigations of the Kirov murder, allowing readers to reach their own conclusions about Stalin's involvement in the assassination.
