

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910495882603321
Autore	Witkin Zara <1900-1940.>
Titolo	An American engineer in Stalin's Russia : the memoirs of Zara Witkin, 1932-1934 // edited with an introduction by Michael Gelb
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Berkeley, : University of California Press, c1991
ISBN	9780520351080 0520351088 9780585120522 0585120528
Edizione	[Reprint 2020]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (ix, 363 p., [6] p. of plates) : ill. ;
Altri autori (Persone)	GelbMichael <1954->
Disciplina	624/.092 B
Soggetti	Civil engineers - United States Civil engineering - Political aspects - Soviet Union Soviet Union Politics and government 1917-1936
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 (p. 343-354) and index. "The films of Emma Tsesarskaia": p. 355.
Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- Contents -- Acknowledgments -- A Note on the Text -- Editor's Introduction -- THE MEMOIRS OF ZARA WITKIN 1932-1934 -- Notes -- Bibliography -- The Films of Emma Tsesarskaia -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	In 1932 Zara Witkin, a prominent American engineer, set off for the Soviet Union with two goals: to help build a society more just and rational than the bankrupt capitalist system at home, and to seek out the beautiful film star Emma Tsesarskaia. His memoirs offer a detailed view of Stalin's bureaucracy--entrenched planners who snubbed new methods; construction bosses whose cover-ups led to terrible disasters; engineers who plagiarized Witkin's work; workers whose pride was defeated. Punctuating this document is the tale of Witkin's passion for Tsesarskaia and the record of his friendships with journalist Eugene Lyons, planner Ernst May, and others. Witkin felt beaten in the end by the lethargy and corruption choking the greatest social experiment in history, and by a pervasive evil--the suppression of human rights and dignity by a relentless dictatorship. Finally

breaking his spirit was the dissolution of his romance with Emma, his "Dark Goddess." In his lively introduction, Michael Gelb provides the historical context of Witkin's experience, details of his personal life, and insights offered by Emma Tsesarskaia in an interview in 1989.
