

memoirs I have read so far describe life in camps and prisons other than Norilsk, such as Solovetsky, Magadan, Mariinsk and Kolyma. Were there no other Armenians in that end of the world to come back and record their stories for perpetuity?

Interest in those dark and fearful years of Stalin's rule is just beginning to pick up in Armenia. Occasional articles have been published, but the archives and the documents that have long been available have only recently attracted scholars and researchers, first among them being Armenak Manukyan whose thought-provoking «Քաղաքական բռնաճնշումները Հայաստանում, 1920-1953» (Political persecutions in Armenia, 1920–1953), was published in Yerevan in 1999, followed a decade later by Grisha Smbatyan's «Երկաթե վարագույրից այս կողմ» (This side of the Iron Curtain), published in Yerevan in 2009.

Here, I am intentionally leaving out works by Diaspora Armenians who spoke, wrote and published about this dark page of Armenian history under Stalin's reign. Those works were not accessible in Soviet Armenia, and even if they had been, they would have been rejected as the provocations of anti-revolutionary enemies. As to Russian historians, they turned to the documents as soon as the archives were opened during Gorbachev's *perestroika*. Dmitri Volkogonov's *Stalin: Triumph and Tragedy* (1989) was to my knowledge the first attempt to document the horridness of the ugly reality prevailing