

in the Soviet punishment system.¹⁴ Other works followed. All were almost immediately published in English translation. However, for the record, let us not forget the pioneering work by the English-American historian Robert Conquest whose study of *The Great Terror: Stalin's Purge of the Thirties* (1968), together with the English translations of Solzhenitsyn's *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich* (1963), were to inform and educate the West about the reality inside the Soviet Union under Stalin's yoke, if the West wanted to know.

A book that just recently appeared is «Ստալինյան քոնաճնշումները Հայաստանում, պատմություն, հիշողություն, առօրյա» (The Stalinist persecutions in Armenia: History, memory, daily life), published in Yerevan in 2015 and distributed in 2016. This is a group effort, a compilation of the testimonies of descendants of victims of the Stalinist persecutions. The survivors themselves are long gone. It is too late to track their experiences. Their descendants are interviewed in this book, telling what they remember of their parents' or

¹⁴ Despite all the research carried out thus far, it is still impossible to tally the number of Soviet citizens subjected to Stalinist persecutions. As to deaths by execution or in the labor camps, the sources vary radically, from three-quarters of a million political prisoners sentenced to death between 1930 and 1953 (KGB press release, 1990), to 20 million deaths from the revolution through the 1980s, not counting the World Wars (Stéphane Courtois et al., *The Black Book of Communism*, 1999). Anne Applebaum “reluctantly” settles on the figure of 2,749,163 deaths in the Gulag from 1929 to 1953 (citing Otto Pohl, *The Stalinist Penal System*, 1997). See Getty et al., “Victims of the Soviet Penal System,” p. 1023, and Applebaum, *Gulag*, pp. 578–584.