



From Idealists to Dictatorship

- Post Leninist Struggle for Power (1924-1927)
 - Party Collective Leadership
 - "permanent revolution" - "permanent revolution"
 - "socialism in one country"
 - Trotsky expelled in 1929, murdered in 1940
- Stalin's Five-Year Plans
 -
 -
 -
 -
 -
- Stalinist Terror - (1930s)
 - "Show Trials" of Bolshevik Old Guard
 - 8 million+ arrested, millions executed

We live, not feeling the country beneath us,
 Our speech inaudible ten steps away,
 But where they're up to half a conversation --
 They'll speak of the Kremlin mountain man.

His thick fingers are fat like worms,
 And his words certain as pound weights.
 His cockroach whiskers laugh,
 And the tops of his boots glisten.

And all around his rabble of thick-skinned leaders,
 He plays through services of half-people.
 Some whistle, some meow, some snivel,
 He alone merely caterwauls and prods.

Like horseshoes he forges decree after decree --
 Some get it in the forehead, some in the brow,
 some in the groin, and some in the eye.
 Whatever the execution -- it's a raspberry to him
 And his Georgian chest is broad.

--- Osip Mandelstam, We Live, Not Feeling, 1934?
