

BOOK REVIEW

Not Guilty

*Findings of the 1937 commission chaired by John Dewey
investigating the charges against Leon Trotsky in the Moscow trials*

BY LEON TROTSKY

A companion volume to *The case of Leon Trotsky* (CHOICE, Mar. 1969). This volume presents a reprint of the Dewey commission's analysis of the evidence presented at the Moscow purge trials while the other work reprinted the proceedings of the inquiry themselves.

In 1936, the first of the major purge trials, Trotsky was condemned to death in absentia. To look into the propriety of the charges brought against Trotsky, an international commission headed by John Dewey was established to hear out Trotsky's side of the story. After a thorough investigation the commission found Trotsky not guilty.

On the whole this book should be regarded as a primary source that can illuminate the life of Trotsky and the shadier recesses of the Soviet Union of the 1930s. Indirectly, it can also tell a great deal about the sensibilities of the Western intellectuals of the pre-World War II era.

The work is recommended for all college and research libraries. It is not to be considered equal in importance to some of the analytical works such as Roy A. Medvedev's *Let history judge* (CHOICE, Apr. 1972) and Robert Conquest's work *The great terror* (1968), but it does bring forth an examination of the Moscow trials, and it must be remembered that the Dewey Commission's analysis was the first such examination carried out by an individual.