

Title: Inside Stalin's Wartime Mind: Narrative Structures As Actualizations of Soviet Power Hierarchies in Vladimir Bogomolov's *The Moment of Truth*
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Vladimir Bogomolov's novel *The Moment of Truth* (1973), despite its formal affiliation with the rather dreary canon of the later Socialist realism, had enjoyed immense popularity with the Soviet readership. However, the novel received virtually no critical attention in the West being unknown even to the specialists on post-war Soviet literature. Nor did it enjoy critical attention from Russian literary scholars who, after the collapse of the USSR, found themselves disinclined to study recent literary by-products of Socialist realism. Despite being one of them, Bogomolov's novel represents an odd and fascinating specimen of the canon possessing an intricate narrative structure that largely accounts for its continuing appeal to the Russian readership.

The introduction of multiple narrative perspectives, the "military-clock" temporality, and the Joycean technique of stream of consciousness as well as the ample use of declassified archival documents, allow Bogomolov both to stage a bold literary experiment previously unknown to the genre and to actualize in, and through, the novel's narrative structure the previously "untouchable" elements of the Stalinist power hierarchy. As a result, the novel's action can be conceived as unfolding (from) within the very origin/source of the above hierarchy, i.e., Joseph Stalin's purportedly "omniscient" mind.