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Le culte du chef à travers l'image de Staline ou un exemple de construction d'un mythe

The Cult of the Leader as Seen through Stalin's Image or an Example of Myth Construction

Abstract: This paper examines the mechanisms of myth construction in a particular case: that of Stalin. The main features of this political leader's cult are analysed here: a controversial image that was imposed (from the image to the icon: moulding the cult of the leader; a controversial perception), the worshipped icon (the restored image, the idolised icon: Stalin's image is shaped in the human minds, feeding on several mythical representations: his love of his homeland, the notion of victory with all the implicit emotional elements (past suffering, hope, a future that finally announces itself as happy, pride and power) and his image as a « Deus ex machina », a demiurge to whom the people owes everything).