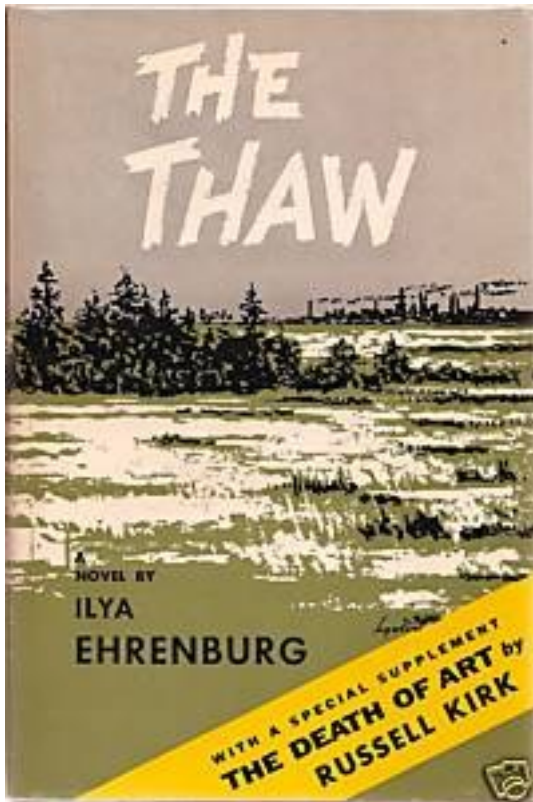


THE THAW



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著者:Ilya Ehrenburg

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In 1954, just after the death of Joseph Stalin in Russia, Nikita Khrushchev began easing some of the restraints on the population that had been established as a consequence of the Communist agenda. At that time, Ilya Ehrenburg published this novel titled THE THAW that tested limits of censorship in the post-Stalin Soviet Union. It described a corrupt and despotic factory boss (a "little Stalin"). In August 1954, his book was criticized in articles published in Literaturnaya Gazeta, arguing that such writings are too dark and do not serve the Soviet state. Nonetheless, his novel gave its name to

"Khrushchev's Thaw". Ehrenburg is well known for his writing, especially his memoirs ("People, Years, and Life"), which contain many portraits of interest to literary historians and biographers. Ehrenburg was the first legal Soviet author to mention positively a lot of names banned under Stalin. Together with Vasily Grossman, Ehrenburg edited The Black Book that contains documentary accounts, by Jewish survivors, of the Holocaust in the Soviet Union and Poland. Ehrenburg was also active as a poet till his last days(1967), depicting the WW II events in Europe, the Holocaust and the destinies of Russian intellectuals. In this novel, THE THAW, Ehrenburg intends to move toward a "Soviet humanism" i.e., to pay more attention to Russia's common man, even at the expense of official propaganda and unquestioning loyalty. Though his criticisms of the regime are mild and often veiled, the author does imply that there may be something wrong with the whole official (Soviet) attitude to human life. This implicit thesis is all the more startling because it comes from a writer previously known for his zealous conformity for official Soviet policy of the hour--Socialism & Communism. THE DEATH OF ART: EHRENBURG'S THAW by Russell Kirk that has been added to the back of the book, analyzes the novel and suggests its deeper cultural and political implications. I wonder how these authors would view the political "changes" currently being experienced? THE BOOK CONDITION: The book and dustjacket are both in NEAR FINE condition. The book has a strong binding and clean unmarked pages and the dustjacket has no tears or folds--the jacket is NOT price clipped. This hardbound book of some 229 + xxix pages does show some "sun fading" of the spine and edges--there is NO foxing.

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