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Dictatorship vs. Democracy

Leon Trotsky (1879 – 1940)

Read by: Microsoft Azure Cognitive Services Text to Speech.
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 Length: 6 hours 55 minutes

Language: English
 Style: Solo
 Genre(s): Non-Fiction, History, Politics, Political Science

Format	Package	SKU	EAN/UPC	MSLP
MP3 CD	CD Jacket	CJ-1364	0602581788591	\$9.99
MP3 CD	DVD Case	DB-1364	0602581788584	\$9.99
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“Dictatorship and Democracy,” written by Leon Trotsky in 1937, explores the tensions between dictatorship and democracy within the context of the Soviet Union and global politics. Trotsky argues that the rise of totalitarian regimes, including fascism and Stalinism, represents a profound threat to democratic ideals and socialist principles.

Trotsky critiques Stalin’s bureaucratic regime, contending that it betrays the revolutionary goals of Marxism by prioritizing state power over the needs of the proletariat. He emphasizes the importance of genuine democracy, advocating for the active participation of workers in political processes. Through historical analysis, he highlights the failures of capitalist democracies to address social inequalities, which often pave the way for authoritarianism.

Trotsky contrasts different forms of government, asserting that true democracy must be rooted in the revolutionary empowerment of the working class. He warns against the dangers of apathy and the acceptance of authoritarian rule, stressing that only through a conscious and organized effort can people resist the encroachment of dictatorship.

Leon Trotsky, born Lev Davidovich Bronstein on November 7, 1879, in Ukraine, was a prominent Marxist revolutionary and a key figure in the early Soviet Union. Initially involved in revolutionary activities as a young man, he became a leading advocate for the Bolshevik cause during the 1917 Russian Revolution. Trotsky played a crucial role in the October Revolution, where he served as the head of the Red Army, effectively organizing the Bolshevik forces during the Civil War.

A prolific writer and theorist, Trotsky developed the concept of “permanent revolution,” arguing that socialism could not succeed in a single country but must be a global effort. However, following Lenin’s death in 1924, he fell into political conflict with Joseph Stalin, who ultimately consolidated power. Trotsky was expelled from the Communist Party and later exiled from the Soviet Union in 1929.

Despite his exile, Trotsky continued to critique Stalin’s regime and advocate for his vision of socialism until his assassination by a Stalinist agent in Mexico City on August 21, 1940. His ideas and writings have continued to influence leftist movements worldwide, marking him as a significant figure in the history of revolutionary socialism.