

Francine Hirsch on Her Book, “Soviet Judgment at Nuremberg” (2020)

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The 1945-1946 trial at Nuremberg of Nazi war criminals following World War II was an international undertaking. Among the Allied powers, the United States took, by most measures, the leading role. The United Kingdom, coordinating closely with the U.S., was also very significant. The Provisional Government of the French Republic, the newest and perhaps the weakest of the states, was the least significant of the Nuremberg powers. The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics was, as it had been in the Allied military effort that defeated Nazi Germany militarily, the other major power at Nuremberg.



August 8, 1945: L-R: unidentified, U.S.S.R. interpreter Oleg Troyanovsky, U.S.S.R. General Iona T. Nikitchenko, Judge Robert Falco of the French Republic, U.S. Chief of Counsel Robert H. Jackson, and U.K. Lord Chancellor William Jowitt, conferring at Church House, London

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On February 8, 2021, the Robert H. Jackson Center hosted an important webinar with Francine Hirsch, Vilas Distinguished Academic Professor of History at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She spoke about her new, important, already prize-winning book *Soviet Judgment at Nuremberg: A New History of the International Military Tribunal After World War II*.

Professor Hirsch's book is a USSR-focused history of Nuremberg. The book is thorough, fascinating, and well-written—it is strong scholarship and a pleasure to read. Among many strengths, the book delivers findings from deep research in Russian archives. Professor Hirsch tells, through contemporaneous Russian documents, Moscow's role in supervising, managing, and really running the Soviet prosecutors and judges at Nuremberg.

You can watch the February 8 webinar here, on the Jackson Center's YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NIPENyrjvaQ&t=57s>

I also encourage you to purchase and read Professor Hirsch's book—it is an excellent account, focused on the Russians, of the complicated, fraught, and in many ways successful allied nation efforts, including the many human actors and interactions, that led to and conducted the international Nuremberg trial.



July 29, 1946: U.S.S.R. Chief Prosecutor General Roman Rudenko delivers his closing statement to the International Military Tribunal in Courtroom 600, Palace of Justice, Nuremberg. Seated behind him at the U.S. prosecutors' table: Executive Trial Counsel Thomas J. Dodd, Justice Jackson, and others.

Nurnberg, Germany
June 26, 1946.

General R. Rudenko,
Nurnberg.

My dear General Rudenko:

On my trip to Denmark, the Minister of Justice presented me with some Akvavit. I know he would be glad to have me pass on to you a share in it. I enclose a bottle for you with the assurance that it is a good remedy for "Nurnbergitis".

Sincerely yours,

ROBERT H. JACKSON

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Here is publisher Oxford University Press's information on Professor Hirsch's book, *Soviet Judgment at Nuremberg*:

<https://global.oup.com/academic/product/soviet-judgment-at-nuremberg-9780199377930?cc=us&lang=en&>

[Click here](#) to purchase the book through Amazon.Com.