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About the Author



Yehoshua Yakhot [Иегошуа Яхот (Овший Овшевич Яхот)] was born on 2 March 1919 in Yaryshev, in the Vinnitskaya area, now in Ukraine. He volunteered to go to the front with a group of students from the Moscow Institute of Philosophy, Literature, and History [IFLI] on 22 June 1941, the day that Hitler's armies invaded the Soviet Union. Poorly trained and equipped, lacking even shovels, they were sent directly into battle. In March 1942, Yakhot was wounded and was one of the

very few who survived when attacked by the German Luftwaffe near the town of Ostashkov, not far from Moscow.

Yakhot completed undergraduate study in philosophy at Moscow State University in 1943, became a member of the CPSU in 1946, and finished graduate study at the Moscow State Pedagogical Institute in 1947. From 1947, he taught at the Moscow Finance Institute. He became a Doctor of Philosophical Sciences in 1965 and a Professor in 1966. His areas of scholarly research were problems of dialectical materialism and philosophical problems of social statistics.

Yakhot enthusiastically embraced the partial de-Stalinization that began with Nikita Khrushchev's speech to the Twentieth Congress of the CPSU in February 1956. During the "thaw," he parted ways with some of his pro-Stalin friends who could not accept the change in party line. Yakhot not only rejected Stalin politically, but saw him as a poor philosopher.

Yakhot was a devoted Marxist who thought that Marxist philosophy was a great achievement of the human mind on the level with Kant's and Hegel's. He never renounced these convictions to the end of his days.

In 1975, Professor Yakhot emigrated to Israel and the following year became a professor at Hebrew University in Jerusalem. Life in emigration was not easy; as a convinced atheist (i.e., as a materialist), he could not accept the religious pressures that were part of Israeli society. Linguistic barriers contributed to a certain isolation, but he found a small number of close collaborators at the university (whom he thanks in his foreword to this book). Yehoshua Yakhot died on 21 December 2003 in Tel Aviv.

The present book on philosophy in the USSR was first published in

Russian by Chalidze Publications in New York in 1981. It was then serialized in the journal *Voprosy filosofii* [Problems of Philosophy] in Moscow in the fall of 1991.



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