



An anti-Maquis poster from 1944

Anonymous.

Les Pays Changent - Hommes et Méthodes Sont les Mêmes. Katyn, Vinnitza, H.te Savoie... Le Stalinisme ferait de l'Europe un Charnier!

Savoy?, 1944. Colour offset lithograph. Sheet 805 x 1195mm.

£950

A propaganda poster with a map of Europe filled with a montage of photographs of dead bodies, with arrow highlighting three examples. The title reads 'Countries change - Men and methods stay the same... Stalinism will make Europe a charnel house'. Published either by the Vichy French or the Germans occupiers of Haute-Savoie, it seeks to associate the uprising of the 'Maquis des Glières', the local French Resistance, in 1943-4 with two of the most notorious massacres perpetrated by Stalinist Russia: Katyn in Poland (22,000 army officers, police and intelligensia, 1940); and Vinnytsia in the Ukraine (10,000, most shot, during the Great Purge, 1937-38). By labelling the Maquis as communists and linking their guerrilla tactics (which killed French police and collaborators as well as Germans) with Soviet atrocities, the authors of this poster hoped to undermine their support among the local population.

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