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History as (His) Story: Anatolii Kuznetsov’s Babi Yar as Bildungsroman

Anatolii Kuznetsov’s *Babi Yar: A Document in the Form of a Novel*, which, after its initial, heavily censored publication in Soviet Russia in 1966, appeared in complete form abroad in 1970. Critical interpretation of this text has focused mainly on the light it sheds on one of the ghastliest single episodes of the “Holocaust by Bullets”: the mass shooting of the Jewish population of Kyiv, organized by the Nazis. 33,771 Jews were shot at Babi Yar, a ravine on the city’s outskirts. Throughout the Nazi occupation, the ravine remained an execution site, predominantly for the Jewish population of the surrounding region and for Soviet POWs and captured partisans.