

*The Prophet of Sorrow* by Mark Van Aken Williams (Lucky Press, LLC 2010)

2010 is the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Leon Trotsky's assassination

“Trotsky's assassination was not just a malicious after-thought on the part of Stalin. ¶ It was the culmination of a systematic and bloody terror directed against a whole generation of Bolshevik leaders, and against the young revolutionaries of a second generation prepared to defend the genuine ideas of Marxism against the bureaucratic, repressive regime developing under Stalin. ¶ By the time the GPU reached Trotsky in 1940, they had already murdered— or driven to suicide—many members of Trotsky's family, scores of his closest friends and collaborators, and countless numbers of the leaders and supporters of the International Left Opposition.”

Source: <http://www.marxist.net/trotsky/life/life.htm>

**Who was Leon Trotsky?**

“Trotsky was a key figure in the Bolshevik seizure of power in Russia, second only to Vladimir Lenin in the early stages of Soviet communist rule. But he lost out to Joseph Stalin in the power struggle that followed Lenin's death, and was assassinated while in exile.” BBC [http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/historic\\_figures/trotsky\\_leon.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/historic_figures/trotsky_leon.shtml)

“Leon Trotsky (1879–1940, born Lev Davidovich Bronstein) was a Bolshevik revolutionary and Marxist theorist. He was one of the leaders of the Russian October Revolution, second only to Vladimir Lenin. ¶ An early advocate of Red Army intervention against European fascism, Trotsky also opposed Stalin's peace agreements with Adolf Hitler in the 1930s. As the head of the Fourth International, Trotsky continued in exile to oppose the Stalinist bureaucracy in the Soviet Union, and was eventually assassinated in Mexico by Ramón Mercader, a Soviet agent. ¶ Trotsky's ideas form the basis of Trotskyism, a term coined as early as 1905 by his opponents in order to separate it from Marxism. Trotsky's ideas remain a major school of Marxist thought that is opposed to the theories of Stalinism.” Source: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leon\\_Trotsky](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leon_Trotsky)

“Being a communist leader expelled from his homeland, Leon Trotsky had a hard time finding a country where he would be allowed to reside. He stayed temporarily in several countries, until he was allowed to come to Mexico in 1937, after Diego Rivera had used his influence to make this possible.” Source: <http://www.fbuch.com/leon.htm>

**Collected writings of Leon Trotsky:** <http://www.marxists.org/archive/trotsky/works/index.htm>

**Another good website:** <http://www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk/RUStrotsky.htm>

**Video:** <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CGBE9GcTj5Y>

**Also:** <http://www.trotsky.net/> “The purpose of this web site is to provide an overall view of the ideas and struggles of Leon Trotsky. Trotsky played a leading role, together with Lenin, during the 1917 Russian Revolution. It was Trotsky who organised the Red Army as well as the fightback against all the forces of reaction that were attempting to strangle the revolution in blood.”

**Timeline of events:**

[http://www.google.com/search?q=leon+trotsky&hl=en&tbs=tl:1&tbo=u&ei=7T2lS4nJPIWClAf6hajPCA&sa=X&oi=timeline\\_result&ct=more-results&resnum=21&ved=0CEoQ6AIwFA](http://www.google.com/search?q=leon+trotsky&hl=en&tbs=tl:1&tbo=u&ei=7T2lS4nJPIWClAf6hajPCA&sa=X&oi=timeline_result&ct=more-results&resnum=21&ved=0CEoQ6AIwFA)

**Quotations of Leon Trotsky:** [http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/authors/l/leon\\_trotsky.html](http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/authors/l/leon_trotsky.html)

**Who was Ramon Mercader?** “*Jaime Ramón Mercader del Río Hernández (February 7, 1914 – October 18, 1978)* was a *Spanish Communist* who served as a foreign agent of the NKVD during *Joseph Stalin's* time as ruler of the *USSR*. In that role, he became famous as the *assassin* of Stalin's great rival, *Leon Trotsky*.” <http://www.spiritus-temporis.com/ramon-mercader/>

August 20, 1940: Leon Trotsky assassinated by “Jacques Mornard” (aka Ramon Mercader)

1953: real identity of assassin confirmed as Ramon Mercader

May 6, 1960: Mercader freed in Mexico

**Other recent books:** Bertrand M. Patenaude recently published "Trotsky: Downfall of a Revolutionary," a biography of the man's final years in exile. Robert Service completed his trilogy on the founders of the Soviet Union with "Trotsky."

**Frida Kahlo's self-portrait, dedicated to Leon Trotsky, 1937:** <http://www.nmwa.org/Collection/detail.asp?WorkID=1432>