Contents

Acknowledgments vii
Soviet Organizational Acronyms and Abbreviations ix
Notes on Terminology xi
A Note on Sources xv

INTRODUCTION
Constructing the Commissar xvii

ONE
Epilogue as Prologue: The Commissar at Work 1

TWO
The Making of a Bolshevik 14

THREE
In the Provinces 36

FOUR
The Party Personnel System 68
Contents

FIVE
Sorting Out the Comrades 96

SIX
Yezhov on the Job: “Cadres Decide Everything” 115

SEVEN
Yezhov and the Kirov Assassination 135

EIGHT
Enemies Large and Small 156

NINE
Angling for the Job 179

Conclusion 206
Notes 225
Index 273

Illustrations follow page 134