

## Book Review

Ekstremal'niye Soctoyaniye L'va Al'tshulera, B. L. Al'tshuler ,e V. E. Fortov,  
FIZMATLIT Publ., Moscow

Lev Al'tshuler and his Extreme States, B. L. Al'tshuler and V. E. Fortov, eds. Physical-  
Mathematical Literature Publishing House,. Moscow, Russia 2011, 617pp

R. Norris Keeler

Lev Vladimirovich Altshuler, outstanding scientist . was one of the founders and leaders of a new scientific discipline-studying matter under shock compression at extremely high pressures and temperatures.

His results were used to design the first Soviet A-bomb tested in 1949.

In 1948, Lev Altshuler put forth an idea, which when elaborated on by Evgeniy Zababakhin, Yakov Zel'dovich and Konstantin K. Krupnikov, became the fundamental element in creation of the whole family of Soviet atomic nuclear charges, with Al'tshuler actively participating in these tests from the 1950s through the 1960s.

Lev Altshuler was a man of amazing destiny, and as was obvious, of exceptionally strong character, who was always internally free, and was willing and able to strongly defend his views in any historical circumstance and epoch.

This book provides a biography as well as some of his scientific work, reminiscences of friends, colleagues, and relatives. These include statements of many renowned scientists, and also some archival material, document and letters.

This book is of interest to the wide range of readers interested in the history of the Soviet Atomic Project, and reporters such as William Broad and Richard Rhodes, who have consistently been wrong in their evaluation of the Soviet program.

The editors have graciously agreed to allow the JOC to publish some of this material in the following paper, as this book has not yet been made available in the English language edition.