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USBM: A Revolution of Identity in American Black Metal out now in Czech translation

More than 500 pages, ten chapters, fascinating account, many photos, hardcover... This book simply demands the attention of any and all fans of extreme metal and is now unleashed upon the local metal readership. Entitled USBM: A Revolution of Identity in American Black Metal, it was penned by Daniel Lake, a longtime contributor to the iconic Decibel magazine.

Black metal has a long tradition in America going back to the 1980s. The scene was forged by bands, many of which eventually gained worldwide renown, such as Absu, Agalloch, Nachtmystium, VON or Deafheaven. A fascinating underground that ultimately gave rise to many legendary recordings.

Daniel Lake mapped the U.S. black metal thoroughly. His riotous tour takes the reader through the gutsiest convolutions of the scene, as told by the very musicians involved, thus showing a different incarnation of this phenomenon of a genre. *“American black metal, rather than blindly reenacting those battles in the north, climbed primarily out of the native death metal, thrash and hardcore scenes,”* observes the author in the book’s introduction. *“But it was more caustic than death metal, more aggressively bleak and evil than thrash, and more fearless than hardcore. It became black metal because it was categorically not any of those other things...”*

USBM: A Revolution of Identity in American Black Metal is the author’s first book, originally published in 2020. That said, Daniel Lake is a veteran of metal journalism, writing for the Chronicles of Chaos webzine since 2011 and joining the ranks of Decibel a year later. He is a native of the U.S. Eastern Seaboard, hailing from Maryland, wherein he still lives, teaching math, English and drama to high school students.

USBM is published as a hardcover; something uncommon for MetalGate editions. Translated by Michal Smolka. The Czech edition of this vast and impressive opus is available via MetalGate Records, the English original via the Decibel magazine.