

D O N ' T   W A N T   A N Y   P A R T   O F   D E P R E S S I O N   O R   D A R K N E S S

- "A World So Cold", Mudvayne

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## [Oppressor - The Solstice of Agony and Corrosion](#)



**Oppressor** was a technical death metal quartet from Chicago, Ill that formed in 1991. The band only stayed together approx. 8 years and released three albums in their short career, but the music they left behind helped inspire a genre. The interesting thing is that 3 of the band's members went on to form buzz-metal band **Soil**. Once Soil took off, the guys decided to leave Oppressor behind. Oppressor played a significant role in the American death metal scene of the '90's. The band was in a league with such greats a **Death** and **Vader**, before taking a more melodic path with Soil.

All of Oppressor's three full-length albums have been out of print for quite some time, but with the release of *The Solstice of Agony*, some of these tunes are available again. Solstice is a compilation (best-of) of tracks taken from each album, which displays the the band's nasty brand of technical death metal. Oppressor reminds me a lot of **Hate Eternal**, but just not as refined. The music is good, but tends to wander. Each track seems to go in a direction and then take a u-turn. Kind of hard to follow at times. Vocalist/Bassist **Tim King** has the total cookie monster thing going on, which doesn't add to equation. If the band had had a better vocalist, maybe they would still be around. Who Knows?

The band is good, but a little too complicated for their own good. The songs on this compilation aren't strong enough to withstand a pure cookie vocal, they need something a bit more melodic. At least with Hate Eternal, you get some melodies, which keep the listener interested. The most oddball thing of this release is the band's choice of covers. The band covered **Motley Crue's** *Looks That Kill* and **Ozzy Osbourne's** *Over the Mountain*. The covers were somewhat interesting, but the cookie vocals ruined them for me. Not a bad CD, but not a great one either. Early death metal fans will probably dig this, but the new school guys probably won't.



**Bottom Line:** *If you're a fan of Oppressor and have been looking for their stuff, then this is your chance. Solstice comes in a nice CD/DVD package which features some classic live footage and interviews.*

**Standout Tracks:** *Valley of Thorns and Upon the Creation.*

**Ragman** was in agony during this review.

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