



Inside the Soviet Army

Viktor Suvorov

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Inside The Soviet Army describes the general organisation, doctrine, and strategy of the Soviet armed forces (the term Army being used to cover not only the Land Forces, but also Strategic Rocket, Air Defence, Air, and Naval forces). Suvorov explains his view on the political realities of the USSR, where everything is subordinated to maintain the Communist regime's dominance, thus explaining the rationale behind Soviet strategic planning. He then goes on to explain the organisation of the Soviet armed forces, from the top down, emphasizing the Land Forces/Soviet Army. Technical details are presented where useful, but the primary concern is explaining the underlying philosophy and culture, often contrasted with the Western military approach. Suvorov then concludes with descriptions of the daily life inside the Soviet Army for the soldier and the officer, including the bullying and hazing practice known as dedovshchina, a practice then almost unknown to the West at the time of publication, which has become notorious in the Russian Ground Forces of the post-Soviet period.

Inside the Soviet Army Details

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From Reader Review Inside the Soviet Army for online ebook

Mick Maye says

Excellent coverage from the other side so to speak. Enjoyable book.

Steven Allen says

A technical if dated tome detailing the Soviet Army as it was at the height of the Cold War. Interesting read for those inclined but would probably bore most readers. The book did give me some ideas for my characters in my Ruth zombie stories.

Scott says

One of the most fascinating books I've ever read. Written by a Soviet defector, it offers the sort of insight only possible from someone who's worn the "green suit." It still has a treasured place on my bookshelf even to this day.

George Mazurek) says

Utterly unbelievable, yet true picture of Russian Army in the 1960s and 1970s. A must-read for every socialist and communist...

Colin says

I took this book everywhere with me for a while during college, just absorbing a passage here, a chapter there. Nevermind that the Cold War was over, the thought of what this army was capable of was compelling enough to read again and again. A nice reference for my own writing.

Cwn_annwn_13 says

I read this because I was looking for accounts of how life was for the average soldier in the Soviet Army. It was written in the early 1980s by a former Soviet military officer who had escaped and defected to the west. The complete hell and utter brutality of the Soviet and current Russian military is legendary. I've talked to people who were in the Soviet and Russian Army as well as read some about it. About 3 months ago I talked to a guy who was in the Soviet Army who told me for two years straight he more or less did nothing but work on schedule where he did grunt labor for three hours and then slept two hours on a continuous cycle 24-7. The current Russian Army is supposed to be brutal also. From what I can tell it either makes you or

breaks you. Its no wonder so many Russians are either broken down drunks or they are the strongest, toughest people you will ever meet.

Most of what's in this book is boring. Stuff about Russian military weaponry and tactics. What's interesting is when he talks about how the Soviet got over by bluffing the west and other eastern European nations as to their capabilities, as well as how there was a constant back and forth power play in Soviet Russia between the KGB, the Military and the Communist Party. When he does go into how life was for the average grunt soldier or the Officers it was interesting and he did a good job of capturing the bleakness and brutality of that existence. Another interesting tidbit is he claimed many of the USSR's Olympic level athletes (including some of the women) were covert trained killers who were just as much expected to scout out terrain for future wars as they were expected to win medals when they visited cities in the west for sports meets.

Lee says

When I was a young man, I dreamed/fearred of being involved in World War III, and so I tried to learn all I could of tactics, strategy and the Soviets. This book was a somewhat frightening eye-opener. I've read all I could get my hands on by "Suvorov," up until the Berlin Wall came down. It didn't seem as urgent then, of course.

I understand that Suvorov's later writings have become some kind of rallying point for neo-Stalinists in Russia, but I haven't really delved into that issue.

This book is a rather comprehensive look at the whole Soviet war machine, may it rest in peace.

Mark Speed says

This was a fascinating read, and was (apparently) written by a high-level defector from the army. He likens the Soviet state to a bunch of hoodlums who hold a neighbourhood to ransom, and run protection rackets. How little has changed since the fall of communism. The appeasers in charge of EU diplomacy would do well to read this in the context of their response to Russian destabilisation of Ukraine.

What's interesting is what he says about the relative inefficiency of the war machine, the philosophy and the brutal management tactics used to prevent wholesale defections. However far-fetched this might seem, I've fact-checked with female friends from former Warsaw Pact countries and found that they all had to be able to take apart, clean and reassemble an AK47 before being allowed to graduate from high school.

Otto says

An understanding of the supremacy of the politburo over the military. The unintentional troika of soviet state powers.

A love of mortars.

Alex says

Interesting read on the Soviet Army from a unique perspective. I believe that his descriptions of the Soviet Armed Forces represent the "ideal" vice the actual capabilities of those forces.
