

# Soviet Counterinsurgency In The Soviet Afghan War

The Soviet-Afghan WarThe Great GambleThe Soviet-Afghan War: Another LookThe Soviet-Afghan WarAfghanistanAfghanistan and the Soviet UnionThe Soviet-Afghan WarThe Other Side Of The Mountain: Mujahideen Tactics In The Soviet-Afghan War [Illustrated Edition]The Soviet–Afghan WarThe Other Side of the Mountain: Mujahideen Tactics in the Soviet-Afghan WarThe Bear Went Over The Mountain: Soviet Combat Tactics In Afghanistan [Illustrated Edition]The Soviet-Afghan WarThe Soviet-Afghan WarThe Bleeding WoundThe Lessons of the Soviet/Afghan WarThe Soviet–Afghan War 1979–89The Bear Went Over the MountainThe Afghanistan WarsThe Soviet-Afghan WarThe Soviet-Afghan War Russia (Federation). Generalnyi shtab Gregory Feifer Commander Mark S. Caren Anthony Tucker-Jones Mark Galeotti Henry St. Amant Bradsher Mark S. Caren Lester K. Grau Gregory Fremont-Barnes Ali Ahmad Jalali Lester K. Grau U. S. Military Charles E. Dudik Yaakov Ro'i Olivier Roy Gregory Fremont-Barnes Lester W. Grau William Maley Joseph J. Collins Mark S. Caren

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offers a candid view of a war that played a significant role in the ultimate demise of the soviet union presents analysis absolutely vital to western policymakers as well as to political diplomatic and military historians and anyone interested in russia and soviet history provides insights regarding current and future russia struggles in ethnic conflicts both at and within their borders struggles that

could potentially destroy the russia federation

the soviet war in afghanistan was a grueling debacle that has striking lessons for the twenty first century in the great gamble gregory feifer examines the conflict from the perspective of the soldiers on the ground during the last years of the cold war the soviet union sent some of its most elite troops to unfamiliar lands in central asia to fight a vaguely defined enemy which eventually defeated their superior numbers with unconventional tactics although the soviet leadership initially saw the invasion as a victory many russia soldiers came to view the war as a demoralizing and devastating defeat the consequences of which had a substantial impact on the soviet union and its collapse feifer s extensive research includes eye opening interviews with participants from both sides of the conflict in gripping detail he vividly depicts the invasion of a volatile country that no power has ever successfully conquered parallels between the soviet invasion of afghanistan and the u s invasions of afghanistan and iraq are impossible to ignore both conflicts were waged amid vague ideological rhetoric about freedom both were roundly condemned by the outside world for trying to impose their favored forms of government on countries with very different ways of life and both seem destined to end on uncertain terms a groundbreaking account seen through the eyes of the men who fought it the great gamble tells an unforgettable story full of drama action and political intrigue whose relevance in our own time is greater than ever

this research effort reviews the soviet military s involvement in afghanistan from four general perspectives 1 systemic problems inherent in the soviet military culture 2 the use of surprise 3 operational maneuver and the preeminence of aviation and 4 employment of mines and chemical weapons as an extension of maneuver warfare this paper concludes that the lessons of this war have been learned by the russians there is every reason to believe that they can achieve the level of doctrinal changes required to be successful in future local interventions it must be accompanied however by corresponding socio military reform

this photographic history of the soviet afghan war of 1979 to 1989 gives a fascinating insight into a grim conflict that prefigured the american led campaign in that country in an unequal struggle the mujahedeen resisted for ten years then triumphed over moscow for the soviet union the futile intervention has been compared to the similar humiliation suffered by the united states in vietnam for the afghans the victory was just one episode in the long history of their efforts to free their territory from the interference of foreign powers by focusing on the soviet use of heavy weaponry anthony tucker jones shows the imbalance at the heart of a conflict in which the mechanized industrial might of a super power was set against lightly armed partisans who became experts in infiltration tactics and ambushes his work is a visual record of the tactics and the equipment the soviets used to counter the resistance and protect

vulnerable convoys it also shows what this grueling conflict was like for the soviet soldiers the guerrilla fighters and the afghan population and it puts the present war in afghanistan in a thought provoking historical perspective

the soviet union s last war was played out against the backdrop of dramatic change within the ussr this is the first book to study the impact of the war on russian politics and society based on extensive use of soviet official and unofficial sources as well as work with afghan veterans it illustrates the way the war fed into a wide range of other processes from the rise of grassroots political activism to the retreat from globalism in foreign policy

illustrated with over a hundred maps when the soviet union invaded afghanistan in 1979 few experts believed that the fledgling mujahideen resistance movement had a chance of withstanding the modern mechanized technologically advanced soviet army most stated that resistance was futile and that the soviet union had deliberately expanded their empire to the south the soviet union had come to stay although some historians looked at the british experience fighting the afghan mountain tribesmen most experts discounted any parallels since the soviet union possessed an unprecedented advantage in fire power technology and military might although arab leaders and the west supplied arms and material to the mujahideen they did so with the hope of creating a permanent bleeding ulcer on the soviet flank not defeating the soviet union they did not predict that the soviet union would voluntarily withdraw from afghanistan in 1989 there have been few studies of guerrilla warfare from the guerrilla s perspective to capture this perspective and the tactical experience of the mujahideen the united states marine corps commissioned this study and sent two retired combat veterans to interview mujahideen the authors were well received and generously assisted by various mujahideen who willingly talked about their long bitter war the authors have produced a unique book which tells the guerrillas story as interpreted by military professionals this is a book about small unit guerrilla combat this is a book about death and survival adaptation and perseverance

a fully illustrated overview of the ussr s bloody conflict in afghanistan and its long legacy the soviet invasion of its neighbour afghanistan in december 1979 sparked a nine year conflict until soviet forces withdrew in 1988 89 dooming the communist afghanistan government to defeat at the hands of the mujahideen the afghan popular resistance backed by the usa and other powers gregory fremont barnes reveals how the soviet invasion had enormous implications on the global stage it prompted the us senate to refuse to ratify the hard won salt ii arms limitation treaty and the usa and 64 other countries boycotted the 1980 moscow summer olympics for afghanistan the invasion served to prolong the interminable civil war that pitted central government against the regions and faction against faction updated and revised for the new edition with full colour maps and new images throughout this succinct

account explains the origins events and consequences of the soviet intervention in afghanistan shedding new light on the more recent history and prospects of that troubled country

in the other side of the mountain mujahideen tactics in the soviet afghan war ali ahmad jalali provides a meticulous examination of guerrilla warfare strategies employed by the afghan mujahideen against the soviet forces during the 1980s jalali employs a descriptive and analytical literary style drawing on both firsthand experiences and historical narratives to illuminate the complexities of this multifaceted conflict the book situates the afghan struggle within a broader context of cold war dynamics exploring military tactics cultural influences and the psychological resilience of combatants amidst adversity through detailed accounts and strategic insights jalali offers a compelling perspective on the intricacies of insurgency and warfare in mountainous terrain ali ahmad jalali a former mujahideen commander and afghan military officer combines his personal experiences with extensive research to craft a unique narrative of the soviet afghan war his insights are enriched by a deep understanding of afghan culture and history and his academic credentials including significant contributions to military studies lend gravitas to his analysis jalali s dual identity as a participant and scholar provides readers with a rare lens through which to view this critical period in afghan and global history this book is essential reading for scholars military historians and anyone interested in understanding the dynamics of asymmetric warfare jalali s thorough exploration not only sheds light on the past but also offers lessons relevant to contemporary conflicts readers will gain a deeper appreciation for the innovative tactics employed by the mujahideen and their enduring impact on modern warfare

illustrated with 52 maps and diagrams sixteen years after its commencement and six years after its cessation the soviet afghan war remains an enigma for westerners set against the backdrop of earlier successful soviet military interventions in east germany 1953 hungary 1956 and czechoslovakia 1968 and occasional soviet military pressure on poland the stark military power of the soviet state seemed to be an irresistible tool of indefatigable soviet political power more than a few strategic pundits and military planners envisioned a bold soviet strategic thrust from southern afghanistan to the shores of the persian gulf to challenge western strategic interests and disrupt western access to critical middle eastern oil despite these fears and dire warnings the soviet afghan military effort soon languished as the british experience began to repeat itself although appearing to have entered afghanistan in seemingly surgical fashion and with overwhelming force the soviet military commitment was in reality quite limited and the immense and stark territory of afghanistan swallowed the invaders up across the largely barren landscape guerrilla fighters multiplied and within months the hitherto curious word mujahideen took on new meaning to this day the western view of the afghan war has been clouded in mystery and shadows soviet writers have presented westerners with a mixture of political diatribe military fable allegory and analogy

set against the backdrop of few facts westerners have recounted the war based on this soviet material sketchy mujahideen accounts the reports of the occasional western war correspondents in afghanistan and pure supposition this volume the first factual material to shed real light on the conflict represents a unique first step in setting the afghan record straight

nearly eight years since initiating combat operations in afghanistan the united states and our allies are witnessing first hand the difficulty of denying sanctuary to the taliban and al qaeda similar to the mujahideen in the soviet afghan war today s insurgents are leveraging mountainous terrain and international borders to survive against a superpower s counterinsurgency efforts as the united states prepares to shift focus from iraq to afghanistan it behooves us to incorporate lessons learned from the soviet afghan war in order to adequately shape our force and equipment evolve counterinsurgency tactics and doctrine and integrate the elements of national power to deny insurgent sanctuary i chose to study the soviet efforts to deny the mujahideen sanctuary because i believe sanctuary denial is a critical requirement for our success in the current fight against the taliban and al qaeda the soviet union did not anticipate a decade long counterinsurgency fight against the mujahideen when it invaded the democratic republic of afghanistan dra in december 1979 determined to stabilize the rapidly deteriorating political military situation in its newest client state the soviet union conducted a coup de main modeled after successful interventions in hungary 1956 and czechoslovakia 1968 the soviet leadership believed that the mere presence of soviet forces would serve to sober up the mujahideen and enable the dra s communist government to suppress the insurgency failing to appreciate the will of the mujahideen to resist foreign invaders the soviets miscalculated the nature of the war into which they entered instead of simply providing security logistics and combat support for dra forces fighting the mujahideen the conventionally structured trained and equipped 40th army assumed the lead against a determined guerrilla opponent in some of the most rugged terrain on earth the soviets properly identified sanctuary as a critical requirement for the mujahideen to wage a successful resistance but never effectively deprived the insurgency of this requirement the soviet union failed to deny sanctuary to the mujahideen because it deployed an inadequate force to afghanistan but more importantly it proved unable to counteract international support for the insurgency preface introduction sanctuary defined geographical context demographics and culture background political turmoil in the 1970s soviet combat operations inadequate force to deny sanctuary countering international support for the mujahideen conclusions notes appendix a afghanistan s neighbors appendix b afghanistan 3 d relief map appendix c main ethnic groups of afghanistan bibliography

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afghanistan dra in december 1979 intending to stabilize the rapidly deteriorating political military situation in its newest client state afghanistan s fledgling communist government lacked the legitimacy or strength to suppress the growing mujahideen insurgency instead of simply providing security logistics and combat support for dra forces fighting the mujahideen as initially planned the conventionally structured trained and equipped soviet 40th army assumed the lead against a determined guerrilla opponent in some of the most rugged terrain on earth the mujahideen quickly recognized the imprudence of engaging the soviets conventionally and embarked upon a guerrilla campaign that leveraged both internal and transnational sanctuary in order to rest rearm refit train receive medical attention and recruit and organize reinforcements the soviets properly identified sanctuary as a critical requirement for the mujahideen to wage a successful resistance but never effectively deprived the insurgency of this requirement despite tactical innovations and the ad hoc development of counterinsurgency doctrine the soviets lacked the troop strength and composition necessary to eliminate internal mujahideen sanctuary in the mountains or to interdict transnational aid and sanctuary afghanistan s terrain was simply too rugged and difficult for the soviet union to rely on air interdiction and its relatively small counterinsurgency force to adequately deny physical sanctuary or infiltration routes within the country soviet efforts to deny internal sanctuary drove the mujahideen across the border into pakistan and to a lesser degree iran

by the mid 1980s public opinion in the ussr had begun to turn against soviet involvement in afghanistan the soviet afghan war 1979 1989 had become a long painful and unwinnable conflict one that mikhail gorbachev referred to as a bleeding wound in a 1986 speech the eventual decision to withdraw soviet troops from afghanistan created a devastating ripple effect within soviet society that this book argues became a major factor in the collapse of the soviet union in this comprehensive survey of the effects of the war on soviet society and politics yaacov ro i analyzes the opinions of soviet citizens on a host of issues connected with the war and documents the systemic change that would occur when soviet leadership took public opinion into account the war and the difficulties that the returning veterans faced undermined the self esteem and prestige of the soviet armed forces and provided ample ammunition for media correspondents who sought to challenge the norms of the soviet system through extensive analysis of soviet newspapers and interviews conducted with soviet war veterans and regular citizens in the early 1990s ro i argues that the effects of the war precipitated processes that would reveal the inbuilt limitations of the soviet body politic and contribute to the dissolution of the ussr by 1991

the soviet invasion of its neighbour afghanistan in december 1979 sparked a bloody nine year conflict in that country until soviet forces withdrew in 1988 89 dooming the communist afghanistan government to defeat at the hands of the mujahideen the afghan

popular resistance backed by the usa and other powers the soviet invasion had enormous implications on the global stage it prompted the us senate to refuse to ratify the hard won salt ii arms limitation treaty and the usa and 64 other countries boycotted the 1980 moscow summer olympics for afghanistan the invasion served to prolong the interminable civil war that pitted central government against the regions and faction against faction the country remains locked in conflict over 30 years later with no end in sight featuring specially drawn mapping and drawing upon a wide range of sources this succinct account explains the origins history and consequences of the soviet intervention in afghanistan thereby shedding new light on the more recent history and prospects of that troubled country

counterinsurgency punctuated by moments of heady excitement and terror colonel grau the editor and translator has added his own commentary to produce a useful guide for commanders to meet the challenges of this kind of war and to help keep his fellow soldiers alive this book will also be of interest to the historian and general reader who will discover that advances in technology have had little impact on this kind of war and that many of the same tactics the british army used on the northwest frontier still apply today

a whole generation has grown up in afghanistan knowing little but the ravages of war the dramatic overthrow of the taliban regime in 2001 was simply one event in a series of interrelated struggles which have blighted ordinary people s lives over the last three decades and which continue to interfere with reconciliation and reconstruction this new edition of the afghanistan wars provides a meticulously documented history of these successive waves of conflict from the roots of afghanistan s slide into disorder in the late 1970s to the challenges faced by afghan leaders following the substantial withdrawal of international forces in 2014 it explores military and diplomatic history while also offering valuable insight on humanitarian action gender medical and cultural themes thoroughly revised in the light of the latest research the third edition also features a new final chapter which examines recent developments in afghanistan bringing the story up to the present day and mounting a strong case for continuing support for this troubled country new to this edition a final chapter on the recent developments in afghanistan up to the present day revised to take into account the considerable amount of new material published on this topic since 2009 refreshed and updated throughout

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