

# Soviet Counterinsurgency In The Soviet Afghan War

The Soviet-Afghan War Afghanistan, the Soviet Invasion in Perspective The Great Gamble Afghanistan and the Soviet Union The Soviet-Afghan War: Another Look The Soviet-Afghan War 1979-89 The Soviet-Afghan War Afghanistan The Soviet-Afghan War The Soviet War in Afghanistan 1979-1989 Afghanistan And The Soviet Union The Soviet-Afghan War The Soviet-Afghan War The Bleeding Wound The Lessons of the Soviet/Afghan War The Soviet-Afghan War Afghanistan's Violent Decades Afghanistan The Other Side of the Mountain: Mujahideen Tactics in the Soviet-Afghan War The Soviet-Afghan War Russia (Federation). General'nyi shtab Anthony Arnold Gregory Feifer Henry St. Amant Bradsher Commander Mark S. Caren Gregory Fremont-Barnes Anthony Tucker-Jones Mark Galeotti Charles E. Dudik Ilya Milyukov Milan Hauner Joseph J. Collins Gregory Fremont-Barnes Yaacov Ro'i Olivier Roy U. S. Military Stanley B. Sprague Mohammed Kakar Ali Ahmad Jalali 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 russian and soviet history provides insights regarding current and future russian struggles in ethnic conflicts both at and

within their borders struggles that could potentially destroy the russian federation

the book traces the course of soviet afghan relations since 1919 with emphasis on the events that led to the invasion of december 1979

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 russian 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 concise study examines the nine year soviet intervention in afghanistan from 1979 which opened a new phase in the

bloody prolonged struggle between the communist afghan government and its people polarised world opinion and intensified the cold war

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

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 the soviet union invaded the democratic republic of 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

in december 1979 the ussr s 40th army crossed the border into afghanistan special forces troops the infamous gru spetsnaz and kgb agents had already entered the country and in a fierce gun battle assassinated afghanistan s president hafizullah amin in tajbeg palace so that he could be replaced by rival babrak karmal the official explanation provided to officers non commissioned officers and other ranks of the soviet armed forces was that they were carrying out an international duty in afghanistan what exactly that was none of the participants knew the reasoning of brezhnev s politburo was that their intervention would bring stability to a country slipping into anarchy as its government failed to deal with political conflict within its own ranks and widespread armed rebellion outside the major urban centres thus began the soviet military intervention that was to last for nearly ten years the soviet war in afghanistan 1979 1989 provides a detailed order of battle for the soviet ground and air forces deployed to afghanistan officially referred to as the limited contingent of soviet forces in afghanistan and a detailed account of every operation undertaken there by the soviet armed forces from december 1979 until february 1989 the work provides details of all the involved units their combat losses and estimates of mujahidin losses this work does not shy away from the commonplace atrocities committed against the afghan population the soviet war in afghanistan 1979 1989 is richly illustrated with original photographs many never published before in the west and the war series signature colour artworks showing the men vehicles and aircraft involved in this conflict this book is an indispensable source of reference for enthusiasts and professionals alike

since the dramatic events of a decade ago the revolutions in kabul and teheran the soviet invasion of afghanistan and the gulf war greater central asia has recaptured the imagination of academia historians islamicists anthropologists political

scientists and defense analysts began to convene conferences and to produce collective volumes that concentrated on two seemingly unrelated subjects the continuity and strength of ethnocultural patterns in muslim central asia on the one hand and the limited range of u s military options for defense of the oil rich gulf region against hypothetical soviet invasion on the other the contributors to this volume were asked to focus on the long term significance of the junction between afghanistan and soviet eurasia through the midlands region a relationship that could have wide implications

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

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

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

this book examines the key political and military events in afghanistan from 1978 to august 2021 it covers the afghan soviet war and how that war was followed by an afghan civil war that made the country receptive to the rise of the afghan taliban it explains how the taliban secured control of afghanistan s government and permitted osama bin laden to reside in the country while he secretly planned an attack on the american mainland it also covers why osama bin laden s al Qaeda terrorists on september 11 2001 flew hijacked airliners into new york city s world trade center and the pentagon it describes how american and nato forces responded by invading afghanistan to destroy al Qaeda and to overthrow the taliban government the 20 year afghan nato war which followed would lead to american troops suffering 2 488 dead and 20 722 wounded this book is one of the first to cover this long war written after the war ended in august 2021 giving it a new perspective it offers an even handed coverage of the war based on taliban american and british sources

few people are more respected or better positioned to speak on the soviet invasion of afghanistan than m hassan kakar a professor at kabul university and scholar of afghanistan affairs at the time of the 1978 coup d'état kakar vividly describes the events surrounding the soviet invasion in 1979 and the encounter between the military superpower and the poorly armed afghans the events that followed are carefully detailed with eyewitness accounts and authoritative documentation that provide an unparalleled view of this historical moment because of his prominence kakar was at first treated with deference by the marxist government and was not imprisoned although he openly criticized the regime when he was put behind bars the outcry from scholars all over the world possibly saved his life in prison for five years he continued collecting information much of it from prominent afghans of varying political persuasions who were themselves prisoners kakar brings firsthand knowledge and a historian s sensibility to his account of the invasion and its aftermath this is both a personal document and a historical one kakar lived through the events he describes and his concern for human rights rather than party politics infuses his writing as afghans and the rest of the world try to make sense of afghanistan s recent past kakar s voice will be one of those most listened to few people are more respected or better positioned to speak on the soviet invasion of afghanistan than m hassan kakar a professor at kabul university and scholar of afghanistan affairs at the time of the 1978 coup d'état kakar vividly describes the eve

in the other side of the mountain mujahideen tactics in the soviet afghan war ali ahmad jalali offers a comprehensive and insightful analysis of the guerrilla warfare techniques employed by the afghan mujahideen during the conflict with soviet

forces from 1979 to 1989 written with meticulous attention to detail jalali s work combines firsthand accounts strategic assessments and a critical exploration of the socio political environment of afghanistan the literary style interweaves vivid narratives with analytical rigor making it both an academic asset and a gripping read this exploration also situates itself within the broader geopolitical context of the cold war providing essential insights into the motivations and methodologies of resistance movements ali ahmad jalali a key figure in afghan military affairs and a former afghan general draws upon his extensive experience and personal knowledge of the war to illuminate the extraordinary resourcefulness of the mujahideen having experienced the ravaging effects of the conflict firsthand jalali s perspective is both authentic and deeply informed by the tumultuous history of his homeland his insights lend a unique authenticity to the narrative making it an indispensable resource for understanding the dynamics of asymmetrical warfare this book is highly recommended for scholars military professionals and anyone interested in the complexities of guerrilla warfare it not only enriches the discourse surrounding military strategy but also humanizes the struggles of a nation in the throes of war making it a compelling account of resilience and resistance that resonates far beyond the battlefield in this enriched edition we have carefully created added value for your reading experience a succinct introduction situates the work s timeless appeal and themes the synopsis outlines the central plot highlighting key developments without spoiling critical twists a detailed historical context immerses you in the era s events and influences that shaped the writing a thorough analysis dissects symbols motifs and character arcs to unearth underlying meanings reflection questions prompt you to engage personally with the work s messages connecting them to modern life hand picked memorable quotes shine a spotlight on moments of literary brilliance interactive footnotes clarify unusual references historical allusions and archaic phrases for an effortless more informed read

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