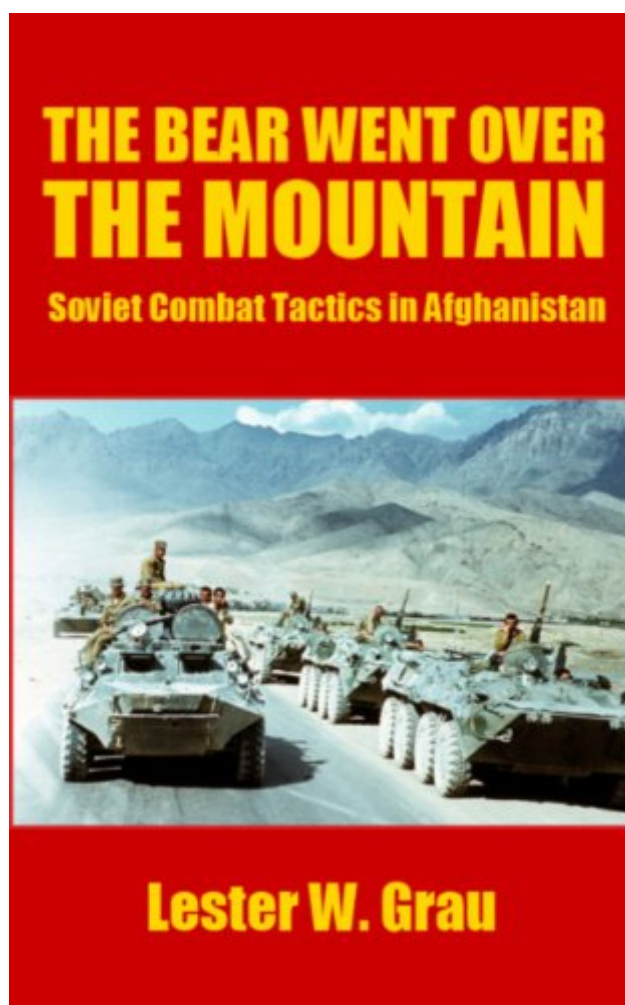


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The Bear Went Over The Mountain: Soviet Combat Tactics In Afghanistan



Synopsis

When the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan in 1979, they soon realized that their army had the wrong equipment, the wrong training, and the wrong tactics to fight the Mujahideen. Their premier army training center, the Frunze Military Academy, produced this book to capture the lessons learned from the Soviet-Afghan war. It contains a series of tactical vignettes, each describing a single military operation in the words of one of the officers in charge. The operations range from convoy escorts and the defense of isolated outposts all the way up to major combined-arms sweeps and airborne assaults on Mujahideen training centers. The success or failure of each operation is analyzed by the Frunze military staff, and also by Lester W. Grau, who translated the work into English and is an accomplished military analyst and historian. This book is therefore unique in supplying both Soviet and Western military perspectives on guerrilla warfare and counter-insurgency operations in Afghanistan. There are 45 tactical battle maps, and a glossary of Soviet Army terminology and map symbols. This is a companion piece to "The Other Side of the Mountain: Mujahideen Tactics in the Soviet-Afghan War," which tells the story from the other side of the war.

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Customer Reviews

This book stands as an excellent example of Soviet tactical error in the broader scheme of warfare and operational successes in the microcosm of combat actions. The vignettes included in the work highlight a limited focus on anything close to a counterinsurgency strategy, an over reliance on firepower to achieve decision on the battlefield, and additionally the Soviet Army's lack of a professional NCO corps. The information in this book is invaluable for assessing the evolution of Soviet military strategy in the asymmetrical environment of guerrilla warfare. One such development is a liberal use of air power and artillery with little or no regard for the civilian population. The problem of air power was negated by the Afghan Mujahideen later in the conflict with the introduction of modern surface to air missile technology in the form of the American made Stinger missile. The Frunze Academy's and Editor's comments offer informed insights and criticisms to each engagement. This version of the book is the least expensive of the available printings of the book. Likely because it is filled with formatting errors. Notes are cut off in some sections but the most frustrating error was in the introduction. I had to flip back and forth in order to read it in sequence as the pages are arranged improperly.

The book shows the shortcomings of Soviet combat tactics used in Afghanistan. It allows for certain comparisons to US tactics to be applied and discards the comparison to US tactics in Vietnam. One of the stand out revelations is what the Soviet government and the US government wanted to accomplish as an endgame, and how they are almost the same objective. How both countries have failed to accomplish this.

Great edition. Footnotes and chapter titles are linked in to their text citations. Contains appendix of

maps and Russian Military Symbols. I'm happy that this is not simply a poor quality scan of the original as is the case with so many other low-price classic books.

Amazing reviews of Soviet tactics and strategies from the viewpoint of the soldiers on the ground. Book consists of concise after action reports written by soviet soldiers, and commentary from the Frunze academy and the military advisor-translators of the book. Especially relevant today, this'll learn you good about the nuances of modern warfare and unique challenges the soviets faced in Afghanistan.

A very nice review of the Soviet sojourn into Afghanistan. Well written, with very nice critiques at the end of each vignette.

The Other Side of the Mountain: Mujahideen Tactics in the Soviet-Afghan War needs to be read with this

While normally very supportive of U.S. military missions, this read only reinforces my belief that ANY attempt to "pacify Afghanistan is doomed to fail. I don't believe any traditional military can succeed there. it is an insular nation filled with nationalistic zealots who while maybe hating their neighbor hate outsiders more. I understand the arguments about the terror haven/threat supposedly originating there, but I doubt any nation can eliminate it internally. This book should be required reading for any politician entertaining the folly of trying to pacify Afghanistan. The Soviets learned way too late, when will we?

I wanted to learn about the Soviet experience in Afghanistan. This book gave a detailed experience of how things were done in the field by the Soviet military. I recommend reading "the other side of the mountain" to get a form understanding of the Soviet Afghan war.

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