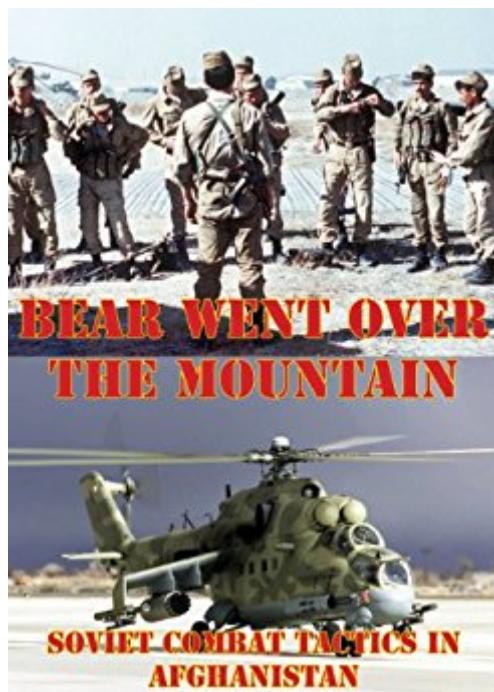


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The Bear Went Over The Mountain: Soviet Combat Tactics In Afghanistan [Illustrated Edition]



Synopsis

[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.

Book Information

File Size: 3628 KB

Print Length: 221 pages

Publisher: Tannenberg Publishing (August 15, 2014)

Publication Date: August 15, 2014

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B06XGP4YYF

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Not Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #170,061 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #6 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > History > Americas > United States > Military History > Operation Desert Storm #16 in Books > History > Military > United States > Operation Desert Storm #57 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > History > Americas > United States > Military History > Iraq War

Customer Reviews

The content of the book and the layout is fantastic. The formatting of the Kindle version needs some editing. At one point in chapter 6 an entire paragraph is duplicated in the text. The only real criticism I have is that the graphics for the maps need to be bigger, a full page display, as they are incredibly difficult to make out even on an iPad.

Must read for junior officers. Like most books it ignores the fact that the enemy has a vote. None the less it provides a decent overview of maneuver and terrain at the tactical level.

This book does a great job of showing what tactics the Soviets used during their war in Afghanistan. It is also a great argument against the use of conscripts.

Very interesting and insightful. The maps take a little bit of time to comprehend. A color update would be wonderful.

This is an AAR and critique of Soviet operations in AF, nothing the US forces did not already know about the region and the fighters there, interesting read. Too bad we didn't get out of dodge after OBL was wacked.

He's history and Militaries biggest fan. He is even taking notes as he goes because he wants to.

A great read that kept me glued to the book.

Good reading for anyone in the military

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