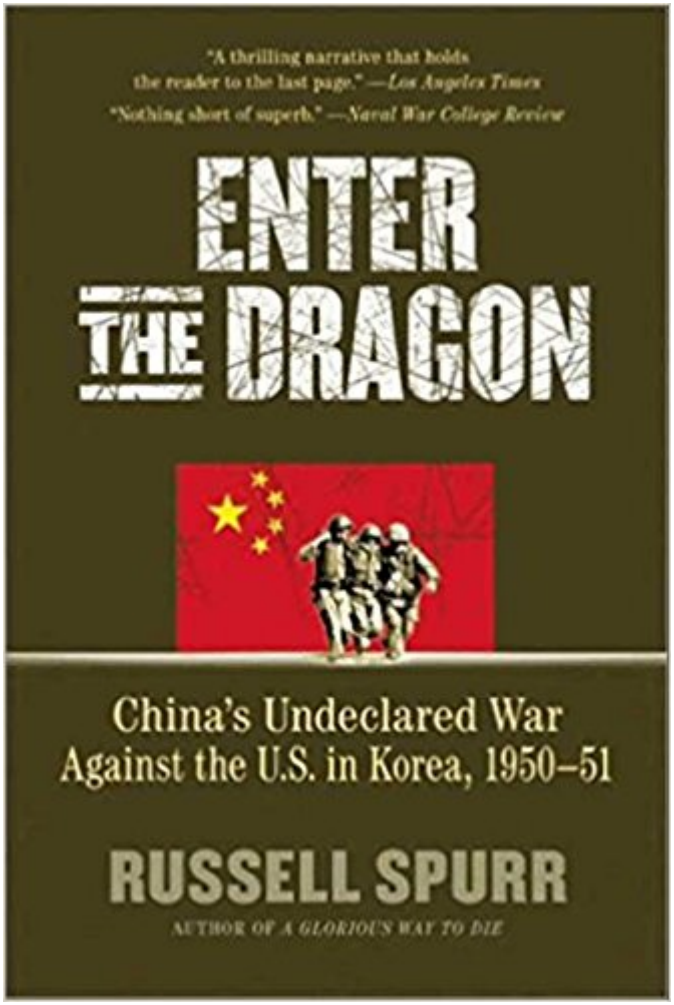
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Enter The Dragon: ChinaÃ¢â‚¬â„¢s Undeclared War Against The U.S. In Korea, 1950-1951



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Synopsis

Reissued to coincide with the 60th anniversary of U.S. involvement in the Korean War, this gripping, dramatic military classic re-creates six pivotal months in the conflict, told from both the Chinese and Allied sides.The Korean War was, years before Vietnam, the first great East-West military misadventure, eventually engaging sixteen countries under the U.N. flag in war against China and North Korea. Enter the Dragon examines the Chinese side of the Korean War for the first time, re-creating and dramatizing Communist China's reluctant role in the undeclared war against the U.S. in Korea. Russell Spurr's military classic is drawn from firsthand recollections of observers and participants on both sides, and focuses on six pivotal months, beginning in August 1950, when China first deliberated intervention, through their first strike in October, to the standstill at the end of January 1951.Based on five years of research and over 20 fact-finding trips to the People's Republic of China and Korea, Enter the Dragon describes why China became involved in Korea and how its strategy evolved, and re-creates life on the front lines, conference rooms, and in the streets of the embattled cities.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Dramatic&#8230Mr. Spurr has tackled a difficult topic and is to be applauded."&#8212The New York Times Book Review"As entertaining as a novel, SpurrÃ¢â ¬â„¢s book&#8230commendably provides a strong, you-are-there sense of the war."&#8212The Washington Post Book World"A thrilling narrative that holds the reader to the last page. Highly recommended."&#8212Los Angeles Times"SpurrÃ¢â ¬â„¢s unique opportunity to use Chinese and North Korean archives and his

interviews with participants give the work a reality not found in comparable books."&#8212Library Journal"This is a remarkable account of a neglected war&#8230Enter the Dragon is nothing short of superb."&#8212Naval War College Review

Russell Spurr was based in Hong Kong for more than 20 years as the China and Far East correspondent for the London Daily Express and ABC Radio Network, and the chief correspondent and deputy editor of the Far Eastern Economic Review. He was one of the first Western correspondents to report from Peking after the establishment in 1949 of the People's Republic of China. During World War II Spurr was in the Royal Indian Navy, and served in motor gunboats through most of the Burma campaign. After the Japanese surrender, he was assigned to Kure, Japan, where he first viewed the vacant dock built for the Yamato and began to pursue the story of its demise. Spurr is also the author of the highly acclaimed Enter the Dragon: China's Undeclared War Against the U.S. in Korea.

Russell Spurr has written a very entertaining account of the Korean war mainly from the Chinese side. What is disconcerting is the lack of primary sources in the bibliography. Most of the material is drawn from previously written books, primarily from the UN side. There are no Chinese or Korean sources listed, which makes me question the accuracy of the facts presented in the book. As the title says, an entertaining read, but not serious history.

Usually History is told by the victors. There were no victors in the Korean War, but because of the long and sometimes self imposed isolation of China in the post Korean War period, most histories concentrate on the American participation. This excellent book views the all important first year from the Chinese and the American sides. The incredible courage of both armies is recreated, along with the terrible hardship. The mistakes tactical and strategic , of leaders on both sides are described . It is almost painful to read , as you know that these mistakes will cause the deaths of thousands of foot soldiers simply following orders. Many histories of the first year revolve around the Marines at Chosin, [a saga that stands out in the annals of war] but Spurr goes beyond this. He describes the bravery and collapse of the US Army in Western Korea , and the equally amazing story of the Chinese infantry. The most moving and terrifying passages in this book show a Chinese officer moving through the North Korean winter to reach the front and seeing snowmen standing along the sides of rural roads. He slowly realizes that they are Chinese Soldiers who froze in place. If you ever doubted that war is hell read this book. Neither MacArthur or Mao is spared from intense criticism.

Both planned elaborate and amazing victories and then lost all sight of reality forcing their soldiers into untenable positions and ultimate disaster.

Enter the Dragon purports to tell the story of the opening stages of Chinese involvement in the Korean War from the Chinese perspective. It is really amazing to read about how they were able to move masses of men into Korea, largely undetected, without the support of a developed transportation system. You can't help but admire, if grudgingly, the toughness and dedication of the Chinese whose stories are told in the book. The author writes in a first person style, and almost makes you feel you were there. The style was highly readable. I found this book to be a fascinating if painful read. It is fascinating to get a glimpse into the "enemies'" perspective on a war, but painful to read their tales of success in killing your own countrymen. There were several points in this book where I just had to put it down and take a break. The author does make some curious mistakes. For instance he refers to General Matthew Ridgeway as being Deputy Chief of Staff of 8th Army when he was appointed to replace General Walker after general Walker was killed in a jeep accident. At the time Ridgeway was Deputy Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army not just of 8th Army; a significant difference. It was also interesting to contrast the author's views on General Walker's performance as commander of 8th Army with those of John Toland in his book In Mortal Combat; Korea 1950-1953. Toland gives Walker credit for studying both his North Korean and Chinese opponents, divining their strengths and weaknesses, and adopting his strategy and tactics accordingly. Toland suggests that Walker's decision not to defend Pyongyang against the Chinese offensive was a calculated decision to allow the Chinese to overextend their supply lines. Spurr suggests that Walker's retreat was nothing more than a product of blind panic. This brings me to one other thing about enter the Dragon. It is often impossible to separate the author's viewpoints from those of the Chinese veterans he interviewed for the book. I read the Kindle edition of this book. Man! I love my kindle. The one drawback is that it is hard to read the maps that are in the book, and the quality of the pictures is not nearly as good as it could be. I hope in future versions of the kindle they are able to improve upon this.

It is difficult to believe that such a volume as this took so disgracefully long to appear. The recentness of its availability gives so very much insight into what can be described as most brutal, relentless, savage fighting and acts of unbelievable HEROISM and unquantifiable sacrifice, especially of the intrepidity and determination of the men of THE U.S. FIRST MARINE DIVISION to fight to the proverbial, last ROUND of the weapon of the very 'LAST MAN' (some historians equate

its savagery and ferocity with the Battle of IWO JIMA!) and disgracefully, which continues to this Day to be known as "THE FORGOTTEN WAR

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