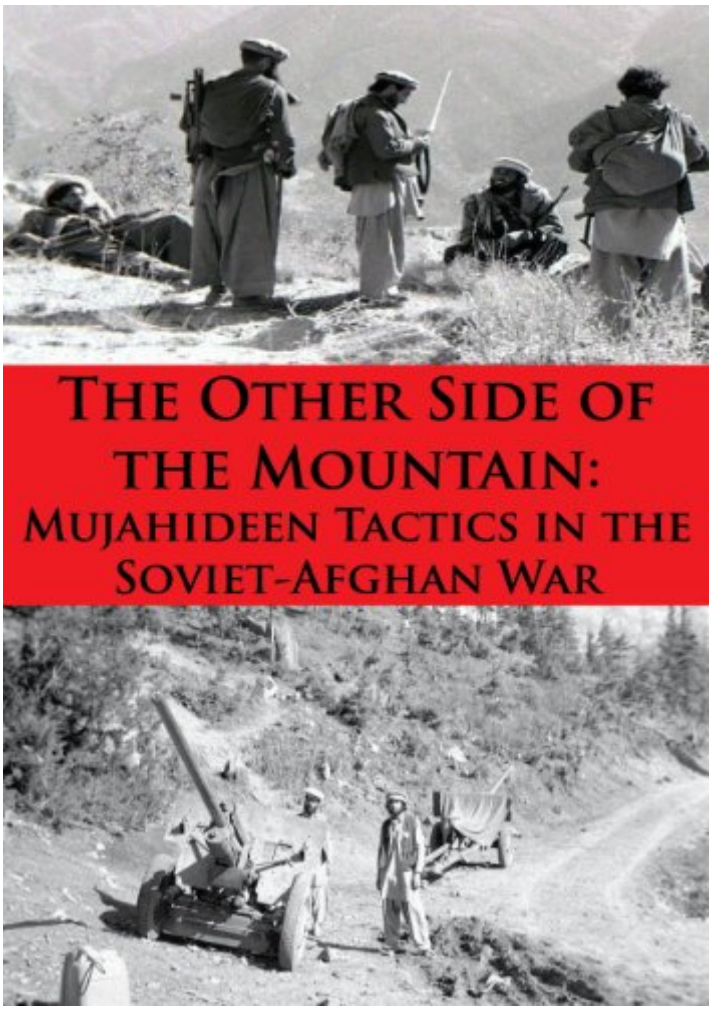
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The Other Side Of The Mountain: Mujahideen Tactics In The Soviet-Afghan War [Illustrated Edition]



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Synopsis

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 guerrillaÃ¢â ¬â„¢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 guerrillasÃ¢â ¬â„¢ 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.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book should have been required reading for every American and NATO officer involved in the Afghan War. I found it to be very informative in understanding the nature of conducting warfare in Afghanistan. The book is mainly a collection of first hand accounts of Mujahideen leaders and fighters of their logistics and fighting tactics against the Soviet forces and the Soviet trained, communist controlled Afghan Army in the 1980's. The book relates a group of stories by location and type of activity and then critiques the tactics of the Mujahideen and their enemies in these combat actions. It goes into some detail about the historical cultural lifestyle of the Afghan people who have successfully prevailed against the greatest invading armies going back to Alexander The Great (+/- 300 B.C.). The authors point out that even though there are major tribal and language differences in the country, the people will put aside their "blood" feuds to fight what they perceive to be a common enemy invader. It was interesting for me to see how little the fighting tactics have changed over the past three decades since the Soviet pullout in spite of technological advancements in war implements.

The Bear Went Over the Mountain: Soviet Combat Tactics in Afghanistan has to be read with this

Based on the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan in 1979, this book is good reading for understanding combat in Afghanistan. Many people misjudged the mujahadeen, they are tenacious and innovative warriors

Both this and "The Bear Went Over the Mountain" should be essential reading for all personnel deploying to Afghanistan. People who have deployed to Afghanistan are able to visually imagine a lot of the vignettes within due to the similarly used locations names. I found the book both intriguing and alarming because I could have been reading about any one incident taking place on the same battlefields today. For any serious Military or Security person, these 2 books are an absolute for your Kindle/iPad.

Read while in Afghanistan, very informative on regions.

Seeing this conflict from their side is very interesting.

The handbook for analysis and methodology for partisan warfare.

Great to read and study of history for a different part of the world. I remember hearing about these battles when I was a kid.

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