

afgantsy the russians in afghanistan 1979 1989 rodric braithwaite

****Afgantsy: The Russians in Afghanistan 1979-1989 by Rodric Braithwaite****

afgantsy the russians in afghanistan 1979 1989 rodric braithwaite is a phrase that captures a pivotal chapter in Cold War history, one that remains deeply etched in the memories of those who lived it and those who study it today. Rodric Braithwaite's detailed exploration of the Soviet Union's decade-long military engagement in Afghanistan unveils the complex realities faced by the "Afgantsy"—the Russian soldiers who served in a harsh and unforgiving landscape far from home. This article delves into Braithwaite's work, shedding light on the historical, political, and human dimensions of the Soviet-Afghan War, while weaving in related insights and contextual information to provide a comprehensive understanding of this significant conflict.

The Soviet Invasion: Setting the Stage for Afgantsy

When the Soviet Union launched its military intervention in Afghanistan in December 1979, it marked the beginning of a grueling ten-year conflict that would test the endurance of its soldiers and the resilience of Afghan society. Braithwaite's **Afgantsy** offers a vivid portrayal of these years, emphasizing the geopolitical stakes and the internal Soviet dynamics that led to such a costly decision.

The Cold War Context

The invasion was not just about Afghanistan; it was a critical move in the broader Cold War chess game. Moscow aimed to support a communist government in Kabul that was struggling to maintain control amid fierce resistance from Mujahideen fighters. Braithwaite highlights how the Soviet leadership believed that maintaining influence in Afghanistan was crucial to securing a southern buffer zone and projecting power in South Asia.

Who Were the Afgantsy?

The term "Afgantsy" refers specifically to the Soviet veterans who fought in Afghanistan. Braithwaite gives voice to these men, sharing their experiences, hopes, fears, and the complex feelings they carried upon returning home. Unlike the glorified image often associated with military service, these

soldiers faced a bitter reality: unfamiliar terrain, guerrilla warfare, and a lack of clear objectives.

Life and Struggles of the Soviet Soldiers in Afghanistan

Braithwaite's narrative does an exceptional job of humanizing the Soviet troops, moving beyond statistics and military movements to detail the lived experiences of those on the ground. The hardships endured by the "Afgantsy" were not only physical but psychological, shaped by the landscape and the nature of the conflict.

Harsh Terrain and Guerrilla Warfare

Afghanistan's mountainous terrain and extreme climate conditions posed enormous challenges. Soviet troops were unprepared for the guerrilla tactics employed by the Mujahideen, who had intimate knowledge of the local geography. Braithwaite describes how this asymmetrical warfare led to significant Soviet casualties and frustration among soldiers and commanders alike.

Morale and Mental Health

The war took a serious toll on the mental health of the Afgantsy. Isolation, constant danger, and unclear political objectives contributed to a sense of disillusionment. Braithwaite's interviews with veterans reveal stories of post-traumatic stress, difficulties reintegrating into Soviet society, and the stigma many faced upon returning from what was officially termed a "limited contingent."

Rodric Braithwaite's Approach to Telling the Afgantsy Story

What sets Braithwaite's work apart is his combination of rigorous historical research and empathy for the individuals involved. His background as a diplomat and scholar allows him to analyze both the strategic failures and the personal narratives of the soldiers.

Access to Unique Sources

Braithwaite had access to Soviet archives and conducted extensive interviews with veterans, policymakers, and historians. This comprehensive approach lends *Afgantsy* authenticity and depth, capturing a wide spectrum of perspectives.

Balancing Military History with Human Stories

Rather than focusing solely on the military campaigns or political repercussions, Braithwaite interweaves the broader historical context with intimate accounts from soldiers and civilians. This storytelling technique helps readers grasp the complexity of the Soviet-Afghan War on multiple levels.

The Impact of the Afghan War on Soviet Society and Politics

The presence of the Afgantsy in Afghanistan had profound repercussions beyond the battlefield. Braithwaite's work explores how the war influenced Soviet society, politics, and ultimately contributed to the unraveling of the USSR.

Public Perception and Media Control

Unlike the Vietnam War in the United States, the Soviet government tightly controlled information about the Afghan conflict. Braithwaite explains how this censorship created a disconnect between the veterans' grim experiences and the sanitized reports presented to the Soviet public, fostering mistrust and resentment.

Political Consequences and the Fall of the Soviet Union

The costly and protracted war drained Soviet resources and morale. Braithwaite argues that the Afghan conflict exposed the weaknesses of the Soviet system, accelerating political reforms like Glasnost and Perestroika under Mikhail Gorbachev. The Afgantsy, returning home disillusioned and often neglected, symbolized the broader struggles facing the Soviet Union in its final years.

Lessons from the Soviet-Afghan War: Reflections from Afgantsy

Beyond recounting history, *Afgantsy* provides valuable lessons on military intervention, the limits of superpower influence, and the human cost of war.

The Complexity of Foreign Intervention

Braithwaite's analysis underscores how external powers often underestimate local dynamics and the resilience of indigenous resistance. The Soviet experience in Afghanistan is a cautionary tale about the challenges of imposing political systems through military force.

The Importance of Veterans' Voices

By highlighting the stories of individual soldiers, Braithwaite reminds us of the importance of understanding war's human dimension. Recognizing the sacrifices and struggles of veterans like the *Afgantsy* can foster empathy and inform more humane policies toward those affected by conflict.

Why Rodric Braithwaite's *Afgantsy* Remains Relevant Today

Decades after the Soviet withdrawal in 1989, *Afgantsy* continues to resonate with historians, policymakers, and readers worldwide. Its lessons echo in contemporary conflicts, especially in regions where foreign interventions encounter complex local realities.

Connecting Past and Present Conflicts

The Soviet experience in Afghanistan has often been compared to the United States' involvement in the region decades later. Braithwaite's insights help us understand recurring themes such as guerrilla warfare, the limits of military technology, and the difficulty of nation-building efforts.

Preserving Historical Memory

For many Russians and Afghans alike, the war remains a painful chapter. *Afgantsy* plays a crucial role in preserving the memory of those who fought

and suffered, contributing to a more nuanced and honest historical narrative.

Exploring *afgantsy the russians in afghanistan 1979 1989 rodric braithwaite* offers a window into a conflict that shaped the late 20th century in profound ways. Through Braithwaite's compassionate and meticulous account, readers gain a deeper appreciation of the geopolitical complexities, the human cost of war, and the enduring legacy of the Soviet-Afghan War. Whether you are a history enthusiast, student, or simply curious about Cold War dynamics, *Afgantsy* is an essential work that illuminates a pivotal era through the voices of those who lived it.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is Rodric Braithwaite and what is his connection to 'Afgantsy: The Russians in Afghanistan 1979-1989'?

Rodric Braithwaite is a British diplomat and author who wrote 'Afgantsy: The Russians in Afghanistan 1979-1989,' a detailed account of the Soviet Union's involvement in the Afghan War based on extensive research and interviews.

What is the main focus of 'Afgantsy: The Russians in Afghanistan 1979-1989' by Rodric Braithwaite?

The book focuses on the Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan from 1979 to 1989, exploring the experiences of Soviet soldiers (Afgantsy), the political context, and the impact of the war on both Afghanistan and the Soviet Union.

How does Rodric Braithwaite's 'Afgantsy' contribute to our understanding of the Soviet-Afghan War?

Braithwaite's 'Afgantsy' provides an in-depth and nuanced perspective by incorporating firsthand accounts from Soviet veterans, revealing the complexity of the conflict and the human dimension often overlooked in Cold War narratives.

What sources did Rodric Braithwaite use to write 'Afgantsy: The Russians in Afghanistan 1979-1989'?

Braithwaite used a combination of archival research, official Soviet documents, interviews with former Soviet soldiers and commanders, and other firsthand testimonies to create a comprehensive history of the war.

What are some key themes explored in 'Afgantsy: The Russians in Afghanistan 1979-1989'?

Key themes include the challenges faced by Soviet troops, the political motivations behind the invasion, the impact on Soviet society, the nature of guerrilla warfare in Afghanistan, and the eventual withdrawal of Soviet forces.

Why is 'Afgantsy: The Russians in Afghanistan 1979-1989' considered an important work on the Soviet-Afghan War?

It is considered important because it offers a detailed and balanced account from the Soviet perspective, shedding light on a conflict that significantly influenced the end of the Cold War and the history of both Afghanistan and the Soviet Union.

Additional Resources

****Afgantsy: The Russians in Afghanistan 1979-1989 by Rodric Braithwaite – A Critical Examination****

afgantsy the russians in afghanistan 1979 1989 rodric braithwaite serves as a pivotal title for understanding the complex Soviet engagement in Afghanistan during a decade marked by conflict, ideological confrontation, and profound geopolitical shifts. Rodric Braithwaite's comprehensive work sheds light on the multifaceted nature of the Soviet-Afghan War, offering a nuanced perspective on the motivations, experiences, and consequences for the Soviet soldiers—commonly referred to as “afgantsy”—who were deployed during this turbulent period.

The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979 initiated one of the Cold War's most protracted and controversial conflicts. Braithwaite's analysis plays a crucial role in dissecting the military, political, and social dimensions of the war. His book stands apart as a detailed chronicle that combines official accounts with personal testimonies, making it an indispensable resource for historians, political analysts, and anyone seeking to understand the Soviet Union's Afghan campaign from the inside out.

The Soviet-Afghan War Through Braithwaite's Lens

Rodric Braithwaite's "Afgantsy" offers an intricate exploration of the war's origins, progression, and aftermath. His investigative approach emphasizes the Soviet perspective, often overshadowed by Western narratives that focus

primarily on Afghan mujahideen fighters or American involvement.

Braithwaite delves into the strategic rationale behind the Soviet decision to intervene in Afghanistan. The USSR sought to bolster a faltering communist government in Kabul, aiming to preserve a vital sphere of influence near its southern borders. However, what began as a swift military operation quickly evolved into a grueling quagmire. The book meticulously documents how the Soviet troops, or afgantsy, found themselves entangled in a guerrilla war, grappling with unfamiliar terrain, hostile local populations, and the ideological fervor of their adversaries.

The Experience of the Afgantsy: Soldiers on the Frontline

Central to Braithwaite's narrative is the human dimension of the Soviet intervention—the lived experiences of the afgantsy. Unlike many Cold War conflicts documented primarily from strategic or political viewpoints, Braithwaite foregrounds the soldiers' stories, highlighting their motivations, fears, and the psychological toll of protracted warfare.

The afgantsy were often young conscripts, thrust into an alien environment far from home. The dissonance between ideological propaganda and battlefield realities becomes a recurring theme. Braithwaite uses first-hand accounts and interviews to reveal how initial confidence gave way to disillusionment as casualties mounted and victory seemed increasingly elusive.

This focus on the soldiers' perspective enriches the understanding of the war's complexity. It underscores the fact that the Soviet military effort was not a monolithic or purely political endeavor but a human saga marked by courage, hardship, and tragedy.

Political Context and International Implications

Braithwaite situates the Soviet invasion within the broader Cold War context, illustrating its impact on international relations. The Soviet presence in Afghanistan exacerbated tensions with the United States, which responded by supporting Afghan resistance groups covertly. This proxy dynamic fueled the conflict and intensified the global stakes.

Moreover, the book addresses the internal Soviet political calculations and the eventual erosion of morale within the Communist Party leadership. The growing unpopularity of the war among Soviet citizens, coupled with the mounting economic and military costs, contributed to a reassessment of foreign policy that ultimately culminated in the withdrawal of Soviet forces in 1989.

Key Themes and Analytical Insights

Rodric Braithwaite's "Afgantsy" explores several interrelated themes that provide a comprehensive understanding of the Soviet experience in Afghanistan:

- **Military Strategy and Tactics:** The book examines the Soviet military doctrine's limitations when applied to asymmetric warfare against guerrilla fighters adept at exploiting Afghanistan's rugged geography.
- **Psychological and Social Impact on Soldiers:** Braithwaite analyzes the mental strain and social consequences for returning veterans, many of whom faced stigma and neglect after their service.
- **Geopolitical Ramifications:** The conflict's role in the eventual dissolution of the Soviet Union is addressed, suggesting that Afghanistan was a significant factor in accelerating internal Soviet decline.
- **Historical Revisionism:** By incorporating Soviet-era archival materials and personal testimonies, the book challenges earlier Western-centric interpretations and promotes a more balanced historical narrative.

Comparative Perspectives: Soviet vs. Western Narratives

One of the strengths of Braithwaite's work lies in its ability to juxtapose Soviet accounts of the war with Western analyses. While many Western sources frame the conflict as a Cold War proxy battle highlighting American support for the mujahideen, "Afgantsy" provides an insider's view of Soviet political and military thinking.

This comparative perspective reveals both convergences and divergences in how the war is remembered. For example, Western narratives often emphasize the Soviet Union as an aggressor, whereas Braithwaite's research highlights the Soviet leadership's perception of intervention as a defensive necessity to stabilize a neighboring regime.

The Legacy of the Afgantsy in Post-Soviet Russia

The aftermath of the Soviet withdrawal left a complex legacy for the afgantsy in Russia. Braithwaite explores how veterans struggled with reintegration, facing physical injuries, psychological trauma, and social marginalization.

The war's shadow influenced Russian military doctrine and public attitudes toward foreign interventions for decades.

In addition, the afgantsy phenomenon has permeated Russian culture, literature, and political discourse. The war became a reference point for debates on patriotism, military service, and the costs of geopolitical ambition. Braithwaite's work captures these nuances, underscoring the enduring significance of the Soviet-Afghan War beyond its immediate historical timeframe.

Why "Afgantsy" Remains Relevant Today

Rodric Braithwaite's detailed and balanced account of the Soviet-Afghan War resonates with contemporary readers interested in military history, international relations, and post-Cold War studies. The book's insights into the challenges of foreign military occupation, the limits of superpower intervention, and the human costs of ideological conflicts continue to inform modern analyses of global conflicts.

Furthermore, the term "afgantsy" itself has entered the lexicon as a symbol of complicated military legacies, reminding policymakers and scholars of the importance of understanding historical context when assessing current and future engagements.

In an era where Afghanistan remains a focal point of international attention, revisiting the Soviet experience through Braithwaite's lens offers valuable lessons on the interplay between military ambition, political will, and human resilience.

Rodric Braithwaite's "Afgantsy the Russians in Afghanistan 1979-1989" stands as a seminal work that combines meticulous research with empathetic storytelling. It not only chronicles a pivotal chapter in Cold War history but also humanizes the war's participants, providing a layered understanding of a conflict that shaped the late twentieth century. The book's enduring impact lies in its ability to bridge historical scholarship and personal narrative, offering readers a comprehensive and insightful perspective on the Soviet experience in Afghanistan.

[Afgantsy The Russians In Afghanistan 1979 1989 Rodric Braithwaite](#)

afgantsy the russians in afghanistan 1979 1989 rodric braithwaite: Afgantsy Rodric Braithwaite, 2011-09-06 A timely and eye-opening account of the Soviet War in Afghanistan

(1979-89), from the high politics of the Kremlin to the lonely Russian conscripts in remote mountain outposts

afgantsy the russians in afghanistan 1979 1989 rodric braithwaite: *Afgantsy* Rodric Braithwaite, 2011-09-06 The story of the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan is well known: the expansionist Communists overwhelmed a poor country as a means of reaching a warm-water port on the Persian Gulf. Afghan mujahideen upset their plans, holding on with little more than natural fighting skills, until CIA agents came to the rescue with American arms. Humiliated in battle, the Soviets hastily retreated. It is a great story-but it never happened. In this brilliant, myth-busting account, Rodric Braithwaite, the former British ambassador to Moscow, challenges much of what we know about the Soviets in Afghanistan. He provides an inside look at this little-understood episode, using first-hand accounts and piercing analysis to show the war as it was fought and experienced by the Russians. The invasion was a defensive response to a chaotic situation in the Soviets' immediate neighbor. They intended to establish a stable, friendly government, secure the major towns, and train the police and armed forces before making a rapid exit. But the mission escalated, as did casualties. Braithwaite does not paint the occupation as a Russian triumph. To the contrary, he illustrates the searing effect of the brutal conflict on soldiers, their families, and the broader public, as returning veterans struggled to regain their footing back home. Now available in paperback, Braithwaite carries readers through these complex and momentous events, capturing those violent and tragic days as no one has done before.

afgantsy the russians in afghanistan 1979 1989 rodric braithwaite: *At the End of Military Intervention* Robert Johnson, Timothy Clack, 2015 Written by leading scholars and practitioners, this is the first book to explore the specifics of what happens at the end of military intervention. It draws upon a wide range of post-1945 examples from a variety of regions and periods, providing a foundational source on what forms a crucial element of past and present interventions.

afgantsy the russians in afghanistan 1979 1989 rodric braithwaite: *The Secret War in Afghanistan* Panagiotis Dimitrakis, 2013-06-30 The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, in support of a Marxist-Leninist government, and the subsequent nine-year conflict with the indigenous Afghan Mujahideen was one of the bloodiest conflicts of the Cold War. Key details of the circumstances surrounding the invasion and its ultimate conclusion only months before the fall of the Berlin Wall in November 1989 have long remained unclear; it is a confidential narrative of clandestine correspondence, covert operations and failed intelligence. The Secret War in Afghanistan undertakes a full analysis of recently declassified intelligence archives in order to assess Anglo-American secret intelligence and diplomacy relating to the invasion of Afghanistan and unveil the Cold War realities behind the rhetoric. Rooted at every turn in close examination of the primary evidence, it outlines the secret operations of the CIA, MI6 and the KGB, and the full extent of the aid and intelligence from the West which armed and trained the Afghan fighters. Drawing from US, UK and Russian archives, Panagiotis Dimitrakis analyses the Chinese arms deals with the CIA, the multiple recorded intelligence failures of KGB intelligence and secret letters from the office of Margaret Thatcher to Jimmy Carter. In so doing, this study brings a new scholarly perspective to some of the most controversial events of Cold War history. Dimitrakis also outlines the full extent of China's involvement in arming the Mujahideen, which led to the PRC effectively fighting the Soviet Union by proxy. This will be essential reading for scholars and students of the Cold War, American History and the Modern Middle East.

afgantsy the russians in afghanistan 1979 1989 rodric braithwaite: *A Long Goodbye* Artemy M. Kalinovsky, 2011-05-16 Why did the USSR linger so long in Afghanistan? What makes this account of the Soviet-Afghan conflict both timely and important is its focus on the factors that prevented the Soviet leadership from ending a demoralizing and costly war and on the long-term consequences for the Soviet Union and the region.

afgantsy the russians in afghanistan 1979 1989 rodric braithwaite: *Putin's Kleptocracy* Karen Dawisha, 2014-09-30 The raging question in the world today is who is the real Vladimir Putin and what are his intentions. Karen Dawisha's brilliant *Putin's Kleptocracy* provides an answer,

describing how Putin got to power, the cabal he brought with him, the billions they have looted, and his plan to restore the Greater Russia. Russian scholar Dawisha describes and exposes the origins of Putin's kleptocratic regime. She presents extensive new evidence about the Putin circle's use of public positions for personal gain even before Putin became president in 2000. She documents the establishment of Bank Rossiya, now sanctioned by the US; the rise of the Ozero cooperative, founded by Putin and others who are now subject to visa bans and asset freezes; the links between Putin, Petromed, and "Putin's Palace" near Sochi; and the role of security officials from Putin's KGB days in Leningrad and Dresden, many of whom have maintained their contacts with Russian organized crime. Putin's Kleptocracy is the result of years of research into the KGB and the various Russian crime syndicates. Dawisha's sources include Stasi archives; Russian insiders; investigative journalists in the US, Britain, Germany, Finland, France, and Italy; and Western officials who served in Moscow. Russian journalists wrote part of this story when the Russian media was still free. "Many of them died for this story, and their work has largely been scrubbed from the Internet, and even from Russian libraries," Dawisha says. "But some of that work remains."

afgantsy the russians in afghanistan 1979 1989 rodric braithwaite: World of War William Nester, 2024-01-16 World of War is an epic journey through America's array of wars for diverse reasons with diverse results over the course of its existence. It reveals the crucial effects of brilliant, mediocre, and dismal military and civilian leaders; the dynamic among America's expanding economic power, changing technologies, and the types and settings of its wars; and the human, financial, and moral costs to the nation, its allies, and its enemies. Nester explores the violent conflicts of the United States—on land, at sea, and in the air—with meticulous scholarship, thought-provoking analysis, and vivid prose.

afgantsy the russians in afghanistan 1979 1989 rodric braithwaite: *The Russian-Ukrainian Conflict and War Crimes* Patrycja Grzebyk, Dominika Uczkiewicz, 2024-10-07 This book offers a multidisciplinary examination of the international crimes committed in the Russia-Ukraine War, and the challenges of their prosecution and documentation. As the largest international armed conflict in Europe since World War II, Russia's war against Ukraine has provoked strong reactions and questions about the post-1945 world order, the utility of the war, and the effectiveness of international criminal justice. Throughout the chapters in this volume, scholars and legal practitioners from Canada, Germany, Poland, Ukraine, the UK, and the United States present the results of interdisciplinary research, insights from the perspective of other post-communist states, and first-hand expertise from directly working on the documentation and prosecution of these crimes. This offers a broader picture of post-Cold War relations and sheds light on the roots and nature of the war and the importance of regional approaches. The chapters also present some possible responses to the crimes committed in the conflict, with a focus on a victims-centered approach to transitional justice. This volume will be of interest to scholars and students of international criminal and humanitarian law, security studies, peace and conflict studies, and Eastern European history.

afgantsy the russians in afghanistan 1979 1989 rodric braithwaite: The Central Asia-Afghanistan Relationship Marlene Laruelle, 2017-08-14 Central Asia is a relatively understudied neighbor of Afghanistan. The region is often placed into a number of historical and political contexts—a section of the Silk Road, a pawn in the "Great Game," the "spillover" state that exemplifies the failure of US foreign policy—that limit scholarly understanding. This edited volume contributes by providing a broad, long-term analysis of the Central Asia-Afghanistan relationship over the last several decades. It addresses the legacy of Soviet intervention with a unique first-hand selection of interviews of former Soviet Central Asian soldiers that fought in the Soviet-Afghan War. It examines Afghanistan's northern neighbors, discussing Russia, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan—their strategy for Afghanistan, their perception of challenges and opportunities of the country, and patterns of cooperation and conflict. The collection also looks at recent US strategic initiatives in the region, in particular the New Silk Road Initiative that envisions a growing Central Asia-South Asia connection.

afgantsy the russians in afghanistan 1979 1989 rodric braithwaite: The Roots and Consequences of 20th-Century Warfare Spencer C. Tucker, 2016-09-06 This unique reference book introduces readers to the causes and effects of the 20th century's most significant conflicts—and explains how the impact of these conflicts still resonates today. *The Roots and Consequences of 20th-Century Warfare: Conflicts That Shaped the Modern World* introduces students to the causes and effects of the 20th century's most significant conflicts. Covering conflicts that occurred in all regions of the world, readers will gain knowledge on the causes and consequences of each conflict and become familiar with the historical context needed to understand the roots and consequences of these seminal events. The text also identifies key opponents in each conflict and illuminates the reasons why each country or group decided to fight, the scope of their involvement in the war, and the impact of the war. Reference entries on key battles are presented in chronological order, supplying engaging details on the events and people who shaped each war. The book also supplies maps of the key battles to illuminate the strategic movements of both sides of the conflict. A lengthy bibliography offers a wealth of options to readers seeking more sources of information on any of the conflicts.

afgantsy the russians in afghanistan 1979 1989 rodric braithwaite: Spetsnaz Tor Bukkvoll, 2024-12-12 In January 1951, Lieutenant Evgeniy Borisov was sent to the headquarters of the Soviet 5th Army in Spassk-Dalnii, a small city in the Russian Far East. Borisov was there on a secret mission. Together with his superior, Major Rusinov, his job was to establish the 91st Special Forces Company. The 91st was to be one of forty-six similar units spread out across the Soviet Union. The new forces were called “spetsnaz”—short for spetsialnoe naznachenie, which translates to “special purpose.” In *Spetsnaz*, Tor Bukkvoll presents the first in-depth history of the Soviet and, later, Russian special operations forces from their establishment until today. He focuses on three broad topics: Soviet and later Russian thinking on the use of special operations forces; the actual process of constructing these forces and how this was facilitated or hampered by other agencies of the Soviet and Russian states; and the use of these forces in combat. Bukkvoll uses a variety of sources, but the most important are the recollections of former spetsnaz soldiers and officers themselves, which allow an understanding of the history of these forces as the men of spetsnaz see and have seen it. Bukkvoll also draws upon observations and judgments from other parts of the Soviet and Russian militaries, from a number of KGB sources, and from independent Russian experts and journalists. *Spetsnaz* is essential reading for anyone interested in special operations forces or Russian military history.

afgantsy the russians in afghanistan 1979 1989 rodric braithwaite: Unhumans Jack Posobiec, Joshua Lisec, 2024-07-09 NEW YORK TIMES, USA TODAY, and PUBLISHERS WEEKLY NATIONAL BESTSELLER If you don't understand communist revolutions, you aren't ready for what's coming. The old rules are over. The old order is over. Accusations are evidence. Activism means bigotry and hate. Criminals are allowed to roam free. Citizens are locked up. An appetite for vengeance is unleashed—to deplatform, debank, destroy. This is the daily news, yet none of it's new. Patterns from the past make sense of our present. They also foretell a terrifying future we might be condemned to endure. For nearly 250 years, far-left uprisings have followed the same battle plans—from the first call for change to last innocent executed, from denial a revolution is even happening to declaration of the new order. *Unhumans* takes readers on a shocking, sweeping, and succinct journey through history to share the untold stories of radical takeovers that textbooks don't teach. And there is one conclusion: We're in a new revolution right now. But this is not a book about ideology or politics. *Unhumans* reveals that communism, socialism, Marxism, and all other radical-isms are not philosophies but tactics—tactics that are specifically designed to unleash terror on everyday people and revoke their human rights to life, liberty, and property. These are the forces of unhumanity. This is what they do. Every. Single. Time. *Unhumans* steals their playbook, breaks apart their strategies piece by piece, and lays out the tactics of what it takes to fight back—and win, using real-world examples. *Unhumans* is an essential read for every concerned citizen both in the US and worldwide. We must stop what is coming.

afgantsy the russians in afghanistan 1979 1989 rodric braithwaite: The Powell Doctrine and US Foreign Policy Luke Middup, 2016-03-03 The Vietnam War is one of the longest and most controversial in US history. This book seeks to explore what lessons the US military took from that conflict as to how and when it was appropriate for the United States to use the enormous military force at its disposal and how these lessons have come to influence and shape US foreign policy in subsequent decades. In particular this book will focus on the evolution of the so called 'Powell Doctrine' and the intellectual climate that lead to it. The book will do this by examining a series of case studies from the mid-1970s to the present war in Afghanistan.

afgantsy the russians in afghanistan 1979 1989 rodric braithwaite: Russia at War Timothy C. Dowling, 2014-12-02 This easy-to-use reference explores the people and events that shaped Russian military history—and impacted Europe, Asia, and the world—over the past eight centuries. Russian military history is an often-overlooked field. Yet Russia is and has long been an important player in global politics, and its military exploits have been central to its role on the world stage. This study of Russia's military past provides insights into European and U.S. history, including the conduct of the two World Wars and the Cold War, and will help readers better appreciate the current geopolitical situation. This work covers major events and figures in Russian military history from the end of Mongol domination in the 14th century to the present day. More than 650 entries by scores of expert contributors detail events, individuals, organizations, and ideas that have influenced Russian warfare over 800 years. Two alphabetically arranged volumes explore such conflicts as the Russo-Polish Wars, the Great Northern War, the Russo-Turkish Wars, the Napoleonic Wars, the Crimean War, the Russo-Japanese War, World War I, World War II, and the Cold War, including the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. Cross references and further readings in each entry serve as jumping-off points for further exploration.

afgantsy the russians in afghanistan 1979 1989 rodric braithwaite: The Bleeding Wound Yaacov Ro'i, 2022-03-15 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.

afgantsy the russians in afghanistan 1979 1989 rodric braithwaite: Afghan Napoleon Sandy Gall, 2021-09-07 The first biography in a decade of Afghan resistance leader Ahmad Shah Massoud. When the Soviets invaded Afghanistan in 1979, the forces of resistance were disparate. Many groups were caught up in fighting each other and competing for Western arms. The exception were those commanded by Ahmad Shah Massoud, the military strategist and political operator who solidified the resistance and undermined the Russian occupation, leading resistance members to a series of defensive victories. Sandy Gall followed Massoud during Soviet incursions and reported on the war in Afghanistan, and he draws on this first-hand experience in his biography of this charismatic guerrilla commander. Afghan Napoleon includes excerpts from the surviving volumes of Massoud's prolific diaries—many translated into English for the first time—which detail crucial moments in his personal life and during his time in the resistance. Born into a liberalizing Afghanistan in the 1960s, Massoud ardently opposed communism, and he rose to prominence by coordinating the defense of the Panjsher Valley against Soviet offensives. Despite being

under-equipped and outnumbered, he orchestrated a series of victories over the Russians. Massoud's assassination in 2001, just two days before the attack on the Twin Towers, is believed to have been ordered by Osama bin Laden. Despite the ultimate frustration of Massoud's attempts to build political consensus, he is recognized today as a national hero.

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