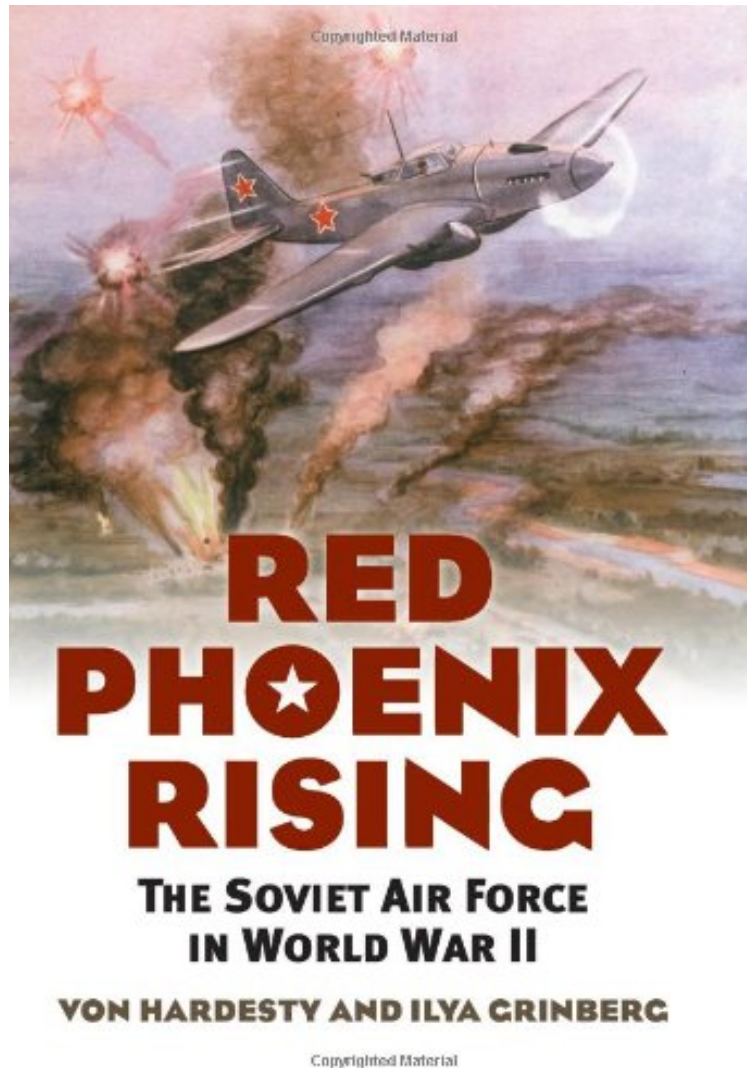


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## Red Phoenix Rising: The Soviet Air Force in World War II (Modern War Studies (Hardcover))

*Von Hardesty, Ilya Grinberg*  
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**Von Hardesty, Ilya Grinberg : Red Phoenix Rising: The Soviet Air Force in World War II (Modern War Studies (Hardcover))** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Red Phoenix Rising: The Soviet Air Force in World War II (Modern War Studies (Hardcover)):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Not All ThereBy Kulamata"Red Phoenix Rising" covers a topic that has had surprisingly little coverage earlier. It's an intrinsically interesting topic, so the lack of good histories of the

Soviet air force in The Great Patriotic War was significant. As others have noted, there is almost no information about the airplanes at all. The technological journey from the biplanes still in use during the first months of the war to weapons that were comparable to the later German propeller-driven airplanes would have been a very interesting story. Military aviation is a strongly technologically driven field, with rapid advances during this period in areas ranging from fuel and metallurgy to airframe and engine design and armament. Soviet success would not have been possible without advances in all these areas. In response to the great losses early in the war, airplane production and pilot training were expanded enormously; I would have liked more coverage of both, as well as more information on the design bureaus. It is an important history, and should be read by anyone interested in the topic. It does do well what it set out to do, within its limitations. As a book, it's good, not great. There are enough maps to be really helpful, and the appendices are very good as is the index. Unfortunately, a good copy editor would have been helpful. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Russian Air Force info. By Charles Race Good info concerning the Russian Air Forces of WW1. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good overview of how the VVS recovered from its horrendous ... By M Francisco Palomo Good overview of how the VVS recovered from its horrendous losses in 1941 to ultimately defeat the Luftwaffe and gain air superiority on the Eastern front by 1944.

A groundbreaking account of the Soviet Air Force in World War II, the original version of this book, *Red Phoenix*, was hailed by the *Washington Post* as both "brilliant" and "monumental." That version has now been completely overhauled in the wake of an avalanche of declassified Russian archival sources, combat documents, and statistical information made available in the past three decades. The result, *Red Phoenix Rising*, is nothing less than definitive. The saga of the Soviet air force, one of the least chronicled aspects of the war, marked a transition from near annihilation in 1941 to the world's largest operational-tactical air force four years later. Von Hardesty and Ilya Grinberg reveal the dynamic changes in tactics and operational art that allowed the VVS to bring about that remarkable transformation. Drawing upon a wider array of primary sources, well beyond the uncritical and ultra-patriotic Soviet memoirs underpinning the original version, this volume corrects, updates, and amplifies its predecessor. In the process, it challenges many "official" accounts and revises misconceptions promoted by scholars who relied heavily on German sources, thus enlarging our understanding of the brutal campaigns fought on the Eastern Front. The authors describe the air campaigns as they unfolded, with full chapters devoted to the monumental victories at Moscow, Stalingrad, and Kursk. By combining the deeply affecting human drama of pilots, relentlessly confronted by lethal threats in the air and on the ground, with a rich technical understanding of complex military machines, they have produced a fast-paced, riveting look at the air war on the Eastern Front as it has never been seen before. They also address dilemmas faced by the Soviet Air Force in the immediate postwar era as it moved to adopt the new technology of long-range bombers, jet propulsion and nuclear arms. Drawing heavily upon individual accounts down to the unit level, Hardesty and Grinberg greatly enhance our understanding of their story's human dimension, while the book's more than 100 photos, many never before seen in the West, vividly portray the high stakes and hardware of this dramatic tale. In sum, this is the definitive one-volume account of a vital but still underserved dimension of the war—surpassing its predecessor so decisively that no fan of that earlier work can afford to miss it.

"Red Phoenix was in a class of its own when it was first published but limited by what could be known from Soviet sources. This new edition of a classic can now tell the story in full. For anyone who wants to know what contribution the Soviet Air Force made to the grueling victory over Axis forces on the Eastern Front there is no better guide."—Richard Overy, author of *The Air War, 1939–1945* "An impressive and long-awaited work that goes a long way towards filling one of the last major gaps in the historiography of the 1939–1945 air war. It should dominate the field for decades."—Richard R. Muller, author of *The German Air War in Russia* "An important addition to the World War II historiography, *Red Phoenix Rising* helps scholars and laymen better understand the nature of the war in the East, the Soviet order of battle, and the progression of the campaigns."—H-Net sAbout the Author Von Hardesty is Curator of the Aeronautics Division at the Smithsonian Institution National Air and Space Museum. Ilya Grinberg is a professor in the Department of Technology at the State University of New York College at Buffalo.