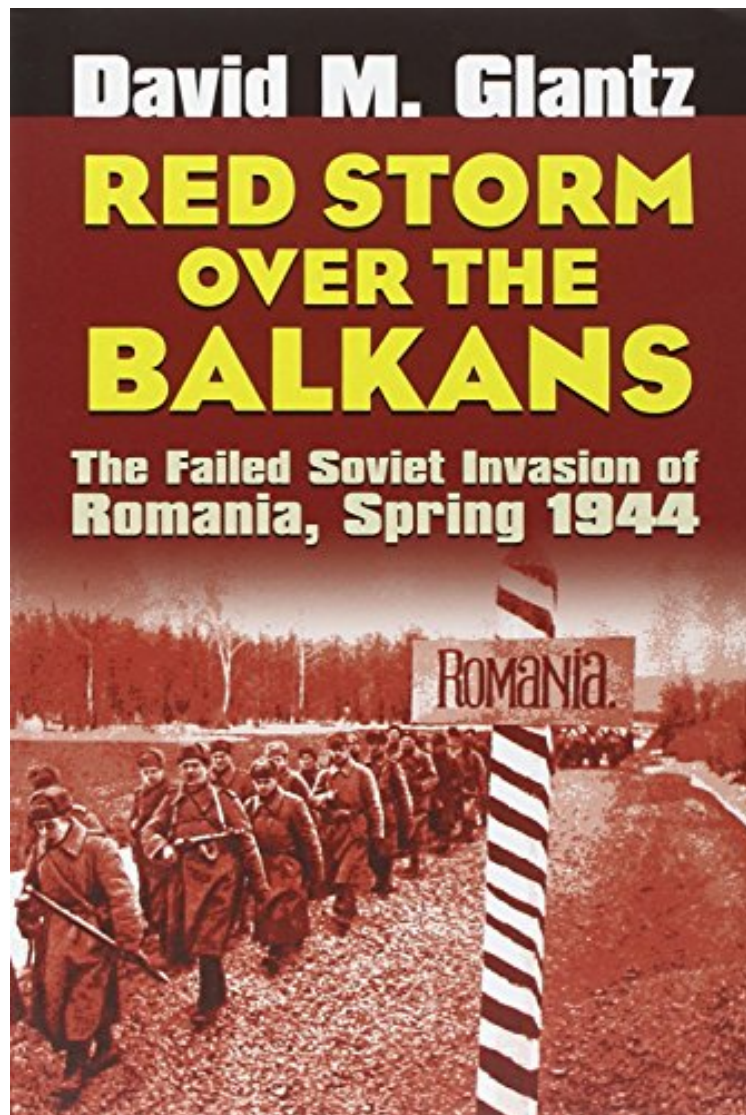


(Mobile ebook) Red Storm over the Balkans: The Failed Soviet Invasion of Romania, Spring 1944 (Modern War Studies)

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David M. Glantz

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David M. Glantz : Red Storm over the Balkans: The Failed Soviet Invasion of Romania, Spring 1944 (Modern War Studies) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Red Storm over the Balkans: The Failed Soviet Invasion of Romania, Spring 1944 (Modern War Studies):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Another Case of Soviet Historical Omission Unveiled By R. A

Forczyk In *Red Storm over the Balkans* (2007), renowned East Front historian David M. Glantz sheds valuable light on the heretofore virtually unknown Soviet offensives into northern Romania in April-June 1944. For decades now, Mr. Glantz has been unearthing important new historical details from Soviet-era archives and bringing new perspectives to our understanding of the Russo-German conflict; this book adds to that contribution. As with many of Mr. Glantz's books, *Red Storm over the Balkans* is written for those with a deep interest in military history, not casual readers unfamiliar with the War in the East. Readers expecting an American Sniper-style first person account should turn to Stephen Ambrose or others of his ilk (I only include this remark because a fair number of readers seem to be shocked when military history does not read like a film script). I opened this book with some unease since some of the author's recent books have not been as well organized as his earlier works, but was surprised to see that this is one of the best books he has produced since it is tightly focused on a relatively small battle area. Overall, *Red Storm over the Balkans* is a valuable addition to any East Front library. *Red Storm over the Balkans* consists of nine chapters, arranged chronologically. The book includes ten tables, including orders of battle for the periods between 1 April and 1 June 1944, as well as 32 maps. The first two chapters deal with the campaign in the Ukraine during December 1943 – April 1944 and Soviet planning in regard to the invasion of Romania. The Soviet invasion was spearheaded by Ivan Konev's 2nd Ukrainian Front and Rodion Malinovsky's 3rd Ukrainian Front, against the German 6th and 8th Armies. In essence, the Germans were defeated in the Ukraine and fell back across the Dniester River into Romania; the Soviets hoped to bounce the river and capture Romania before the Axis could establish a new frontline. However, the German-Romanian forces were able to mount a surprisingly strong defense around the obscure town of Tirgu Fromos in northern Romania. Konev's offensive was stopped cold in April 1944 and Malinovsky achieved little, which brought the Soviet advance to a temporary halt. The author does a great job laying out the operations of both sides and there is great drama in watching the German defensive success against the odds. Eventually, the Soviets brought up more forces and overwhelmed the Axis defense by June 1944, which ended up knocking Romania out of the Axis camp, but the initial setbacks were so humiliating that Soviet post-war historians obliterated this entire campaign from their version of the Great Patriotic War. *Red Storm over the Balkans* offers an insightful look at an important campaign that was deliberately concealed by decades of Soviet white-washing. Thanks to Mr. Glantz's dogged and erudite research, we can now see the significance of this campaign which helps us to better interpret the events of 1944 on the Eastern Front. Overall, *Red Storm over the Balkans* is a solid, insightful and rewarding piece of military historical writing.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Another Glantz's masterpiece about a little known WWII battle

By Carrosio Roberto Who knows David Glantz, knows already which kind of marvellous books, he is getting used to write, for who doesn't know him, I can say that this book is a complete research book based on both sides of the story, absolutely fully documented and based on first hand accounts. The story is about the failed Soviet invasion of Romania (and of the Balkans) on Spring 1944. The Soviets were coming after 9 months of continuous successful offensives (after the battle of Kursk) and they were thinking to be unstoppable, so the Stavka chose the 2nd and the 3rd Ukrainian Fronts to invade Romania and after, all the Balkans. Instead, they failed with huge losses. As usual, the history is written by the winners and this offensive has been cancelled in the "official history", and as usual, David Glantz, using a lot of unknown diaries and documents, reconstruct the real development of the actions of both sides, writing another page of true deep history. Wonderful!

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. I expected a better book

By F. Carol Sabin Definitely this is not one of the best book of Glantz. There are several reasons for this failure. At first glance the title is somehow deceiving ("Red storm over Balkans"), but we recovered when reading the subtitle ("the failed soviet invasion of Romania"). Since The Balkans countries are those territories south of Danube, the correct title, according to the content, should be the subtitle. Despite the claim of being a "forgotten battle", the truth is far from that, the battles discussed were well known, for example, in Romania. After a short introduction the author focused in the next chapters on different battles and encounters between Soviet and German/Romanian forces in Romania during april-may-june 1944 (including the then province of Moldova). Speaking about romanian forces, apart from quoting Axworthy's book, the readers will not find any other romanian books to serve as documentation. Too bad for Glantz who is well known for his scrupulous research and from different sources. The russian offensives and german/romanian defence operations are well described, but we deal a lot with a huge details about units/subunits or long tables. As usual we can find a lot of photos with soviet troops/commanders, probably this is price for researching freely the russian archives. Concerning the maps they are satisfactory and help orient the reader about different locations depicted in the book. If you jump to the conclusions - which are good - you can save some time. Otherwise your patience is tested, the text being at the upper part of not being readable.

Germany's Eastern Front in World War II saw many campaigns and battles that have been "forgotten" by a Soviet Union that tried to hide its military failures. The Red Army's invasion of Romania in April and May 1944 was one such campaign, which produced nearly 200,000 casualties and tarnished the reputations of its commanders. The redoubtable David Glantz, the world's leading authority on the Soviet military in World War II, now restores this tale to its proper place in the annals of World War II. Working from newly available Russian and long-neglected German archives—plus Red Army unit histories and commanders' memoirs—Glantz reconstructs an imposing mosaic that

reveals the immense scope and ambitious intent of the first Iasi-Kishinev offensive. His re-creation shows that Stalin was not as preoccupied with a direct route to Berlin as he was with a "broad front" strategy designed to gain territory and find vulnerable points in Germany's extended lines of defense. If successful, the invasion would have also eliminated Romania as Germany's ally, cut off the vital Ploiesti oilfields, and provided a base from which to consolidate Soviet power throughout the Balkans. Glantz traces the 2nd Ukrainian Front's offensive along the Tirgu-Frumos, Iasi, and Dneestr River axes and the 3rd Ukrainian Front's simultaneous advance to the Dneestr River and dramatic struggle to seize bridgeheads across the river and capture Kishinev. He discloses General Ivan Konev's strategic plan as the 2nd Ukrainian Front prepared its Iasi offensive and fought a climactic battle with the German Eighth Army and its Romanian allies in the Tirgu-Frumos region in early May, then the regrouping of General Rodion Malinovsky's 3rd Ukrainian Front for its decisive offensive toward Kishinev, which aborted in the face of a skillful counterstroke by a threadbare German Sixth Army. Glantz describes how the Wehrmacht, with a nucleus of survived combat veterans, was able to beat back Soviet forces hampered by spring floods, while already fragile Soviet logistical support was further undermined by the Wehrmacht's scorched-earth strategy. Although Konev's and Malinovsky's offensives ultimately failed, the Red Army managed to inflict heavy losses on Axis forces, exacerbating the effects of Germany's defeats in the Ukraine and making it more difficult for the Wehrmacht to contain the Soviet juggernaut's ultimate advance toward Berlin. By re-creating this forgotten offensive, Glantz commemorates a rich and important chapter in the history of a war that brought down the German Army and reshaped the map of Europe.

"Glantz's study corrects a sixty-year misinterpretation of Soviet Army operations along the Romanian approaches to the Balkans in 1944 and adds tremendously to our understanding of the war's conduct in the east."—Roger Reese, author of *Red Commanders: A Social History of the Soviet Army Officer Corps, 1918–1991* "With his usual command of the sources and devotion to detail, Glantz once again brings to light a little-known episode of the struggle on the Eastern Front. . . . Essential reading for students of World War II."—Richard L. DiNardo, author of *Germany and the Axis Powers: From Coalition to Collapse* "Glantz is once again at the top of his form."—Dennis Showalter, author of *Patton and Rommel: Men of War in the Twentieth Century* From the Back Cover "Glantz's study corrects a sixty-year misinterpretation of Soviet Army operations along the Romanian approaches to the Balkans in 1944 and adds tremendously to our understanding of the war's conduct in the east."--Roger Reese, author of *Red Commanders: A Social History of the Soviet Army Officer Corps, 1918-1991* "With his usual command of the sources and devotion to detail, Glantz once again brings to light a little-known episode of the struggle on the Eastern Front. . . . Essential reading for students of World War II."--Richard L. DiNardo, author of *Germany and the Axis Powers: From Coalition to Collapse* "Glantz is once again at the top of his form."--Dennis Showalter, author of *Patton and Rommel: Men of War in the Twentieth Century* About the Author David M. Glantz is the author of *When Titans Clashed*, *The Battle of Kursk*, *The Battle for Leningrad*, *Zhukov's Greatest Defeat*, *Stumbling Colossus*, *Colossus Reborn*, and many other books.