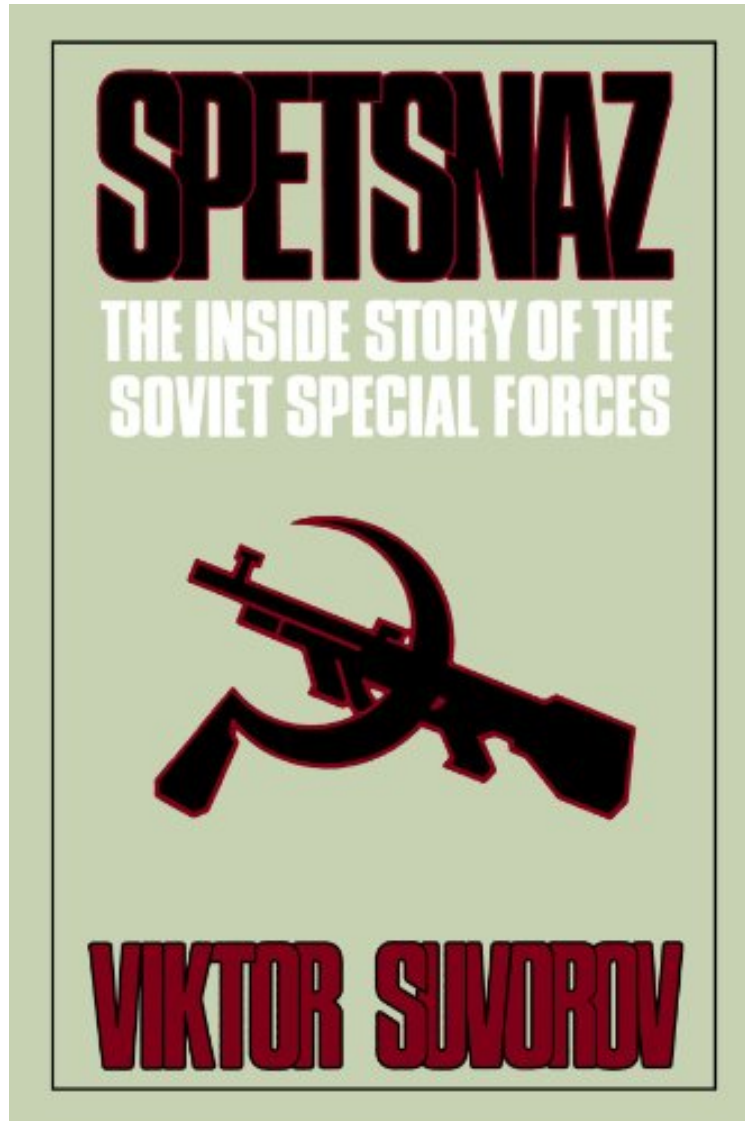


(Download free pdf) Spetsnaz: The Inside Story of the Soviet Special Forces

## Spetsnaz: The Inside Story of the Soviet Special Forces

*Viktor Suvorov*

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**Viktor Suvorov : Spetsnaz: The Inside Story of the Soviet Special Forces** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Spetsnaz: The Inside Story of the Soviet Special Forces:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Excellent and (4/2014) very timely!By WellspringAnother win for Viktor Suvorov. If you've read Inside the Soviet Army and Inside Soviet Military Intelligence-- and if you're reading

this review then odds are you have or should read those two books as well-- then you know what to expect from Suvorov. It's going to be detailed, concise, complete, and almost pedantic in its attention to detail. There's a tendency among westerners -- especially armchair generals with no military experience like me -- to blindly accept our own assumptions founded in western military doctrine and political assumptions. This is a dire mistake. Spetsnaz is an elite force but NOT one founded on the US model, or one that in any way resembles it. Its mission, methods, recruitment, training, tactics, and policies are totally different from that of the American system. Suvorov gives us a good history of both Spetsnaz and the organizational and doctrinal assumptions that shape it. If you're looking for equipment or adventure stories, you'll find that this book is lacking. It's written by a former Spetsnaz officer who became an intelligence officer, and thinks and acts like one. You'll get much more on why and how spetsnaz is deployed, rather than gee-whiz accounts of all the capitalists they've impaled on shovels. You'll also read about the Spetsnaz agent network-- something with no known parallel in the West and IMO worth its own book. With Russia on the march, and stories of Spetsnaz action in Georgia and now Ukraine, this book is more relevant than ever. While Spetsnaz was significantly re-organized in the mid 2000's, it has reportedly reverted to its original, Soviet-era structure and operations. That makes this book timely and important. My only complaint is that it's hard to take western media seriously when you start catching their numerous, obvious mistakes. So thanks for opening my eyes and ruining my sleep, Vladimir Bogdanovich. Highly recommended.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Disgusting look into the regressive and barbaric psychopaths the soviets bred and exported across the globe. The fundamental rejection of camaraderie among spetsnaz and their ingrained commitment to kill their wounded is astonishing. Pretty much every Russian Olympian in the last 50 years was a spetsnaz officer. Their Tier 1 units were the Olympic teams according to the author, a former soviet intelligence officer who defected.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Eye Opening and Absolutely Brutal

By Alan M. Kumashiro

This book was written about the time of the Soviet involvement (entanglement) in Afghanistan. It would be easy to dismiss it as out of date, but I don't think that is the case. I've always suspected there were differences between Western and Russian military doctrine. I had grossly underestimated this difference, particularly in their selection process into their Special Forces. Conscripts have no say. Their training is brutal and dehumanizing to the point some are driven to suicide or desertion. Where our armed forces practice "Leave no man behind," they would rather execute a wounded comrade to prevent them from falling into enemy hands. Much of this philosophy will seem Machiavellian and underhanded, but then again in war, winning is what counts in the end.

Viktor Suvorov is a Soviet army officer who has defected to the West. Here is the full story of the Spetsnaz forces, the Soviet army's secret killer elite. This is the first comprehensive insight for the West into a Soviet "army within an army" whose existence has been known until recently only to a few highly placed people--most of whom would deny it. The spetsnaz Soviet special forces are one of the more shadowy and ruthless secret special forces in the world. Controlled by military intelligence (the GRU), spetsnaz units are recruited from the ranks of the toughest officers and men in the Soviet Army, the cutting edge of Soviet military might. In modern warfare their primary task is the destruction of enemy tactical nuclear weapons, but the training of anyone selected for spetsnaz prepares him or her for an unlimited range of tasks--from undercover activity as a member of a Soviet Olympic sports team to piloting a midget submarine. As an officer in the GRU, the author was directly involved in the control and planning of spetsnaz. In this revealing and sometimes shocking book, he talks about his own experience; about the military code of an armed force that kills its own wounded; about the weapons, strategy, and training. For anyone interested in the true military capability of the Soviet Union, this book is essential reading.

About the Author

Viktor Suvorov is a Russian writer and a former Soviet military intelligence officer.