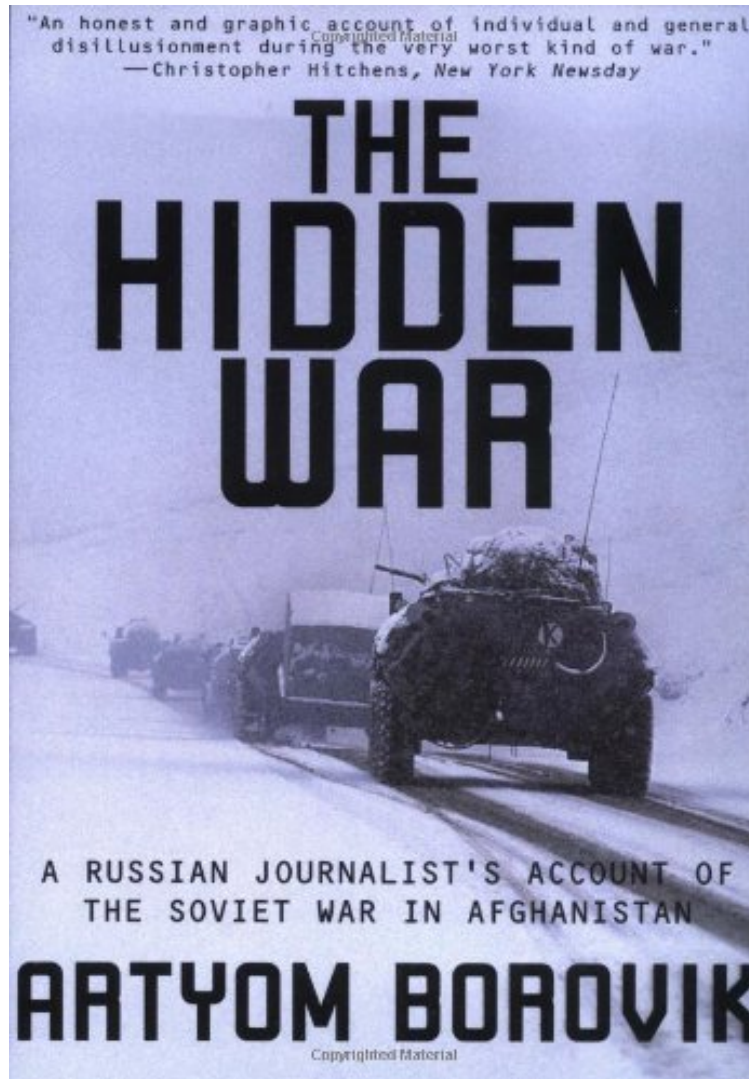


The Hidden War: A Russian Journalist's Account of the Soviet War in Afghanistan

Artyom Borovik

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#248277 in Books Grove Press 2001-05-10 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.27 x .87 x 5.481, .63 #File Name: 080213775X304 pages | File size: 22.Mb

Artyom Borovik : The Hidden War: A Russian Journalist's Account of the Soviet War in Afghanistan before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Hidden War: A Russian Journalist's Account of the Soviet War in Afghanistan:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. 2 books and completely different views on the war By Donnie Stevenson There are actually 2 books combined in "Hidden War". The first is a few years in to the war when the writer a journalist, who has been to the USA several time and knows a bit about the west, writes as a adventure, propaganda

piece. He includes the feeling of the soldiers and commanders at the time. Several years pass and the writer has been back to the USA and interviewed several soldiers who have surrendered to the mujahadin and been expatriated to the west. Also Glasnost or Openness is in full force in the USSR. The army is pulling out after 8 years of a war that produced nothing. The change in tone of the second book is sharp when compared to the hope of doing their duty in the first book. Mistakes are made by people attempting to draw parallels between America's wars in Vietnam or Iraq. This would be a mistake and reading 'Hidden War' would prove this. The United States is not the Soviet Union, decayed and on the brink of collapse. No is the media as tightly controlled as in the first part of this book (the book was written after the Soviet Union imploded, it could not have been published before then). There are no conscripts in the American Army as there is in the Soviet or Russian armies. This is a good book about a war many in the west have forgotten due to the current war in Afghanistan. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Amazing look into the Russian experience in Afghan. By Greenwich Dad. Amazing look into the Russian experience in Afghan. Very relevant for US. Would have been good to read and learn from this in 2011. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Battle Scars in Ink. By Writetrak. As a Vietnam combat veteran I found Artyom Borovik's book, THE HIDDEN WAR, to ring so clear, true and familiar that I didn't mind the puzzle-like story pieces that made up this remarkable and historic account. As a journalist Borovik covered many aspects of the Soviet War in Afghanistan during the years and accurately and vividly reported what he found. From the lowly infantryman, the elite airborne soldiers, helicopter and MiG pilots, field and political officers, and various mid and high level commanders we get more pieces of the puzzle to slowly put into place as we read. And too there were the rebel dukhi, the 'Black Tulip' casualty flights, the deserters and traitors who fled or fought against their own, the ever present dust and harsh cold of the mountain campaigns, the criticism or resentment the war veterans received at home afterwards, and so many other interesting bits that by the end of the book a better overall picture of the war emerged to contemplate. I have new respect for the Soviet veterans of Afghanistan and salute their service, sacrifice, and courage in their hidden war. Is Borovik's book the definitive history of the Soviet war in Afghanistan? No. But it is nonetheless a remarkable achievement.

Until his death in 2000, Artyom Borovik was considered one of the preeminent journalists in Russia. With *The Hidden War* he provided the world its first glimpse inside the Soviet military machine, capturing the soldiers' terror, helplessness, and despair at waging war in a foreign land against an unseen enemy for unclear purposes. When first published, Borovik's groundbreaking revelations exposed the weaknesses beneath the Soviet Union's aura of military might, creating an enormous controversy both in Russia and around the world. A vital and fascinating portrait of the Soviet empire at the twilight of its power, this is a book that still resonates today. "An honest and graphic account of individual and general disillusionment during the very worst kind of war." -Christopher Hitchens, *New York Newsday*; "Alternately fascinating and horrific.... A fascinating look at the life and death of Soviet soldiers." -- Bill Wallace, *San Francisco Chronicle*; "I have read no other account of the war in Afghanistan equal to this ... this is literature." -- Graham Greene

From *Publishers Weekly*. Borovik, foreign editor of the Soviet weekly *Ogonyok*, spent a month with Soviet troops in Afghanistan near the end of the 1979-1988 war. His subjective, impressionistic account is of interest mainly for its startling echoes of the American experience in Vietnam: The Soviet soldiers' awed respect for the elusive enemy, their disgust over the waste of lives, their resentment of the harassment accorded returning veterans by an antiwar populace. And like our GIs in Vietnam, these men found solace in rock music, odd garb and drugs. The pathology of the Vietnam war is mirrored also with stories of Soviet atrocities: rape, murder and a My Lai-like massacre of civilians. Borovik summarizes the prevalent theories as to why the Soviets intervened in '79. The most interesting: Moscow's fear that the U.S., expelled from Iran, would attempt to turn Afghanistan into an anti-Soviet outpost. Although in its raw candor the book stands as a manifestation of glasnost, the writing is uneven, often jarring: "Oh, how harsh is my fate!" cries one veteran. Photos. Author tour. Copyright 1990 Reed Business Information, Inc. From *Library Journal*. A maverick young Russian journalist, Borovik covered the Soviet military involvement in Afghanistan from early 1980 through the final phase of withdrawal in February 1989. Currently foreign editor of *Ogonyok*, the USSR's leading weekly news magazine and a staunch supporter of glasnost, he offers in this work an introductory essay which speculates on the scenario for the Soviet Union's entry into Afghanistan in late December 1979, followed by two gripping accounts of Russian soldiers under fire--one in the spring of 1987 ("Meet Me at the Three Cranes") and one during the withdrawal ("The Hidden War"). While this is a subjective account of what Borovik labels "a nine-year-long tragedy," *The Hidden War* catches the human drama in what was clearly the Soviet Union's Vietnam. The book will appeal to a general audience as a fresh reminder of the universally grim reality of war. - James Rhodes, *Luther Coll., Decorah, Ia.* Copyright 1990 Reed Business Information, Inc. "An honest and graphic account of individual and general disillusionment during the very worst kind of war."--Christopher Hitchens, *New York Newsday* "Borovik has a fine eye for the telling, authentic detail. ... Perhaps the best account, at least in English, that we've got about the conflict in Afghanistan."