



Spetsnaz

Viktor Suvorov

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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--from operations such as assassination and the neutralization of enemy governments.

Spetsnaz Details

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Author : Viktor Suvorov

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From Reader Review Spetsnaz for online ebook

Ingrid Spera says

I found this book to be completely fascinating! The author was originally recommended to me by a friend who had plenty of anecdotes involving him and I had to rush out and read some for myself! This book was at once horrifying and thought provoking. While presenting information about the Spetsnaz, Suvorov is able to present it in such a way that one becomes entranced by the topic and not just the words on the page. I'd heard of the Spetsnaz before, but I definitely didn't fully appreciate them until after reading this book. Well worth the read for anyone interested in learning about the force... just be ready to want to discuss the book as you read it!

Steven Jr. says

Viktor Suvorov's book on the Spetsnaz is a bit dated--he defected from the Soviet Union in 1978 and wrote the book a few years later--but judging from recent instances of Spetsnaz in the news, not much has changed. Communism is gone but the hardened culture of the Russian military life is still present, especially in Spetsnaz GRU (formerly known exclusively as Spetsnaz; KGB special operations units were known as OSNAZ).

I found it to be a well-written book, full both of information useful for those wanting to learn how Spetsnaz is structured and how they operate, and the mentality of such men. Readings about how these men are selected, their substructures, and the kind of training they undergo shows things that no Western soldier would ever be subjected to, as the civilian outcry would be loud and constant, and at the same time, it makes me glad we never faced the Spetsnaz officially in battle. They would be a very, very formidable opponent, seemingly made of steel, with an inhuman pain threshold and a fanatical dedication to their objective.

This was the only definitive account I could find on the Spetsnaz, though I will be on the look for something new. Regardless, this is a good starting place for those looking to learn about a fighting force often used in Hollywood but is rarely spoken of in non-fiction.

Neri. says

The beginning was very good but somewhere in the middle this book lost its mojo. It gives a lot of interesting facts and personal experiences from author are described quite well but like I said as it goes on it gets a little bit boring.

Ján Kapus?ak says

Mind-blowing reading at the end of 80s of the last century.

Savin Stefanov says

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Thor says

Thorough and interesting read from the late 80s. I ought to have read this sooner, but I had the entire book saved in Pocket without realising it was actually a book.

Wibisono Yamin says

A book written by a defected USSR agent who wrote about his ex army corps, the infamous Spetsnaz, its history, training programs, skill sets, gear and war methods. He also shared his view on Russia's diplomatic vision: "The Soviet leadership and the Soviet diplomatic service adopt a philosophical attitude to all agreements. If one trusts a friend there is no need for a treaty; friends do not need to rely on treaties to call for assistance. If one is weaker than one's enemy a treaty will not be any use anyway. And if one is stronger than one's enemy, what is the point of observing a treaty? International treaties are just an instrument of politics and propaganda. The Soviet leadership and the Soviet Army put no trust in any treaties, believing only in the force that is behind the treaties."

Good book for them who like military stuffs especially special forces.

Connie Landry says

I thought the book focused a lot on the organization of spetsnaz in the military (which I did not find as interesting). There was very little on the training which is what I was curious about. It reads with some broken English due to the translation.

Zare says

Viktor Suvorov's book is somewhat of a mixed bag. Author just cannot decide whether to criticize former-soviet-union Special Forces or to compliment them.[return]In one chapter they are depicted as rather savage bunch ready to do anything to accomplish the mission, even to shoot their own if they hinder them in any way (remember Omega Squad from Canadian Bacon :)) only to be depicted [in following chapters] as best of the best, dedicated professionals with high regard of honor and camaraderie (I mean camaraderie if one has to be on constant watch not to be shot by his own teammates what are we talking about here).[return][return]Book is full of these contrasts, but nevertheless it is a rare book on the subject and there lies its worth. So read it with open-mind and do not take everything for granted there are other great history books out there with additional information on these mysterious but highly regarded units.

Ryan Swensen says

Not much has changed

Great insight on Spetsnaz and the USSR. Not much has changed since the end of the USSR and Putin's Russia. The last chapter proves it.

Bartek says

Saperk? go...

Bontas Mihai Alexandru says

Not as detailed one would expect.

Srikanth says

The Russians or the Soviets depending on the timeline, a group of people who have suffered both from internal as well as external threats for ages. Imagine these 2 examples of brutality

A. Stalin used to go to Lubyanka prison to shoot prisoners between ballet breaks from Bolshoi theater!!!!

B. The worlds most prominent killer, Vasili Bolokhin who killed 7000 in 28 days!!!

This includes weather also. It is bloody cold is all i can say. So it would be no surprise that their armed forces would be ruthless and brutally effective and equally stupid. As this exercise of training to fight under actual nuclear detonation can happen only in Russia. Imagine their special forces!!

The Russian special forces are called Spetsnaz. They look cool, not much information is known about them, nor do they specialize and make movies like the publicity savvy US army does. This makes them mysterious and dangerous, to a lot of people. Especially to a lot of arm chair strategists who play video games and think they know a lot..

My interest was really piqued because of this article about Zaslou and also the mention of Lt Prokhorenko. Apart from that, it was also professional. Heard a lot about our own Indian special forces training. e.g being a book review immediately after a gruelling 40+ kms route march.

As i trawled the internet came across a book on Spetsnaz by an Ex- Soviet intel officer who deflected to the west. Had to get my hands on the book, which i did in a weeks time.

I am not going to review the book nor not going to talk about the book. This is more of an FYI on the though

process and policy of the Russians. The true communists who hated religion and not like Indian commies who are absolute fakes.

The book talks about the history of Spetsnaz, the people who are part of Spetsnaz, selection & training, equipment, the agents network from enemy countries, operations (deception, command and control etc) & the future of Spetsnaz.

If anyone thinks Spetsnaz is all sexy, guts and glory, i am sure you have never heard of Dedovshchina & its consequences.

Just imagine a cold day(most of the days in Russia are cold) , you are in a new place and getting trained by hard men who have institutionalized brutality. The problem is you can't imagine until the time you face it.

The history of Spetsnaz started off around the WW I and matured during WW II, where Operation "War on the rails" commenced against German supply lines. From there the journey of one of the most feared special operations force.

The best parts of the book are the below lines, which sum up the Russian thought process

" A Spetsnaz soldier has to work with blood during war, hence he is made familiar with it. Just like a surgeon or a butcher. What will happen if they are suddenly afraid of blood. This is in no way to make them sadists"

"Liberals are the best agents that can be recruited by Soviets"

"Soviet soldiers were not taught that Red cross vehicles and personnel are not to be attacked. Having such a symbol only makes it an attractive target"

And some gems like these which are strewn around in the book. This is the reason i love the Russians. Brutality is just a tool to be used against political objectives. They were truly secular when it came to religions, ethnicity etc to the best possible manner.

What i liked about the book

A. This is an insiders view of Spetsnaz, nothing more to be said

B. The overall flow of the book and the information shared is relevant and interesting

What could be better in the book is, some good editing. Overall a nice book which will interest professionals as well as amateurs.

PS: The author was an ex Soviet army officer who deflected to the west.

Eugene says

I had qualms with the translation, but my dad bought me the English copy as a must read.

Adam What? Ovsy! says

Polski tytu? - Specnaz.
