

The Soviets Versus The Majahideen During The 1980s: The Forgotten Battle In Afghanistan

In the 1980s, the Soviets and the Majahideen engaged in a brutal conflict in the rugged terrains of Afghanistan. This war would have far-reaching consequences, shaping the geopolitical landscape of the region as well as having implications for the global balance of power.

The Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan in December 1979, seeking to establish a communist government in the country. However, they faced fierce resistance from the Majahideen, a loosely organized group of Afghan resistance fighters, who were determined to defend their homeland against foreign occupation.

The Origins of the Conflict

The roots of the conflict can be traced back to the Cold War. The Soviet Union, eager to expand its influence in the region, provided military and economic aid to the Afghan government, which was facing internal opposition. This support led to a power struggle between the communists and conservative factions within Afghanistan, escalating into a full-scale civil war.



The Battle for Afghanistan: The Soviets Versus the Majahideen During the 1980s

by Mohammad Yousaf(Kindle Edition)

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The Majahideen, backed by Western powers and regional allies, received arms, training and financial assistance to fight against the Soviet forces. This conflict soon turned into a proxy war, with the United States and other Western nations providing significant support to the resistance movement.

The Battle for Afghanistan

The Soviet invasion met with fierce resistance from the Majahideen, who utilized their knowledge of the local terrain to their advantage. Guerrilla warfare tactics, such as hit-and-run attacks, ambushes, and sabotage, were used to wear down the heavily-armed Soviet forces. The Majahideen guerrillas were highly motivated and displayed incredible resilience in their fight against the invading forces.

Despite the Soviets' superior firepower and military hardware, the Majahideen's intimate knowledge of the Afghan landscape allowed them to wage a successful guerrilla campaign. They made effective use of ancient trade routes, mountain passes, and hidden caves to launch surprise attacks on the Soviet troops, often vanishing into the rugged mountainsides before reinforcements could arrive.

The Soviets attempted to defeat the Majahideen through indiscriminate bombing campaigns and scorched earth tactics. Entire villages were destroyed, infrastructure was obliterated, and civilians were targeted in an attempt to break the resistance. Yet, these brutal tactics only served to further unite the Afghan

people against the Soviet occupation, fueling the fervor of the resistance movement.

Impact on the Region

The Soviet-Afghan War had significant consequences both regionally and globally. The conflict became a focal point of East-West tensions during the Cold War, with the United States providing extensive support to the resistance fighters, including training, weapons, and financial aid.

The war not only drained the Soviet economy, but it also showcased the limitations of their military might and the effectiveness of asymmetric warfare. The Soviets' inability to subdue the Mujahideen led to a loss of prestige and credibility for the Soviet Union, amplifying discontent within the country and hastening its eventual collapse.

Internationally, the conflict in Afghanistan became a breeding ground for international terrorism. It provided a training ground for jihadist fighters and attracted foreign fighters from around the world. One prominent figure who emerged from the conflict was Osama bin Laden, who would go on to establish Al-Qaeda.

The Legacies of the Conflict

The Soviet-Afghan War had lasting implications for Afghanistan itself. The country was left devastated, with thousands dead and large sections of its infrastructure in ruins. The war also led to the displacement of millions of Afghans, resulting in extensive refugee crises.

Following the Soviet withdrawal in 1989, Afghanistan descended into a state of civil war, with various factions vying for power. The power vacuum created by the

absence of Soviet forces allowed extremist groups to gain ground, setting the stage for the rise of the Taliban and the subsequent U.S. intervention in the country in the early 2000s.

The conflict also served as a stark reminder of the limits of foreign intervention and the complexities of internal conflicts. It highlighted the dangers of propping up proxy forces without consideration for long-term consequences, as seen in the case of the Majahideen and their transformation into radicalized groups in later years.

The Soviets versus the Majahideen during the 1980s was a defining conflict with far-reaching consequences. It represented a pivotal moment in the Cold War, showcasing the resilience of guerrilla warfare against a superpower and casting doubts on the invincibility of the Soviet Union.

The legacy of this war can still be felt today, as Afghanistan continues to grapple with instability and violence. Understanding the complexities of this conflict is crucial in order to grasp the ongoing challenges faced by the Afghan people and to learn from the mistakes of the past.



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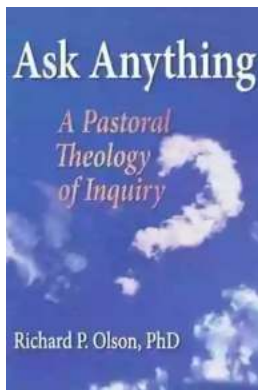
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This is the story of the defeat of Soviet Russia's forces in Afghanistan by a guerrilla force known as the Mujahideen, heavily backed by Pakistan and the USA. The Mujahideen paved the way for the Taliban regime, to exist having all but defeated the Russian Army in the late 80's. The author, Brigadier Mohammad Yousaf, was head of the Afghan Bureau of Pakistan's Inter-Service Intelligence and as such was effectively the Mujahideen's commander-in-chief. He controlled the flow of thousands of tons of arms across Pakistan and into its occupied neighbor, arms that were bought with CIA and Saudi Arabian funds from the USA. One of the Mujahideen's close allies was none other than Osama Bin Laden. This compelling book was put together with great skill by military historian, Mark Adkin in conjunction with Brigadier Mohammad Yousaf and is essential reading for anyone interested in the truth behind the Afghanistan War which led to the conditions that exist there today. A hardback edition of this book was published by Casemate in 2001 under the title Afghanistan: The Bear Trap.



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