



## The Liberators: My Life in the Soviet Army

*Viktor Suvorov , ?????? ???????*

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## **The Liberators: My Life in the Soviet Army** Viktor Suvorov , ?????? ???????

Here is a sardonic and highly personal document by the author of the definitive study of the Red Army, 'Inside the Soviet Army.' Suvorov is the pseudonym of an officer in the post-Khrushchev Soviet army who defected to England.

No previous book by a Russian has revealed with such clarity and honesty what life is like in the Soviet Army. Suvorov takes the reader through the mind-freezing savagery of a penal glass-house and the extravagant idiocy of army maneuvers on the grandest scale. He shows how an officer is trained, and how the hierarchy of the Soviet army is achieved and maintained. He gives brutally frank portraits of the senior commanders and politicians, and of the petty bureaucrats and Party informers.

There is much satiric humor in his Suvorov's vivid narrative, which includes his experiences not only in training and garrison but in action, such as the infamous crushing of the Czech uprising.

## **The Liberators: My Life in the Soviet Army Details**

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### **Jakub Pr?cha says**

Zajímavý pohled na sov?tskou armádu d?stojníkem který tam byl. Bylo by to vtipné, kdyby to nebyla pravda.

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### **TS Allen says**

This is remarkable soldier's account of life in the Soviet Army, culminating in the confused 1968 invasion of Czechoslovakia, and moreover the definitive account of the life and worldview of Soviet Army officers. In practice, the Soviet Army in peacetime was a series of interconnected courts whose officers spent much of their time entertaining their superiors and inspectors lavishly in order to make up for the fact that their soldiers were unprepared to fight, contrary to all Soviet dictates, but true to Tsarist tradition. It was a bizarre theater-state which obsessed over its dress no less because its gymnastyorka were spartan, and which paved underwater roads on river-beds to ease tank crossings during show maneuvers. The Soviet Army was not exactly a paper tiger, and some units were more ready for war than others. It also went to insane lengths to exaggerate its strength and stockpiled history's greatest arsenal, mostly unused, an effort which left the Soviets well armed but deprived of niceties, making corruption imperative to live a tolerable life. Thus, all Soviet units had a shocking proportion of so-called "dead souls" who played the game of satisfying superiors full-time. Suvorov may be the only Soviet who ever found the time to sing of the staff officers, cooks, engineers-cum-dacha-builders, florists, and switchboard-operators-cum-prostitutes who were the courtiers of Soviet marshals, generals and colonels. He also provides a remarkable and empathetic account of the brutal and confusing life of more junior Soviet soldiers. When this insane carnival crashes in Czechoslovakia with guns drawn, it nearly disintegrates.

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### **Bence Kiss-dobronyi says**

Mainly a collection of interesting anecdotes, which gives an outline of the inner workings of the 'glorious' Red Army. What makes the book an easy and enjoyable read is that Suvorov employs a great deal of satiric and black humour to give life to his stories. So as you discover and perhaps understand a bit of the cruelty, the incompetence and the pointlessness of the whole Soviet war machine you'll be also laughing at the drunk soldiers, the mad officers and on the surrealism of the system.

A good and easy read for those who have a bit of interest in history, army and in general the inner of the Soviet Union.

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### **Andrei Tama? says**

E ciudat s? ?tii c? îintr-o anumit? perioada istoric?, sub un anumit regim, sub un anumit conduc?tor ?i sub o anumit? ierarhie s-au întâmplat atâtea. \*Da -domnul meu!- egali, egali... dar egalitatea total?, chiar ?i cea de

?anse, este utopic?.\*

Autobiografie fragmentar?, Victor Suvorov î?i prezint? trei ani din via?: 1966-1968, ani pe care ?i-i petrece ca ofi?er în Armata Ro?ie. E trist, desigur, s? vezi acea depersonalizare a indiferentului specific? oric?rei armate din orice stat, îns? sub regimul ro?u, totul s-a desf??urat mult mai cumplit...

Avertizez pe cei ce-ar dori s? citeasc? volumul c? acesta are un u?or iz de propagand?, dar nu comunista?, ci anticomunista?, c?ci Suvorov reu?e?te s? dezerteze ?i s? ajung? în Anglia.

Mi-a f?cut pl?cere s? citesc o istorie verosimil?, din interior, a invaziei sovietice din Cehoslovacia, pentru înbu?irea Prim?verii de la Praga. Aceasta e descris? în a treia parte a romanului, într-un mod ce aduce a cascadorii râsului. :).

În principiu, cartea are trei stelu?e (e foarte bine scris?, dar propaganda...). Se adaug? îns? una pentru capacitatea satiric? a autorului (m? rog! nu ?tiu cât? satir? sau pur? realitate era, dar nu de pu?ine ori m-am trezit râzând cu lacrimi).

Antrenamentul simplilor solda?i sovietici (care au îndr?znit s? mânânce la bufet): "**-De la dreapta!... Câte unul!... BOR??TE!!!**"

*"Batalionul a r?mas s? înnopteze pe câmp, chiar lâng? ora?, respectându-se toate m?surile de precau?ie, stabilindu-se paz? de lupta ?i patrule mobile. Diminea?a s-a dovedit c? aveam o situa?ie extrem de nepl?cut?. F?bricu?? s-a dovedit a fi nu o f?bricu??, ci o fabric? de spirtoase."*

S? nu te frapeze?! s? nu-?i dea de gândit? -> *"Nu sunt comunista, sunt membru de partid! E timpul s? î?elegi diferen?a!"*

Excerptând din "Încheiere", referitor la înbu?irea Primavetii de la Praga de c?tre blindatele sovietice: **"Face?i ordine în primul rând în propria cas?. F?uri?i o societate în care oamenii s? nu sape pasaje subterane prin care s? treac? grani?a, ci s? încerce s? sape coridoare c?tre noi, ?i abia atunci vom cap?t? dreptul de a-i înva?? pe al?ii -dar nu cu tancurile, cu huruitul senilelor pe caldarâm, ci cu sfatul bun ?i cu exemplul personal..."**

Sfat: Cartea este nerecomandat? celor pu?in pasiona?i de istorie, deoarece poate îndoctrina subtil. Nu acesta a fost, desigur, inten?ia v?dit? a autorului (care, autobiografia-?i scriind, se î?elege c? a fost subiectiv), îns? istoria e foarte-foarte greu de judecat! :). Vorbesc aposteroric: eu am trecut, la nivel teoretic, prin dou? ideologii extremiste. :)

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### Bohdan Dmytriv says

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### Aleksander says

Nõukogude imedemaa oli absurdne iga külje pealt. Alates sellest, et leiva saamiseks pidid 5 tundi järjekorras

seisma kuni selleni, et põllutöömasinad olid kõik sõjaväes arvel ja oleksid sõja korral koos kõikide meestega sõjaväe käsutusse läinud ja seega suure ja vägeva impeeriumi nälga jätnud. Ja see absurd ulatus otsaga ka sõjaväkke (sõjavägi oli tegelikult absurd musternäidis). Saab lugeda, kuidas terved armeed tegelesid mingi demonstratsiooni tarbeks jõgedesse rööbaste rajamisega, et tankid jõge ületades jumala eest ikka ka teisele kaldale jõuaksid ja välisriikide esindajatele kommunismi jõudu demonstreeriksid või siis sellest, kuidas oma jõudude võimalikult suurena näitamise nimel diviise poolitati ja pooldiviise veel omakorda poolitati, kõike ikka selleks, et vastikutele läänlastele oma suure diviisi ja armeede arvuga hirm naha vahele ajada, ehhki reaalset lahinguvõimet sellised pooldiviisid ja poolarmeed otse loomulikult ei omanud. Üleüldse jäab raamatust vägisi mulje, et suure Huilandia armee oli Külma Sõja lõpupoole pea täielikult lahingvõimekust mitteomav. Kuivõrd selline pilt ka töele vastab on juba igaühe enda mõtlemise koht, samas autori jutustustes ei ole selle ajastu absurdust ja nüridust arvestade eriti midagi sellist, mis kuidagi eriliselt üllataks. Igaljuhul on tegemist põneva sissevaatega kommunismiajastusse ja selle lollustesse.

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### **William Durkee says**

I really liked this book. The style was a collection of anecdotes. It made the book easy to read. Suvorov is a talented storyteller too. He also has a knack with lighter-side of Red-Army life. Though military absurdity is universally recognizable, the Red-Army is the gold winner. The subject matter is absolutely fascinating, if you are at all interested in the Cold War. I was simultaneously uplifted by his humanity at the end, his reasoning for defecting from the Red-Army & USSR, and disheartened in considering the millions who remained, fully aware of, how rotten their political system really was.

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### **Adam What? Ovsky! says**

Polski tytu? - ?o?nierz Wolno?ci

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### **Yuri says**

Quite interesting.

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### **?????? says**

A collection of rumours and fairy tales. Potentially interesting for a historian of anti-Soviet propaganda. A waste of time for most of the others.

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### **Steve says**

I'm old enough to know that the human race can be this depraved, but I have to give the book only four stars since I cannot believe that a culture that supported it to the extent that the book implies could have survived as long as the post-WWII Soviet Union did. Perhaps I'm being naive, but I would suggest that the reader

maintain at least a moderate level of skepticism. Other than that caveat, a very enjoyable, interesting and revealing read.

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### **Bob Croft says**

Hilarious! Example upon example of the bad outcomes, both in the Soviet army and Soviet society, of systematic misalignment of incentives with organizational goals. Lies created at low levels, accepted by superiors who, having created their own lies when themselves at a lower level, not only endorse the lies (to protect the reputation of their organization), but add to them as they rise through the levels.

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### **Eugene says**

Yet another dissident barking, don't waste your time.

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