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The GRU Spetsnaz during the Cold War



Regimes of Twentieth-Century Germany From Historical Consciousness to Political Action

Marc T. Voss

Marc T. Voss is Founder and Executive Director of the Regimes Museum, USA. He works as an adjunct faculty member at Chapman University, USA, is the lead editor of the R.M. Journal, and has authored several works.

"The strength of Voss' study lies in his integrative approach. Not only does he advance previous concepts of historical construction but he also develops a new paradigm that he then supports through empirical analysis. This is a thought provoking read for those interested in history didactics and interdisciplinary historical research."

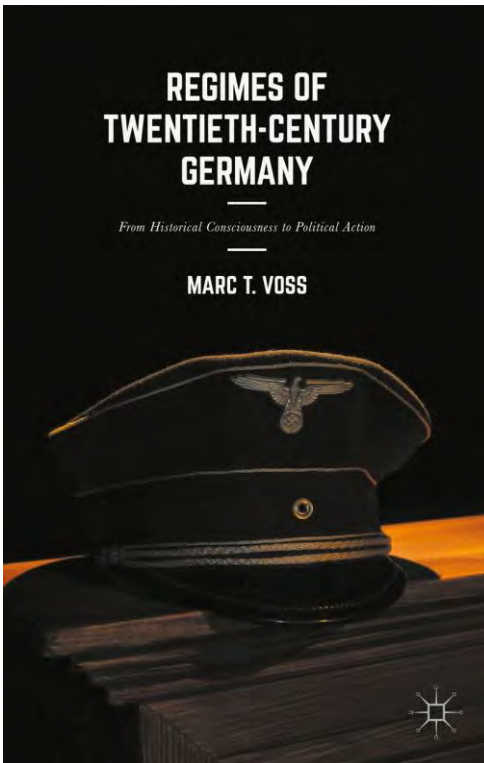
- Dr. Lemuel Edward Day, Department of Sociology, Chapman University, USA

About the book

Regimes of Twentieth-Century Germany studies how history didactics can contribute to preserving freedom and peace by incorporating an action component into historical consciousness research and by broadening its charter along age target group related, interdisciplinary, and international dimensions. This is investigated both on a conceptual and an empirical basis with specific focus on the two dictatorships of twentieth-century Germany. Specifically, there are three objectives: Further the conceptual development of historical consciousness research by incorporating an action component labeled action consciousness; empirically research knowledge, attitudes, and action consciousness of adults as well as the forms of historical cultural socialization both with respect to the NS and the SED dictatorships; derive recommendations for the further development of history didactics. Based on a discussion of the chosen research methodology, a review of the results of the empirical study is presented.

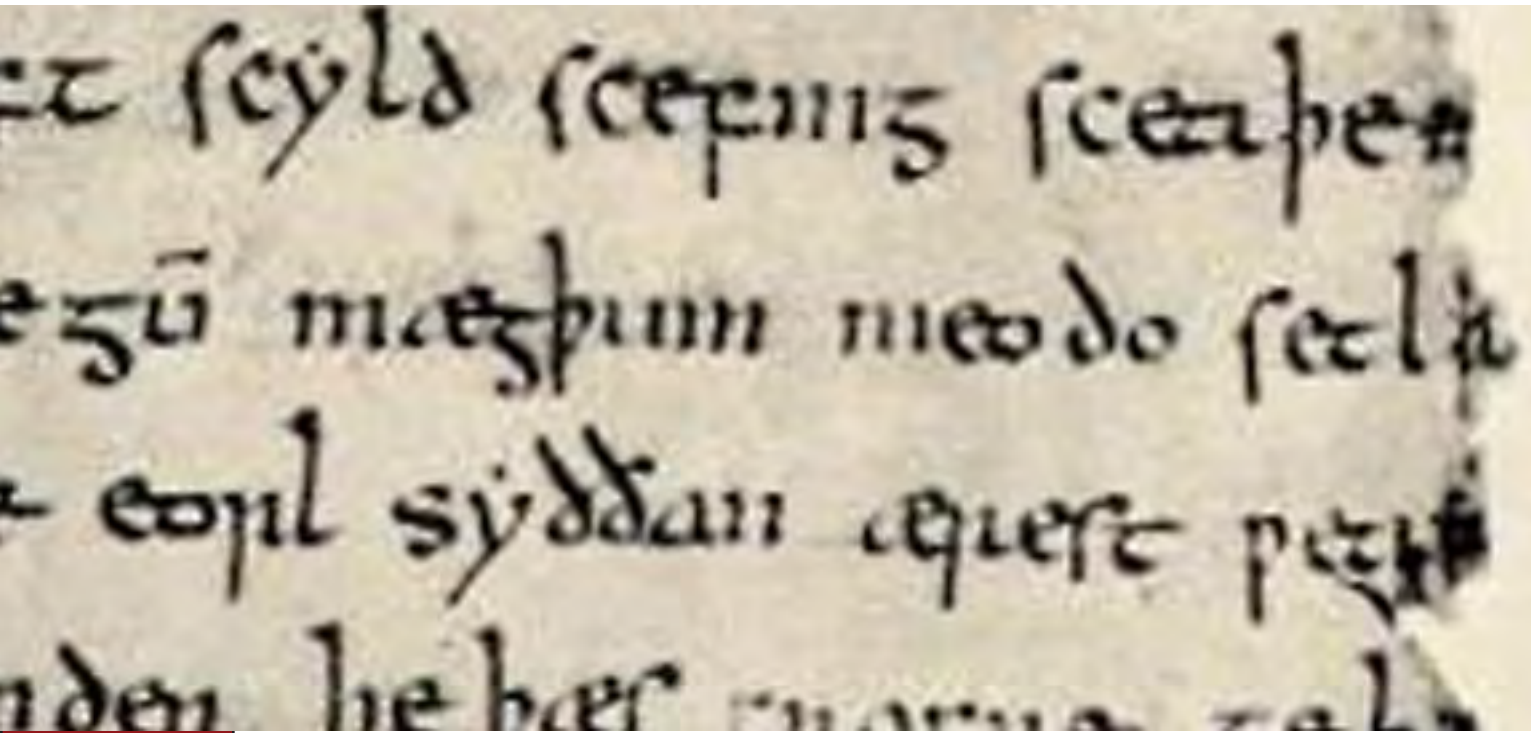
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The Regimes Museum Journal is a dedicated publication for academics, scholars, and students to have an opportunity to publish their research while enjoying the works of other contributors as well. The R.M. Journal is intended for peer reviewed professional research articles that deal with human rights issues, repressive regimes, war, and other topics related to these general fields. All work submitted will be examined and some will be selected to be published in the Journal. Please see our submission form below.

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Since the R.M. Journal is a peer reviewed academic journal for history, papers that deal with dictatorship, war, repression, genocide, human rights issues, and other topics of this nature are sought specifically. It should also be noted that while the Museum deals with regimes of the 20th and 21st centuries, the Journal seeks papers on all time periods including current human rights issues as well. Contributors are generally broken down into three categories, each with their own featured section in the Journal.

Category one is designated for professors, scholars, and academics that study history and related fields*. In this section, professional researchers will have a chance to share their research with fellow scholars and the general public. Academics who submit material for publication must go through a peer review process prior to being published.

Category two is dedicated for young researchers that have done work in history or a related field as a student of a university. This part of the Journal provides an opportunity for young researchers to share their work and ideas with professionals, their peers, and the general public. Graduate and undergraduate students who wish to publish are also subject to an academic review process prior to publication.

Category three is for individuals who are not affiliated with an educational institution but wish to share their stories or research. This section provides journalists, private researchers, and individuals or families who lived under a regime or dictatorship with an opportunity to share their stories or work that would generally not be available to a wide audience.

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The R.M. Newsletter

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Happy New Year to all of our readers! We hope you had a safe and happy New Year and that 2020 has already been a blast. 2019 was a significant year for Regimes Museum and 2020 promises to bring even more big news and events. To recap 2019, Regimes Museum was quite busy commemorating the 30th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall. In October, We collaborated with Chapman University's *La Frontera Border* event series and presented at an event called Bringing down the Berlin Wall through the Arts. We had our updated Threads of Utopia exhibit at Cal State University, Fullerton, we helped Heritage School in Phelan, CA commemorate the victims of the Berlin Wall with a memorial unveiling, and our Founder teamed up with Executive Director and Founder of The Wende Museum Justinian Jampol to assist in his Travel Channel show *Lost Secrets*.

For 2020, Regimes Museum will be collaborating with Worldstrides on our Berlin Historical Tour set for July 16, 2020. Whether you are a teacher, student, or just want to experience Berlin through a tailored history and culture tour, join us and Worldstrides by signing up today at <https://www.regimesmuseum.org/travel>.

On September 19, 2020, we will host together with The Wende Museum a conference on Memory, Collective Consciousness, and Authoritarianism. This conference will feature academics and grad students.

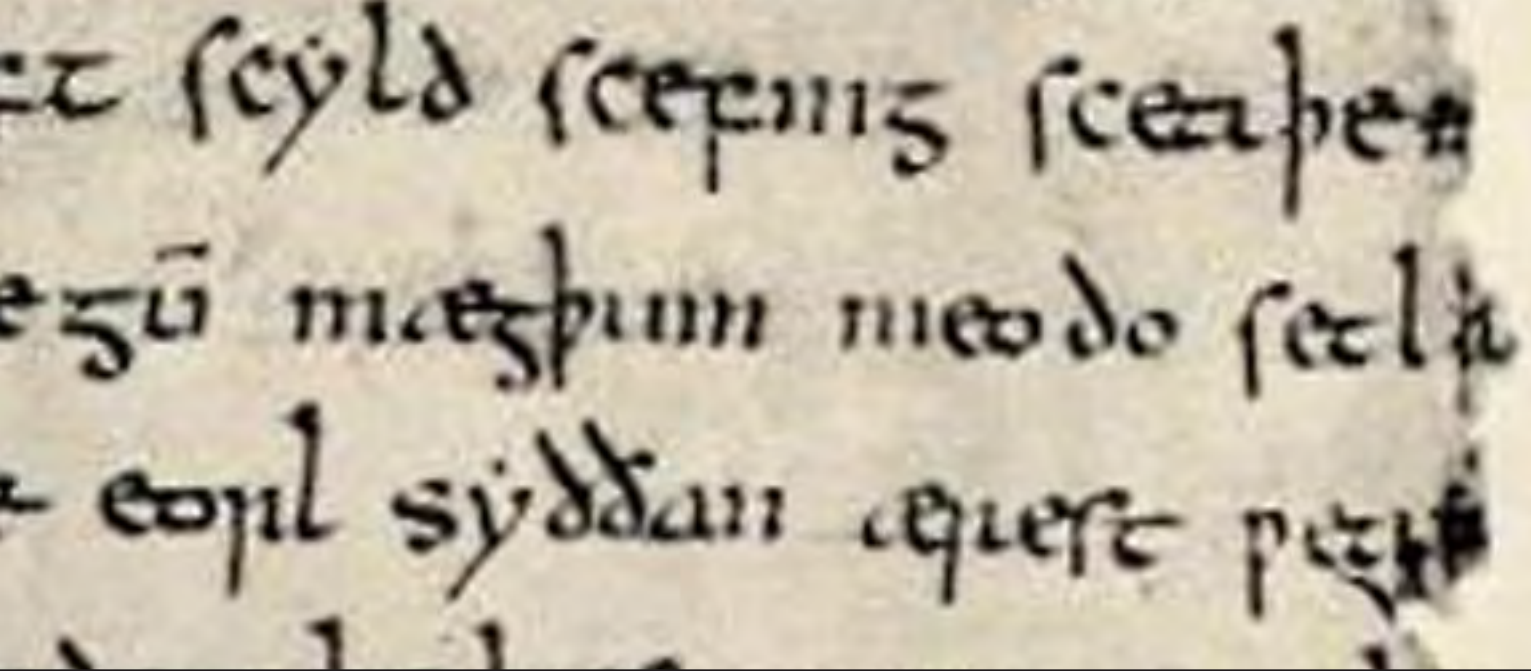
More programs and events are coming up. Stay tuned by following us on our socials and on our website at <https://www.regimesmuseum.org>.

Founder/Executive Director

Dr. Marc T. Voss

President of the Board

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Charlemagne and the role of the Saxon nobility in the Christianization and subjugation of Saxony

By MTV

1. Introduction

The Old Saxons were one of many Germanic tribes on the European continent. When one thinks of the Saxons, many associate them with the Anglo-Saxons of England. The Saxons of Germany, however, seem to be one of those tribes that are overlooked or simply ignored by most people. To this day, there are only limited amounts of documents and information to be had on the Saxons of mainland Europe. Although it has been noted that some Saxons made their way to England, the history of the Old Saxons -those tribes that remained on the continent- is one of wars, conquest, and ultimately of subjugation and Christianization by their neighboring tribe the Franks. Even though Saxon sovereignty seems to end in 785, the reasons for this are more complex than a simple invasion by Charlemagne's forces. To understand exactly what happened to the Old Saxons after 785, this paper will discuss who the Old Saxons were, their society and culture, the conflicts with the Franks, and their eventual Christianization through Charlemagne. Ultimately, one will see how Charlemagne and the Saxon nobility played a major role in the downfall and subjugation of the Old Saxons.

2. Who the Old Saxons were

The first time the name of the Saxons appears is in

the works of the Greek geographer Ptolemy in the mid-second century. The Saxons were a group of tribes that inhabited the North Sea coast all the way to the east of the lower Elbe, in what is now referred to as Holstein (Robinson 1992, 100). This area was roughly in the shape of an equilateral triangle, with 200 miles from one point to the other (Thompson 1926, 601-2). What sets the Saxons apart from other Germanic tribes of the time is their use of a short sword, also called the *Sax*, from which the Saxons got their name. While the Saxons were a significant group of people in early European history, they remain largely ignored and shrouded in mystery up until their arrival in England. A British monk, who lived in the sixth century was among the earliest to describe the conquest of the Saxons in Briton, saying that "the fierce and impious Saxons, a race hateful both to God and men, [were called] to repel the invasions of the northern nations." The rulers of Briton called upon these Saxons to drive away the Picts from the north who were threatening their peace (Halsall 1996). While the Anglo-Saxons split off in the fifth century to become permanent settlers in England, most reports from those who remained on the European continent came from the Romans, who were continuously harassed by the Saxons and later even set up coastal defenses to keep them from moving into Roman territories. This area was later to be known as the *Litus Saxonicum* or the Saxon Shore

“The rulers of Briton called upon these Saxons to drive away the Picts from the north who were threatening their peace.”

(Robinson 1992, 101). But these reports only describe the Saxons living in a smaller region than they were later to be found in. Scholars believe that by the third century the Chauci, among other Germanic tribes merged to form greater unity. The Chauci lived between the Ems and the Elbe River and because of their merger with the Saxons, they not only increased the size of Saxon territory, they also lose their name, and by the fourth century only a single reference describes them as being a part of the Saxons (Robinson 1992, 100).

(Robinson 1992, 103). Unlike traditional kings or rulers, a noble chieftain governed each of these districts. But “the basic units of Saxon political life seem to be the Gau, relatively small areas containing several villages and corresponding in size, though not necessarily in boundaries, with the later counties” (Robinson 1992, 104). Noblemen were also appointed to govern these areas as a Fürst. This power structure was in place in part because of the Saxon’s unwritten constitution, which prevented kings or monarchs from gaining permanent control. As war leaders (also known as Heritogo), they only had power during conflicts and therefore, they could not legislate in moments of peace (Goldberg 1995, 472). Ultimately, there are four major hereditary social classes: the Nobles (Edlingi), freemen



1. Map available online at: lowlands-l.net/grammar-new/language.php

The map above shows the lands occupied by the Saxons by the ninth century. Mergers, like the one with the Chauci, extended the borders of Saxony to lie adjacent to the Slavs in the east, the Frisians in the northwest and the Franks to their immediate west. Ultimately, by the end of the eighth century, Saxony resembled a large equilateral triangle two hundred miles on a side (Robinson 1992, 103). Although wars also increased the size of Saxon territory, this topic will be addressed in a later chapter.

2.2 Saxon society

The Old Saxons were divided into three major provinces, namely Westphalia, Angria in the middle, and Eastphalia in the east (see map above). There was also a smaller subdivision in Eastphalia called Northalbingia

(Frilingi), bondsmen (bondsmen and occasionally even a nobility did not exist in all parts of Saxony; i.e. Northalbingia), and slaves (Lassi), although slaves were seen as property so only the first three are relevant (Robinson 1992, 104). Meetings were held annually once a year and twelve representatives of each social class from each Gau met at a designated point on the Weser (Robinson 1992, 105). It was at these meetings where new Saxon laws would be debated, plans were drawn up and agreed upon, and judgment was given on certain legal cases. For the most part, the Old Saxons relied on oral tradition and had no written laws until Charlemagne conquered them. However, just because the Saxons had no written laws, it did not mean that people got away with crimes. “The Laws and customs were grim . . . [things] like cattle theft or breaking and entering, which were punished with fines elsewhere, brought the death

penalty in Saxony. Pregnant unmarried and adulterous married women were whipped from village to village and finally put to death” (Robinson 1992, 105). This is one example of how brutal the punishments were in Saxony even though the punishments for such crimes were never documented in writing. Ultimately, however, their illiteracy was helpful in another surprising way. Since the Saxons did not have any written laws or, for that matter, a constitution, kings or monarchs could not exist because the heritogo, or the elected war leader, only had power during war and not in peace (Goldberg 1995, 472). Although this may have been the case most of the time, it is not unheard of that the elected war leaders established popular tyrannies that refused to dissolve in times of peace (Robinsons 1992, 105). Saxony had a loosely democratic political system in place but most of the tribes or provinces continued to be relatively independent from one another. This kind of independence made the whole of Saxony not as unified as one would understand it in a modern country. While relations between Saxon tribes seem to be based on a rather loose political affiliation, Saxon culture is for the most part one of many unifying attributes between the tribes.

2.3 Saxon culture

Before the Franks subjugated the Saxons, the Saxons were Pantheistic and Pagan. They worshipped in tree groves and even used trees to determine the future. Their most sacred religious symbol was the Irminsul, a large tree that stood as a central figure in Saxon religious life (Hort 1880, 432). They regularly paid tribute to their gods in order to ensure a good harvest, to live without any major problems in life, and to ensure victory in battle. Before a battle the Saxons would set up a duel between a captured enemy combatant and one of their own in order to determine the outcome of the upcoming battle. And when a family member was killed in battle, they commonly cremated the remains on a funeral pyre (Hooton 1915, 100). These were common practices that continued to thrive until their subjugation and Christianization by the Franks.

“While relations between Saxon tribes seem to be based on a rather loose political affiliation, Saxon culture is for the most part one of many unifying attributes between the tribes.”

Witches, elves, spirits, and demons were also common aspects in Saxon culture and they played a role in how one lived their life (Sullivan 1989, 712). If, for example, a misfortune fell upon you, it would have been linked to an angry spirit that, like common illnesses, could be cured or removed with spells or charms. Terms such as spells and charms were even used to help Christianize the Saxon people by using them in religious texts such as the Heliand. In the Old Saxon Savior (the Heliand), for example, the term godspell is used to refer to the word of God. Since the word of God was a foreign concept to the Old Saxons, using words like godspell helped the early Christians convey the meaning of their message in words the Saxons could understand and better relate to. The Heliand itself is a unique document since, as previously mentioned, the Saxons were illiterate and transmitted their knowledge and ideas orally. Interestingly enough, marriage was also a very important practice from which the Franks were able to further Christianize the Saxons. The Old Saxons saw marriage as something sacred and therefore had strict laws to protect it. “The death penalty was prescribed for any man who married above his station, and marriage with a woman beneath one’s station had no legal standing” (Robinson 1992, 104). In Saxony, one paid the ultimate price for marrying out of one’s social standing. Other petty crimes resulted with the same punishment as well. But while the Saxons were very good at handing out severe punishments amongst their own people, they were also known for their warrior spirit and hostility. It was their skilled, courageous, and even brutal continuous fighting with neighboring tribes that eventually led to the split between the Old Saxons and the Anglo-Saxons. As mentioned earlier on in this paper, the Saxons were invited to England to help protect against attacks from the Picts. Ultimately, however, it almost seems as if the nobles were the true bearers of Saxon culture because they were seen as the descendants of the original Saxon invaders. Although there are some disagreements about whether the nobles actually represent the original Saxon invaders, it is true that the nobility was far more numerous in Saxony than anywhere else and that the place of the nobility was much higher than elsewhere (Robinson 1992, 104). In the end, what defines the Old Saxons the most can be seen in the many wars and conflicts they had with neighboring tribes.

3.Conflicts with the Franks and Christianization

Their name alone says a great deal about what kind of people the Old Saxons were. Since their name derives from their weapon of choice, the Saehs, it can be said that these tribes bore a deep warrior tradition. This is reflected in all of the conflicts they have had not only with the tribes around them but also with the integration of the tribes that lived in the area that later became Saxony. The Chauci and even the Thuringians can be cited as examples of this. In fact, it has been argued that, “[the] Saxons were not the indigines of Nether Saxony, but were as much invaders there as in Britain; that they probably did not occupy that area until the 6th century A. D.; and that the previous inhabitants were the Thuringians” (Howorth 1880, 406). Henry Howorth takes it a step farther by suggesting that the lands of Nether Saxony were also taken over by the Old Saxons and were therefore invaders of the lands they inhabited in the 8th and 9th centuries. This statement is further enforced by the fact the Saxons did invade and conquer the kingdom of Thuringia along with the Franks in the 6th century. “In 531 the Saxons participated with the Franks in the destruction of the Thuringian kingdom, getting the northern part of that area and the associated population as their share of the spoils” (Robinson 1992, 101). As one can see, the Saxons were notorious warriors to their neighboring tribes. Even the Romans were consistently harassed even after they set up a coastal defense barrier to keep the Saxons from intruding into their territory. The defense system designed to keep Saxon settlers out became known as the Saxon Shore (Litus Saxonicum) and was set up in the fourth century A.D. (Robinson 1992, 101). Ultimately, however, this defense barrier failed at keeping the Saxons out and the problems continued.

In the 6th century the Thuringians also felt the type of aggression that the Romans had to contend with in the fourth century. Although the campaign against the Thuringians was a joint effort with the Franks, the victory that followed was not as glamorous for the Saxons as one would have expected. Even though the Saxons were technically allied with the Franks, the Saxons that settled into the former kingdom of Thuringia were forced to pay a yearly tribute to the Franks (Robinson 1992, 102). For the Saxons, such treatment was obviously not appreciated and, “[for]

approximately the next one hundred years, we have reports of on-again, off-again wars between at least a part of the Saxons and the Franks” (Robinson 1992, 102). The tribute payment was lifted after the Thuringian Saxons defeated the Franks in a skirmish in 556. Unfortunately for the Saxons, the tribute payments were reinstated later that year (Robinson 1992, 102). From the year 772 onwards, the Saxons were involved in a series of wars with the Franks. Under Pippin the Short, the Frankish kingdom increased its strength substantially and started harassing the Saxons. But in the early 8th century, after Pippin’s death, a short period of instability and confusion shook the kingdom. The western Saxons immediately exploited this period of vulnerability when they invaded the Rheinish areas of the Frankish kingdom in 715 (Robinson 1992, 102). Although this campaign ended in defeat for the Saxons, it was

“For the Saxons, this meant a continuation of the annual tribute payments to the Franks, which included some 300 horses.”

nonetheless a sign of further problems to come.

When Charlemagne took over the kingdom after Pippin’s death, he continued the policies implemented by Pippin. For the Saxons, this meant a continuation of the annual tribute payments to the Franks, which included some 300 horses. (Howorth 1880, 419). For both the Franks and the Saxons, this was one of the main reasons for the ongoing wars that followed all the way up to 785. There were several attempts by the Saxons to ally themselves with neighboring tribes to help defeat the Franks but all to no avail. On the other hand, the Saxons presented a unique challenge that was not easily overcome. For example, since the Saxon Gaue and provinces were very independent, it was rare that the Franks were dealing with the Saxons as a whole (Robinson 1992, 105). This was also the case when it came to the tribute payments since not all of the tribes were in the Frankish sphere of influence. By 785, however, Charlemagne successfully conquered Saxony.

In 772, the imperial council in Worms officially declared war on the Saxons, and Charlemagne moved im-

“The conquest of Saxony by Charlemagne did not only mean subjugation to his will but it also meant Christianization.”

mediately to implement it (Robinson 1992, 106). This marked the beginning of a series of wars that subjugated the Saxons hereafter. The wars against Charlemagne introduced Christianity to the traditionally pagan Saxons. The conquest of Saxony by Charlemagne did not only mean subjugation to his will but it also meant Christianization. It is important to note, however, that the subjugation of the Saxons in 785 did not mean that conflicts with Frankish rule came to an end. On the contrary, revolts and assaults continued for decades to come. “In 774, when the Frankish king (Charlemagne) and a good part of his forces were across the Alps, the Saxons rose up, took Eresburg by storm, and then crossed the border into Franconia, where they did a great deal of damage” (Robinson 1992, 106). These types of attacks were repeated often throughout Charlemagne’s reign. Every time the Frankish king left on military campaigns the Saxons used the opportunity to rise up and go on the assault. This forced Charlemagne to return with his forces and crush the revolts. Although Charlemagne managed to bring the Saxons to their knees, there were still those who refused to be vassals to the Franks. The most notable Saxon to fight Charlemagne even after their subjugation was Widukind of the Westphalians, who by 777 became the figurehead of the Saxon resistance movement. Despite the many heroic acts of resistance brought by Widukind and his followers, Charlemagne always managed to return to Saxony to quell the unrest and force conversions upon them. The uprisings lasted until 785, when Widukind, aware of the hopelessness of his cause, allowed himself to be baptized, and relative peace returned to most of Saxony (Robinson 1992, 108). Ultimately, the year 785 marked a turning point for the Saxons. Charlemagne managed to, for the most part, achieve dominance over the Saxon tribes. But all of the wars and the relatively complete conquest of Saxony in 785 went hand in hand with the Christianization of the Old Saxons.

Charlemagne’s military conquest of Saxony was also of great interest for the church, which was looking for new converts in that region. Wherever Charlemagne’s army was present, mass conversions took place. His armies most likely helped out in the conversion process and it has been

recorded that Charlemagne went beyond conquering the Saxons by also aiding in the conversion process (Oakley 1932, 519). The Franks regularly bribed the Saxon nobility into converting and even gave them count-ships as a reward for their cooperation. By bribing the nobility into converting, the Franks managed to reduce opposition because without any leaders, it was much more difficult to organize against the Frankish rulers (Sullivan 1989, 771-2). It is also interesting to note that the conversions overshadowed the actual teachings of Christianity. Those who set out to convert the Old Saxons were more concerned with getting high conversion numbers than actually teaching previously Christianized Saxons (Oakley 1932, 519). Charlemagne’s conquest of Saxony eventually brought about the Christianization of the tribes of that region. It was not, however, solely the work of the Frankish leader. Although Charlemagne and his armies helped the missionaries bring about the conversions, the Saxon nobility allowed it to continue by accepting bribes and titles of nobility in order to secure their own power. In the end, one can see that the Franks were not the only ones responsible for the subjugation and Christianization of the Saxons.

4. Civil war: the role of the Saxon nobility in the subjugation of Saxony

Even the powerful Charlemagne had a lot of trouble conquering and controlling the Saxons. The Franks used bribes among other things to help win over the ruling elites and create a peaceful setting in Saxony. But why did the Saxon nobility accept these bribes as well as Christianization? One of the major reasons for the Saxon nobility to side with the Franks was because they wanted to retain their power and control. Even before the conflicts with the Franks began, the *lassi* (serfs) have revolted against the nobility. The nobility’s position in Saxony gave them a great deal of power over the other social classes, even though on the surface the political setup in Saxony may have seemed fair and just. For the freemen, bondsmen, and slaves, this was not really the case. “Indeed, the nobles seem sometimes to have made almost a conscious effort to play the freemen and bondsmen off against each other” (Robinson 1992, 105). Although revolts and uprisings against the Saxon nobility continued after their subjugation to the Franks, the nobles, being loyal Christians and servants of

Charlemagne, had help from higher powers when problems arose. One example of an uprising was the Stellinga uprising of 841-42, where “[the slaves] usurped for themselves the name Stellinga [Old Saxon for ‘companions’ or ‘comrades’], and they perpetrated much madness. And the nobles of that land were violently persecuted and humiliated by the slaves” (Goldberg 1995, 467). As the Stellinga uprising shows, these problems persisted, and for much of the Saxon nobility, Christianization and subjugation under Charlemagne seemed like a good safety net for the preservation of their status, wealth and power. But was the decision to side with Charlemagne even a good idea for the nobility? “According to contemporary reports, during this period (from about 777 onwards) the Saxons were not only fighting the Franks, but also taking reprisals within their own country against many Saxon nobility who remained faithful to Charlemagne” (Robinson 1992, 107). On one hand, it appears that their decision to remain loyal to the Franks was detrimental to their hold on power. On the other hand, however, their loyalty to the Franks brought them security and even rewards like new titles of nobility. The Saxon nobility did have to make compromises for their loyalty to Charlemagne. For the most part the Saxons who pledged fealty to the Franks lost their sovereignty and their pagan religion. They were forced to abide to Frankish rule, they had to convert to Christianity and even pay financial obligations to the Church (Robinson 1992, 107). While the Saxon nobility was no longer sovereign, they were rewarded with countships and they were even allowed to maintain the Saxon legal system, as long as it did not conflict with the new laws (Robinson 1992, 108). This arrangement clearly shows that the nobility continued to maintain their power, even if it has been slightly reduced by Frankish hegemony over the region. Clearly, the Saxon nobility preserved much of their influence by siding with the Franks. So then who were the real losers of the wars against Charlemagne? Since the nobility was continuously threatened by unrest from the tormented lower classes, they took it upon themselves to make treaties with the Franks to safeguard their privileged status (Robinson 1992, 108).

“ . . . their loyalty to the Franks brought them security and even rewards like new titles of nobility.”

This leaves the freemen and the slaves with most of the burdens associated with defeat and subjugation. The freemen, whose status was always at risk, lost their hold on their land as the nobles bought and consolidated their new property (Deanesly 1956, 363-4). This meant, of course, that the freemen were forced either to become part of the nobility or worse, become a slave. In the end, the nobility remained intact even after Charlemagne took over Saxony and the real losers were the lower classes.

5. Conclusion

The circumstances the Old Saxons found themselves in after the invasion of Charlemagne seem to suggest that not everything was what it seemed. While conquest usually means the total subjugation of a people, the Saxons, at least those in the nobility, continued to thrive and uphold their grasp on power under the supervision of the Franks. Most laws and social structures remained intact and the influence and wealth of the Saxon nobility may have even increased under the security of Frankish rule. Ultimately, the nobles of Saxony are as responsible for their defeat as the Franks themselves. By making a few compromises and allowing themselves and their fellow Saxons to be Christianized, the Saxon nobility secured their social status and increased their landholdings. Since this occurred with many acts of aggression against the nobility, it can be said that the civil war that existed between the nobles, the freemen and the slaves helped lead the way to their demise. In the end, the real losers of the wars with the Franks were the oppressed lower classes of the Saxon society. The civil war that resulted from Saxon collaboration was by and large in vain since the leading echelon in Saxony was, for the most part, already allied with Charlemagne.

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Deviance

Deviance

By
Aneri Amin

Deviance is a term that describes the violation of a social norm. Most individuals have a negative approach to deviance. In our world and society, deviance is punished and obedience is rewarded. Deviance is often discouraged and viewed negatively. However, it is through deviance in which change and progression can occur in a society. Some of the most monumental movements were sparked by acts of deviance such as Rosa Parks refusing to give up her seat on a bus to protest racial inequality, Malala Yousafzai fighting for women's rights to an education during Taliban rule and Mahatma Gandhi's efforts to bring an end to British rule over India. These acts of deviance led to positive changes in history and ultimately shaped the world as we know it today.

Rosa Parks was a woman in Montgomery, Alabama who boarded a bus one day in 1955. During this time, segregation was prominent in society (Bedi 2016). There were separate water fountains, schools, restaurants, and even sections on a bus for white people and "colored" people (Bedi 2016). This segregation was legalized due to the case *Plessy v. Ferguson* and Jim Crow laws (Bedi 2016). Rosa Parks had sat in the colored section of a bus and was commanded to surrender her seat to a white man. While most "colored" people would have submitted to the injustice, Parks refused to give up her seat. For this, she

was arrested for civil disobedience. Parks gave the actual reason she didn't get up several years later: "People always say that I didn't give up my seat because I was tired, but that isn't true. I was not tired physically, or no more tired than I usually was at the end of a working day. I was not old, although some people have an image of me as being old then. I was forty-two. No, the only tired I was, was tired of giving in" (Norwood 2017). She had finally used her voice, which led to multiple events. Parks' defiance sparked the Montgomery Bus Boycott which was the significant start of the Civil Rights Movement (Norwood 2017). This boycott had lasted for over one year and was one of the biggest social movements to have occurred (Norwood 2016). Rosa Parks' action had eventually led to public transportation services ending their segregation. This integration of the transportation symptoms was the first step in integrating other things and places. Rosa Parks' deviance had created a change that one could only imagine during that time. She had changed reformed her society. Her deviance had started the Civil Rights Movement which lasted for several years (Bedi 2016). Parks had influenced other people of color to stand up for their rights and equality and it is through this union that change had occurred. A whole community had united and nonviolently protested against their mistreatment. All of this change had started from one woman defying what was considered a normality in the 1950s. She had

begun a movement that has changed our society and the people in it. If she had not been deviant, perhaps segregation would still be prominent in our society today. Perhaps people of color would not be able to attend university or even become one of our nation's presidents.

Another example of deviance sparking change and progression in a society is the courageous story of Malala Yousafzai. Malala Yousafzai was just eleven years old living in Pakistan when the Taliban took over her town and forbid girls to attend school (Yousafzai 2018). This became the norm. Yousafzai wanted girls to have the ability to attend school and obtain an education (Yousafzai 2018). She began appearing on television and on the news to try and allow females to have an education, defying the Taliban's order which had severe consequences (Blumberg 2019).

“She began appearing on television and on the news to try and allow females to have an education, defying the Taliban's order which had severe consequences.”

She also appeared in two films to try and get her point across (Blumberg 2019). Due to these appearances, Malala Yousafzai became increasingly well known as an activist and was given a National Youth Peace Prize at 14 years of age in 2011 (Blumberg 2019). “I spoke out publicly on behalf of girls and our right to learn. And this made me a target” (Yousafzai 2018). Because Yousafzai's name was out in the public and was well known, the Taliban retaliated. In October of the year 2012, Yousafzai was shot in the head by a Taliban gunman who got onto her school bus asking for her (Yousafzai 2018). Malala Yousafzai became a famous name, notorious for standing up for what she believed in. She survived the attack and traveled to England for surgery, where the news of her attack further spread and elicited protests for women's right to education (Blumberg 2019). Yousafzai's story was famous and sparked great change for girls in Pakistan. A petition was brought out so all children had a right to education, which ultimately led to a “\$10 million education fund in Yousafzai's honor” (Blumberg 2019). Yousafzai also created a fund the Malala Fund, which advocates for girls' rights to an education.

Even today, many girls in certain regions of the planet are not able to attend school and obtain an education and the Malala Fund is still fighting to defeat that.

Malala Yousafzai changed the world around her. She had a passion for something and defied the Taliban in order to fight for something she wanted and something she knew all girls should have access to. Yousafzai defied the Taliban and risked her life so the girls in her town could go to school and get an education. Her deviance from what was then considered normal caused a great change not only in her town, but around the world as well. Every year, girls are able to secure a proper education more easily and were not able to do so previously. Malala Yousafzai's deviance is what led to this great change and the access to education is progressively improving.

Mahatma Gandhi was a social activist who led a movement for India's independence from the British. Gandhi through his leadership and heroics became the creator of nonviolent resistance (Nanda 2019). After college, Gandhi had accepted a job position in South Africa and had come face to face with racial inequality (Nanda 2019). He was discriminated against by Europeans and realized most Indians are not considered equal to Europeans. When he returned to India, he made the mistreatment publicly renowned (Nanda 2019). Gandhi led large groups of Indians through peaceful, nonviolent protests and though they faced a tough opponent, they continued their “fight” for many years (Nanda 2019). He had united an extravagant number of Indians who kept resisting rather than submitting. Gandhi's movement may not have created a significant change for Indians during British rule, but his deviance against British rule had lasting impacts. Internationally, a plethora of nonviolent, peaceful protests have taken place. Gandhi introduced a new form of protest that is still prominent in today's society.

When most individuals consider the characteristics of deviance, they automatically think of negative examples such as a child disobeying their parent or a person committing a dangerous crime. These are all valid speculations because deviance can be. However, deviance can be a positive occurrence. In my opinion, deviance is essential to change and growth in a society or even in a small group. Defying

orders or social norms can lead to revolutions and movements that once seemed so impossible and out of reach. One person, one idea, one word, can make a change. All it takes is one person doing something different for a whole community to come together and unite to fight for what they want. A “colored” woman refusing to give up her seat can become a leading figure in a significant movement in America. A Pakistani teenager can advocate for an equal opportunity for girls, survive a gunshot to the head, become the youngest person to be awarded a Nobel Peace Prize, and change the lives of girls all around the world. An Indian man can lead a nonviolent movement to put a stop to British rule in his country and have a lasting impression on society around the world. A single person can go against a social norm to bring great change to the world around her.

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See Thy Neighbor: Stern Photographers Thomas Höpker and Harald Schmitt in the GDR

The Wende Museum at The Armory, Culver City, California
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WWII: Quantity Has A Quality of Its Own

By
Ryan Fabre



The Second World War lasted from 1939 to 1945, resulted in approximately 70 million casualties and is still considered the most destructive conflict in human history. Fighting took place in faraway lands such as North Africa, small islands in the Pacific and the Soviet Union. Many significant fighting locations during World War II occurred on the Western Front, which is comprised of France, Belgium, and the Low Countries. All participating combatants were in a state of total war. Being in a state of total war refers to a nation uses all its resources and population are mobilized towards the war effort. The war takes priority over everything else. Additionally, nations take the average citizens, wars are not solely being fought against a military. This struggle ended with an overwhelming Allied victory resulting in the total collapse of the Nazi fascist regime, and the foreign occupation of the German nation. Since its conclusion in May of 1945, it has been analyzed and studied by both historians and scholars alike. Understanding the sequence of events that occurred during World War 2 can help humanity recognize similar occurrences in present times, which will prevent wrongdoing from recurring. Those who do not learn history are doomed to repeat it. The legacy and lessons of the World War 2 are still of great relevance in our modern world. For military hist-

orians, a significant lesson that can be learned by studying this conflict are tactics that allow a country to effectively win a battle and a war. Due to how World War 2 was fought, we can easily study both sides of the decisions and determine what worked as a winning strategy or not. After a meteoric rise to power, Adolf Hitler built a deadly military force that placed a strong emphasis on over-engineering, which built complex machines to support them in battle. They were ultimately defeated by the Western Allied Powers who had more equipment and superior manpower at their disposal.

The origins of World War 2 stem from the Treaty of Versailles, which was signed in 1919. This treaty put a formal end to the First World War. The effects of this treaty were felt throughout Western Europe, especially in Germany. This treaty forced the nation of Germany to accept full blame for starting World War 1 as well as mandated unconditional surrender. Additionally, Germany lost territory and was required to significantly reduce the size of its military. . Shortly afterwards, the Great Depression followed. This economic crisis caused every major economy to fall into a worldwide recession. Unemployment rates soared and inflation spiraled out of control. The economic unrest made Germany an ideal location for the rise of a dictator to take control. In 1933, when Adolf Hitler became chancellor and established the official state of Nazi Germany, he aimed to rebuild to the military. As a result, the Nazis violated the terms of the Treaty of Versailles.

When analyzing the war through the perspective of the Nazis, the entire conflict can be divided into two separate phases. The first phase saw the Germans fight an offensive war, which started in September of 1939 and lasted till approximately June of 1941. During this specific phase, it was a time of key victories for the Nazi

“This economic crisis caused every major economy to fall into a worldwide recession. Unemployment rates soared and inflation spiraled out of control.”

military. The Wehrmacht was able to successfully conquer Poland, France, and the Low Countries of Europe. When World War 2 started in 1939, the Nazi military was better equipped and prepared to fight. During the interwar years, the Germans had been focused on creating new weapons and fighting tactics. The Allied powers suspected that wars would be fought in a slow manner, as had been the case during World War I. However, at the beginning of the Second World War, the German military was able to completely overwhelm the Western Allies. The new Nazi blitzkrieg tactics were a key component, adding to the unpreparedness of the Allied war time production. The second phase can be viewed as the German forces fighting a defensive war. This phase lasted from approximately June of 1941 till May of 1945, the end of World War II. During this period of time, Germany would lose significant battles, such as D-Day, the

“The contrasting cultures between the Axis and Allied powers resulted in a different methodology in terms of supplying their armies.”

Battle of the Bulge, as well as unconditional surrender to the Allied powers. When comparing the two separate phases, a fundamental difference was tactics and supply line.

A major factor that allowed the Allied powers to achieve the upper hand was the ability to out produce Nazi Germany. Wartime production during any conflict is an important asset, it allows for armies to be properly equipped with enough weapons. In battle, this aspect gives armies an edge over their enemies, because it increases their numerical advantage. The economies of the Allies and Nazi Germany were regulated quite differently. The culture of the Third Reich was different from the western allies, which included the United States of America and The British Empire. The contrasting cultures between the Axis and Allied powers resulted in a different methodology in terms of supplying their armies. Part of the reason for why they were different is because of how their economy was run. When comparing the multiple economies among each other, the British Empire and the United States were practicing government-controlled capitalism. The Nazi

economy functioned like a medieval court, where people within the military would appease high ranking officials or Hitler himself, and give contracts regardless if they were good or bad ideas. Within the Wehrmacht, there was favoritism. Depending on which branches was best liked by Adolf Hitler, was fortunate enough to be equipped with Germany’s best weapons. During multiple occasions during the war, different branches, at different times, were receiving the most up to date weapons. The units of the Western allies were all equipped with their own most advanced weapons in all branches of the military. For Nazi Germany, the weapons were not evenly distributed throughout all branches. The contrasting cultures between the Axis and Allied powers resulted in a different methodology in terms of supplying their armies. Part of the reason for why they were different is because of how their economy was run. Both of the opposing sides of this war made distinctly different decisions. The Germans decided to focus on paying attention to the finer details. Nazi Germany made the executive decision to choose quality over quantity. Throughout the duration of the Second World War, the Wehrmacht made weapons that were expensive, difficult to produce, and generally did not include any standardized parts. Typically, Germany’s weapons during the War came in many variants. Updates made on a weapon were not always significant in impacting its performance. Despite few weapons, in comparison with their Nazi counterparts, the western Allies were able to match them technologically. The Allies decided to produce relatively inexpensive weapons that were simple to manufacture. For the most part, any updates made on a specific weapon were major changes that directly impacted performance for the better. There weren’t many variants and if something had a good performance on the battle, it was not changed. The Allied decision allowed for everything to be standardized. As a result of the difference, the Allies were able to significantly outproduce the Nazis by a large margin in all areas. The United States and the British Empire both were producing at record high numbers. The effort would earn the participating allies the nickname the “Arsenal for Democracy” During the War, the United States alone out produced Nazi Germany in everything. For example, of the head to head statistics of total amount of major weapons that were produced throughout the entire course of World War II; artillery pieces Germany produced 160 thousand, while Britain and the US

made 400 thousand. For tanks, Germany produced a total of 47 thousand, while the US made 88 thousand and the UK produced 28 thousand. For aircrafts, the Axis powers produced 115 thousand while the Allies made a total of 542 thousand. Despite developing extremely advanced weapons, such as the Tiger Tank and V2 rocket. Throughout the entire war, Germany's economy performed poorly, and their factories rarely achieved its production expectations. Many would have been confused with the interworking of the Nazi economy. Some historians claim that the Allies won because of the huge numerical superiority, they didn't need to devise complex tactics. When fighting a battle, it is essential for an army to have enough troops or divisions, as well as not over extending supply lines. When divisions run out of materials, it is imperative that they can be resupplied via a short route from the base to the location of battle.

“Some historians claim that the Allies won because of the huge numerical superiority, they didn't need to devise complex tactics.”

During the early stages of the war, Nazi Germany was victorious against the Low Countries and France because they had short supply lines, and the Wehrmacht was able to concentrate its forces on a singular front. Despite being outnumbered in both troops and weapons by France and Britain, Germany triumphed because of new, intelligent tactics it had devised. The Wehrmacht started fighting a losing war in 1941 after invading the eastern front, when they launched Operation Barbarossa. Opening a second front caused the Nazis to over extent their supply line route, as well as dividing up their available troops and resources between two separate fronts. This also meant that Germany was forced to take resources that were previously situated in the west, and re-allocate them for the fight against the red army. When American forces invaded at Normandy and at the island of Sicily, the Axis were outnumbered in divisions and were overrun in both occasions.

The legacy of the Second World War is still an influence in modern times. This conflict is still taught in schools across the world, as well as being studied by both historians and scholars alike. Due to the invention of nuclear weapons, World War II will most likely be the last conflict in which great powers fight directly against each

other. Since the end of the War, some historians and politicians have called the time that we are currently living in the “great peace”. There has been a relatively low amount of people dying in conflicts. In the pursuit of absolute victory, the Allied powers suffered greatly both financially and in the loss of human. The Nazi regime was a formidable adversary with technologically advanced weaponry and soldiers who were motivated by indoctrination of a twisted ideology. The Allied powers were able to defeat the Nazis on the western front because of the ability to produce enormous amounts of war material. Regardless of how many weapons were destroyed; they would always have a numerical superiority. The rate of production was significantly higher than rate of war materiel that was being taken out of service by the Nazis or other Axis forces. The other main reasons were tactics and man power. What occurs in the east, directly affects the sequence of events that take place on the Western Front. As a result of Operation Barbarossa, the Wehrmacht placed a majority of its divisions fighting against the Soviet Union in the east. Fighting a war on two separate fronts caused the German supply lines to spread extremely thin. These are the reasons that I covered, however there are many for was the Allied powers were able to completely defeat the Nazi war machine on the western front. So far, humanity hasn't started a third world war, it appears that we have been able to successfully learn from our past errors. Since the conclusion of the war in 1945, we have been able to produce more powerful and deadly weapons. When or if the next world war occurs, there would mostly be no winners.



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The GRU Spetsnaz during the Cold War

By
Ralph Pickard

Brief History of the GRU Spetsnaz

Throughout the Cold War, the Soviet Union had two rival intelligence services with a mutual interest in countering external western threats related to the country's national interests and security. These were the Committee for State Security (KGB) and the Main Intelligence Directorate (GRU). The KGB during the Cold War was a military ranked structured service and involved with foreign espionage, state security and protecting the states' borders. While the GRU was a Soviet military organization and conducted Soviet military intelligence activities under the structure of the Soviet General Staff of the armed forces. The GRU was also tasked to conduct foreign espionage against western governments. Further, the KGB in the mid-1970s and again in the early-1980s established two specialized KGB military units – Teams Alpha and Vypmel¹.

The GRU organization also had their own specialized military units throughout the Cold War known as

Spetsnaz (Special Forces) with their tradition going back to the Second World War. There were a number of dedicated GRU Spetsnaz units established during the different time periods of the Cold War. These GRU Spetsnaz units were based throughout the Soviet Union and Warsaw Pact countries. These units were formed as brigade size units. By the mid-1980s there were over 15 operational GRU Spetsnaz brigades with the average brigade size between 1,000 and 1,500 soldiers. Additionally, these GRU Spetsnaz units conducted reconnaissance and other special mission related actions during peacetime and conflicts throughout the world during the Cold War.

The GRU Spetsnaz had the capability to collect and conduct HUMINT (Human Intelligence), SIGINT (Signal Intelligence) along with collecting IMINT (Imagery Intelligence) during ground or reconnaissance operations.

¹ Additional background information about the KGB teams Alpha and Vypmel will be found in the following articles: Pickard, R., November/December 2014; The KGB in Afghanistan; Journal of Orders and Medals Society of America Volume 65, Number 6; pages 5-18 and Pickard, R., March/April 2019; The KGB-Vypmel Order of the Spetsnaz Veteran Star; Journal of Orders and Medals Society of America Volume 70, Number 2; pages 27-30

Throughout the Cold War the GRU Spetsnaz were known to have been militarily involved in the Hungarian Revolution of 1956, the invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1968 and the Afghanistan conflict from 1979 to 1989. They were also active in a number of other countries from the late-1960s through the end of the Cold War, including those in Africa and South East Asia performing duties as military advisers or trainers to name a few.

Operation Whirlwind

The GRU Spetsnaz played a small but important role during the Hungarian Revolution of 1956. The overall operation related to the Soviet invasion into Hungary was known as Whirlwind. GRU Spetsnaz personnel were involved in the capture of Hungarian senior leaders which assisted in stopping the rebellion.

Operation Danube

After the completion of Operation Whirlwind, Soviet military planners gained needed experience when they used GRU Spetsnaz personnel. During the invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1968, the GRU Spetsnaz played a larger and key role in the initial invasion. This Soviet invasion into Czechoslovakia was known as Operation Danube. During the initial invasion, Spetsnaz personnel from the 8th Spetsnaz Brigade Carpathian Military District (located in the Ukrainian S.S.R.) were flown in under false pretense and seized the main airport and a number of other key facilities. Further, the GRU Spetsnaz later arrested a number of senior Czechoslovakian leaders.

Afghanistan

There has been much written about the seizing of the Tajbek Palace residence and the assassination of Afghan President Hafizullah Amin, his senior Afghan leaders, and other senior personnel including his protection detail in December 1979. Tajbek Palace was located in the capital of Kabul. . This initial capture of the palace and key facilities was conducted by specialized military personnel from

² These soldiers from the Soviet Central Asian Republics were most likely Tajiks, Uzbeks and Turkemens.

both KGB Alpha and GRU Spetsnaz. The overall operation was known as Storm 333.

A few months prior to Operation Storm 333, a GRU Spetsnaz Detachment unit 154 was newly formed. This unit was activated by Soviet senior leaders and military planners in June 1979 and later in the same year deployed to Afghanistan prior to the operation. The GRU Spetsnaz Detachment 154 was staffed with over 500 soldiers. Once deployed, they began protecting the Afghan President and performing other duties in support of both the Afghan and Soviet governments. Later, GRU Spetsnaz Detachment 154 was the GRU unit involved in the initial assault and takeover of the Tajbek Palace. During Operation Storm 333, both KGB Alpha and GRU Spetsnaz Detachment 154 played a significant and noteworthy roles in the success and other follow up engagements in the different areas of Kabul, especially since the Spetsnaz unit was on the ground with placement and access. However, both units also suffered high casualty rates from the operation and other military engagements.

What is of interest is that the members of the 154th detachment mostly consisted of soldiers from Soviet Central Asian Republics with Muslim backgrounds ². This detachment was known as the “Muslim Battalion”. This newly created unit spoke the language and further understood the local Afghan ethnic traditions to assist in accomplishing their assigned missions.

By early January 1980 the GRU Spetsnaz 154th Muslim Battalion was pulled back out of Afghanistan and back to its home station. They redeployed back to Afghanistan in late 1981 after getting back to combat strength. Additionally, the GRU Spetsnaz created another such unit, the 177th Muslim Battalion, which was formed in early 1980. This unit made its first deployment to Afghanistan in late 1981 with the 154th.

All in all, there were eight special GRU Spetsnaz detachments³ that served in Afghanistan under two Spetsnaz Brigades, the 15th and 22nd subordinated

³ Even though they were known as detachments, these deployed GRU Spetsnaz detachments in Afghanistan were essentially the size of battalions and structured under one of two GRU Spetsnaz brigades. They were further broken down into detachments, essentially smaller teams.

under the Soviet 40th Army. The eight GRU Spetsnaz detachments were 154, 173, 177, 186, 334, 370, 411 and 668. Two of the detachments were the previously mentioned. The remainder of the specialized detachments began to arrive in Afghanistan in 1984 and 1985. Additionally, the 173rd GRU Spetsnaz detachment was also ethnically organized like the 154th GRU Spetsnaz Muslim Battalion and deployed to Afghanistan in early 1984. By 1988, the GRU Spetsnaz units began to drawdown from Afghanistan. This continued into the beginning of 1989 when the final GRU Spetsnaz units 177th and 668th provided security for the last remaining Soviet 40th Army units as they also redeployed back out of Afghanistan.

Background on GRU Spetsnaz Anatoly Pushkarskiy

At the time of this writing, there are some information gaps to the career grouping of Anatoly Pushkarskiy. Some of these gaps include the awards that were presented to him during his Cold War career and even after 1991. Some of his grouping may be lost to history or are part of another private collection.

Anatoly Pushkarskiy was born in Ukraine in 1949. He joined the Soviet army in 1967. By the very early 1970s and later in the early 1980s he had graduated high school and higher education by attending the Kiev Higher Combined Arms Command College (KVOKU). By the end of 1975 Anatoly Pushkarskiy was a senior lieutenant and serving as a company commander under the 9th Brigade of the GRU Spetsnaz. Further, by the end of 1975 some of the known awards that Senior Lieutenant Pushkarskiy had already been awarded; the 50th Anniversary of the Soviet Armed Forces medal, The Lenin Centenary Medal of Military Valor (respectively December 1967 and April 1970), and the Order for Service to the Homeland in the Armed Forces of the USSR in 3rd Class in December 1975, Figures 1 and 2.

In April 1984, then Major Pushkarskiy was again awarded the Order for Service to the Homeland in the Armed Forces of the USSR, this time in the superior and rarer 2nd Class, Figures 3 and 4. When he was awarded the Order in 2nd Class in 1984, he was then assigned to the 24th Brigade GRU Spetsnaz.



Figure 1. The front of the Order for Service to the Homeland in the Armed Forces of the USSR, 3rd Class awarded to Senior Lieutenant Pushkarskiy in 1975.



Figure 2. The back of the Order for Service to the Homeland in the Armed Forces of the USSR, 3rd Class awarded to Senior Lieutenant Pushkarskiy in 1975. The serial number on the back reads: 18320.

At this time there is very limited information from 1984 when some personnel from the 24th Brigade GRU Spetsnaz were formed and readied to be sent to Afghanistan. In late-1984 or early 1985 some of these personnel from the 24th Brigade GRU Spetsnaz were deployed to Afghanistan. This may have included Major Pushkarskiy who by 1984 was already serving as a detachment commander (1st Battalion Commander) within the 24th Brigade GRU Spetsnaz⁴.

⁴ According to author Andrey Bronnikov, a former officer and member of the 24th Brigade GRU Spetsnaz, he stated that the 1st Battalion was considered the best example for all other personnel to follow. This included having the best officers assigned to that battalion.



Figure 3. The front of the Order for Service to the Homeland in the Armed Forces of the USSR, 2nd Class awarded to Major Pushkarskiy in 1984.



Figure 4. The back of the Order for Service to the Homeland in the Armed Forces of the USSR, 2nd Class awarded to Major Pushkarskiy in 1984. The serial number on the back reads: 0145.

There are some gaps as to what GRU Spetsnaz Major Pushkarskiy did through the end of the Cold War. However, after the Cold War there is a mention of Anatoly Pushkarskiy in the *Essays on the Intelligence of Ukraine, the 20th Anniversary in the Creation of Intelligence and EWs, The General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine*, Kiev 2012. In a passage it states that Anatoly Pushkarskiy served a long time in the armed forces and achieved high posts in the intelligence field and was a military attaché in the Federal Republic of Germany.

Additional background information on the GRU Spetsnaz Brigades Anatoly Pushkarskiy served⁶ in during

the Cold War. The 9th Brigade of the GRU Spetsnaz was established in the Kiev Military District in 1962. As for the 24th Brigade GRU Spetsnaz, this unit was established in the Transbaikal Military District in 1977. Later in 1984, a separate special purpose detachment from the 24th Brigade GRU Spetsnaz was prepared for deployment to Afghanistan and later deployed by late-1984 or early 1985.

Lastly, while Major Pushkarskiy was serving as a GRU Spetsnaz Detachment Commander in 1984, he may have been involved in preparing fellow GRU Spetsnaz personnel for Afghanistan and later deployed with this unit. If he did deploy to Afghanistan later in 1984, he may have been initially assigned to either 334th or 370th GRU Spetsnaz Detachments.

The Order for Service to the Homeland in the Armed Forces of the USSR

The Order for Service to the Homeland in the Armed Forces of the USSR was established in October 1974 with the first Order being presented in February 1975. This Order was awarded to those members who served in the Soviet Army, Navy, Soviet Border Troops and Internal Forces. A person could receive this award for the following actions:

- For accomplishments in military and political training, supporting a high level of troop training and readiness, and developing new military equipment
- For high ratings in official capacity
- For successfully accomplishing special command assignments
- For bravery and self-sacrifice exhibited while executing military duties
- For other accomplishments for the Homeland while serving in the Armed Forces of the USSR

Further, the Order was awarded to members in three classes from 1975 through the collapse of the USSR

⁵ EW – Electronic Warfare.

⁶ Major Pushkarskiy could have served in other GRU Spetsnaz Brigades later in the 1980s, however there is no available information at the time of writing this article.

at the end of 1991. The Order was presented to service members in subsequent classes of 3rd Class, then 2nd Class and finally 1st Class. By 1991, almost 70,000 persons were awarded the 3rd Class, almost 600 for the 2nd Class and 13 for the 1st Class. Even though not discussed in this article, Figure 5⁷ illustrates the Order for Service to the Homeland in the Armed Forces of the USSR 1st Class.

After being awarded the Order for Service to the Homeland in the Armed Forces of the USSR, the Order will be worn above the right breast pocket.



Figure 5. An example of the front of the Order for Service to the Homeland in the Armed Forces of the USSR, 1st Class.

Final thoughts on GRU Spetsnaz Anatoly Pushkarskiy

Until more information is learned or released from the Russian archives related to Major Pushkarskiy or more of his career grouping becomes available that was presented to him prior to the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, there will continue to be gaps related to his career in the GRU Spetsnaz. Additionally, research conducted in the Ukrainian archives related to his post-1991 service in the independent Ukraine may provide further insight to his activities during the Cold War and post-1991.

Furthermore, this may better assist in learning why Major Pushkarskiy was presented the 2nd and 3rd Class of the Order for Service to the Homeland in the Armed Forces

of the USSR. This will also contribute in understanding the storied history and background of these Orders.

However, for the time being one can speculate that the awarding of the Order for Service to the Homeland in the Armed Forces of the USSR in late 1975 to Senior Lieutenant Pushkarskiy was for superior performance in training, exercise or possible unit deployment. While his 1984 awarding may have been for training the best battalion within the unit or a superior training performance plan related to preparations of fellow GRU Spetsnaz personnel for deployment to Afghanistan.

End of the Cold War

Since the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, the GRU Spetsnaz have been involved in a number of conflicts including the first (1994) and second (1999) Chechen wars. This was followed by intervention to annex and control the Crimea from Ukraine in 2014 and later ground operations in Eastern Ukraine. Most recently, they have been active in Syria's civil war that has been ongoing since 2011.

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⁷ The source for the colored photograph of the Order for Service to the Homeland in the Armed Forces of the USSR 1st Class came from a 1982 Cold War period Soviet medals wall poster.

⁸ According to information written in Wikipedia, the 1st, 2nd and 3rd class of this medal in 1995 was resurrected with some redesign by the Republic of Belarus government. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Orders,_decorations,_and_medals_of_Belarus#Orders

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Of course the people don't want war. Why should some poor slob on a farm want to risk his life in a war when the best he can get out of it is to come back to his farm in one piece? Naturally, the common people don't want war neither in Russia, nor in England, nor for that matter in Germany. That is understood. But, after all, it is the leaders of the country who determine the policy and it is always a simple matter to drag the people along, whether it is a democracy, or a fascist dictatorship, or a parliament, or a communist dictatorship. Voice or no voice, the people can always be brought to the bidding of the leaders. That is easy. All you have to do is tell them they are being attacked, and denounce the peacemakers for lack of patriotism and exposing the country to danger. It works the same in any country. -Goering

The founders of a new colony, whatever Utopia of human virtue and happiness they might originally project, have invariably recognized it among their earliest practical necessities to allot a portion of the virgin soil as a cemetery, and another portion as the site of a prison. -Hawthorne

Socialists believe in two things which are absolutely different and perhaps even contradictory: freedom and organization. -Halèvy

It is significant that the nationalization of thought has proceeded everywhere pari passu with the nationalization of industry. -Carr

Power tends to corrupt, and absolute power corrupts absolutely. -Acton

In a country where the sole employer is the State, opposition means death by slow starvation. The old principle: who does not work shall not eat, has been replaced by a new one: who does not obey shall not eat. -Trotsky

The control of the production of wealth is the control of human life itself. -Belloc

Learn about tyranny, dictatorship, and repression across history and culture to spread hope, peace, freedom, and awareness on human rights issues. -Regimes Museum

When authority presents itself in the guise of organization, it develops charms fascinating enough to convert communities of free people into totalitarian States. -The London Times

We should expect tyranny to result from democracy, the most savage subjection from an excess of liberty. -Plato

We were the first to assert that the more complicated the forms assumed by civilization, the more restricted the freedom of the individual must become. -Mussolini

What has always made the state a hell on earth has been precisely that man has tried to make it his heaven. - Hölderlin

All tyranny needs to gain a foothold is for people of good conscience to remain silent. -Burke



A program whose basic thesis is, not that the system of free enterprise for profit has failed in this generation, but that it has not yet been tried. -FDR

The finest opportunity ever given to the world was thrown away because the passion of equality made vain the hope for freedom. -Acton

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