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Middle East Conflicts:
Annotated Bibliography from the Soviet Press
By Timothy L. Sanz

What political views and assessments do leading Soviet government officials, academicians and the government itself have concerning the numerous conflicts and wars that have occurred and are occurring today in the Middle East? What interpretations have Soviet military officers drawn from their involvement as advisers in the region's armed conflicts and from their evaluation of Western operations there? What experience has the Soviet army gained from its participation in desert warfare? Both the Soviet general and military press contain a wealth of information on these issues.

The following annotated bibliography lists, in reverse chronological order, citations exclusively from Soviet press sources providing commentary, narrative, analysis and opinion on the nature of the various conflicts in the Middle East from 1973 to the present. It is divided into political assessments, aspects of the theater of operations, descriptions of the armed forces of individual countries, military analyses of various conflicts and Soviet experience in desert warfare.

Wherever possible, citations to English translations have been provided. The original articles or translations (especially Joint Publications Research Service [JPRS] translations and the Transdex microfiche collection of these translations) should be available through Department of Defense libraries or its interlibrary loan services. However, for articles difficult to obtain elsewhere, the Soviet Army Studies Office (SASO), Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, will supply government agencies with copies of up to five of these articles. Send a written request specifying Russian or English versions of the articles with a self-addressed 8 1/2" X 11" envelope to Director; Soviet Army Studies Office; ATTN: ATZL-SAS (Dr. Sanz); Ft. Leavenworth, KS 66027-5015.

Military/Political Assessments. These assessments range from articles published through 1987 that tend to be didactic and reflect the atmosphere of the Cold War to the most recent articles that incorporate "new thinking" and more balanced information about the Soviet government's Middle East policy (especially those by D. Zgersky, N. Spaiov and V. Yu. Goshev).


Zgersky, D. “Tolerance is needed on both sides,” New Times 15 (10-16 April 1990):26-27. Reviews with “new thinking” Soviet Middle East policy that has varied from unconditional support of only Israel to unconditional support of only the Arabs; concludes that the problem can be assessed only if the opinions of both sides are taken into account.


Dr. Sanz is the technical information specialist for the Soviet Army Studies Office, where he has created and maintains extensive databases on military and political-military affairs in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. He received an M.S.L.S. from the University of Kentucky and a Ph.D. from Ohio State University.
ments with Middle East countries during this time.


Theaters of Operations. This section contains information on Middle East communications systems, transportation, pipelines and installations.


Kazakov, A. "Tubinskaya transport from An- tiveskho pozvezki" [Arabian Peninsula Countries'
Various Regional Armed Forces. These articles are generally based on Western sources of information, with some Soviet interpretation.


Military Analyses of Various Conflicts. The sources in this section assess the role of Soviet advisers, the 1973 Middle East War, the Iran-Iraq War, the Lebanese conflict of 1982, electronic warfare, air tactics of Israeli fighter-bombers and Arab air defenses.


Sokolov, V. A. “Razvitie taktski istrebiteley-bombardirovshchikov v lokal’nykh voznyakh” [Development of Fighter-Bomber Tactics in Local Wars], Voyennost’-istochnykh zhurnal 4 [Military Historical
Assessments of Desert Warfare. These articles, based on Soviet desert combat experience from the Great Patriotic War (World War II) to the present, address both offensive and defensive operations and specific problems applicable to the environment, to include the march, concealment, reconnaissance, logistic support and other topics.

nous—desert regions (pages 98 to 108).


Shamsurov, V. K. “Inzhenemoye obespecheniye boya v pusynnykh rayonakh” [Engineer Support of Combat in Deserts] in Inzhenemoye obespecheniye boya v osobykh usloviyakh [Engineer Support of Combat in Special Conditions]. Moscow: Voyenizdat, 1985. Translated by Harold S. Orenstein, Soviet Army Studies Office, 1990. This chapter (pages 157 to 191) covers the effect of desert conditions on engineer combat support, the offensive, engineer reconnaissance, fortification, preparing the line of march, construction and maintenance of water supply facilities, concealment and various other topics concerning engineer support of a defense.


Dudarev, S. N. and Shipov, B. V. “Boyevye priemeniya artdieleniy v pusynnoy mestnosti” [Combat Employment of Artillery Subunits in Desert Terrain] in Artillery v osobykh usloviyakh [Artillery under Special Conditions]. Moscow: Voyenizdat, 1970. Translated by Harold S. Orenstein, Soviet Army Studies Office, 1990. Chapter 2 (pages 59 to 84) assesses the employment of artillery subunits in the offensive in desert environments, the desert’s effect on the use of artillery, fire preparation for the attack, fire support of the attack and march and meeting engagement. Also included is a section on subunits on the defense.