

# Soviet Military History Collection

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### Soviet Military Dissertations (MIL-DISS)

This rare research collection includes 90 Soviet doctoral and "candidate" dissertations on military subjects, as well as 42 abstracts, books, reports, appendices, maps, and illustrations (more than 20,000 pages in total) defended in various Soviet Military Academies in the period between 1946 and 1983. Formerly categorized as "Secret" and declassified only during the brief period of Soviet *perestroika*, these publications represent an extremely rare source of Soviet military strategy and analyses.

The issues covered by this collection include organizational development of the armed forces, study of foreign armies, military art analyses (artillery, air force, navy, infantry, ordnance, and general issues), military history, military theory and practice, weapons of mass destruction, and World War II.

The dissertations were defended in the leading Soviet military educational and research institutions of the time, including:

- Voroshilov Higher Military Academy (VVA im. Voroshilova)
- Institute of Military History (IVI MO SSSR)
- Zhukovsky Air Force Academy (VVA RKKA im. Zhukovskogo)
- Higher Military-Pedagogical Institute (VVPI)
- Frunze Military Academy of the General Staff (VA im. Frunze)

### Sbornik Boevykh Dokumentov Velikoi Otechestvennoi Voiny (SBD-VOV)

This rare 43-volume collection contains the most critical directives and orders from the Soviet Supreme Command (Stavka) during World War II, as well as combat documents detailing the activities of all branches and types of Soviet forces. It is arranged according to subject (i.e., artillery, mechanized forces), battle, and period of the war. The collection of documents was assembled by the Archive of the Ministry of Defense under the direction of the General Staff's Directorate on the Study of the War Experience (and later, the Military Science Directorate). Most of the more than 8,000 documents were classified secret or top secret, and the series itself was classified "Secret." It is by far the largest and most comprehensive Soviet documentary series on the war. This set continues to be widely used by military analysts and planners in Russia. The collection contains 43 volumes, 8,434 pages, 266 maps, and tables.

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