

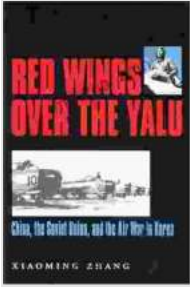
China, the Soviet Union, and the Air War in Korea: A Comprehensive Guide



The Korean War, fought from 1950 to 1953, was a complex and brutal conflict that pitted the forces of North Korea, backed by China and the Soviet Union, against those of South Korea, supported by the United States and its allies. The air war played a critical role in the conflict, with both sides deploying a wide range of aircraft and engaging in intense aerial combat.

This article will explore the air war in Korea, with a focus on the involvement of China and the Soviet Union. We will examine the strategies and tactics employed by the different air forces, the types of aircraft used, and the impact of the air war on the course of the war.

Red Wings over the Yalu: China, the Soviet Union, and the Air War in Korea (Williams-Ford Texas A&M



University Military History Series Book 80) by Xiaoming Zhang

★★★★☆ 4.3 out of 5

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China's Involvement in the Air War

China's entry into the Korean War in October 1950 was a major turning point in the conflict. The Chinese Air Force (PLAAF) deployed a large number of MiG-15 jet fighters to Korea, which proved to be a match for the American F-86 Sabre jets.

The PLAAF pilots were highly skilled and aggressive, and they quickly gained air superiority over much of North Korea. The Americans were forced to adopt new tactics, such as using napalm and cluster bombs, to counter the Chinese threat.

Despite the PLAAF's success in the air, the Chinese ground forces were unable to make significant gains against the Americans and their allies. The war eventually bogged down into a stalemate, and an armistice was signed in July 1953.

The Soviet Union's Involvement in the Air War

The Soviet Union also played a major role in the air war in Korea. The Soviet Air Force (VVS) provided the PLAAF with MiG-15 jet fighters and other equipment, and Soviet pilots also flew combat missions in Korea.

The VVS was initially reluctant to commit large numbers of its own aircraft to the Korean War, but it gradually increased its involvement as the war progressed. By the end of the war, the VVS was flying about 10% of the sorties in Korea.

The Soviet pilots were generally less experienced than their Chinese counterparts, but they were still a formidable force. They were particularly effective in night fighting, and they also developed new tactics, such as using air-to-air missiles, which the Americans were not yet equipped with.

The Impact of the Air War on the Course of the War

The air war in Korea had a significant impact on the course of the war. The Chinese and Soviet air forces helped to prevent the Americans and their allies from achieving air superiority, which in turn limited their ability to support their ground forces.

The air war also played a role in the eventual stalemate of the war. The Americans were unable to defeat the Chinese and Soviet air forces, and the Chinese and Soviets were unable to defeat the Americans and their allies. The war eventually bogged down into a stalemate, and an armistice was signed in July 1953.

The air war in Korea was a complex and challenging conflict. The Chinese and Soviet air forces played a major role in the war, and their involvement had a significant impact on the course of the conflict.

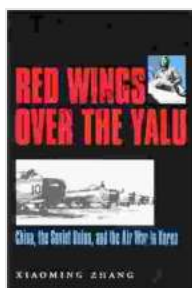
This article has provided a brief overview of the air war in Korea, with a focus on the involvement of China and the Soviet Union. For a more in-depth look at this fascinating topic, please consult the sources listed below.

Sources

* [China's Role in the Korean War]

(<https://www.britannica.com/event/Korean-War>) * [The Soviet Union's Role in the Korean War](<https://www.history.com/topics/korean-war/soviet-union-korean-war>) * [The Air War in Korea]

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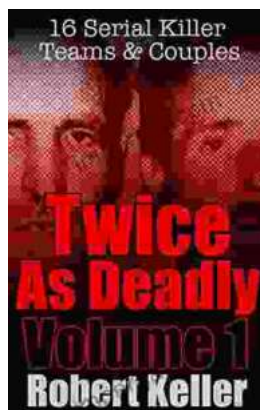
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