

World War II Soviet Armed Forces: A Comprehensive Guide

The Soviet Armed Forces played a pivotal role in World War II, fighting against Nazi Germany on the Eastern Front. Despite suffering heavy losses, the Red Army eventually emerged victorious, helping to secure Allied victory in the war.



World War II Soviet Armed Forces (3): 1944–45 (Men-at-Arms Book 469) by hanano

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Humble Beginnings

The Soviet Armed Forces were not initially prepared for war. In 1941, they had only 4 million men under arms, compared to Germany's 5.5 million. They also lacked modern equipment and training.

However, the Soviets were able to quickly mobilize their vast manpower and industrial resources. By 1943, they had over 10 million men under arms and were producing vast quantities of tanks, aircraft, and other weapons.

Strategies and Tactics

The Soviet Armed Forces used a variety of strategies and tactics to defeat the German Wehrmacht. These included:

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- **Human wave attacks:** The Soviets often used human wave attacks to overwhelm the Germans. These attacks were often costly, but they were often successful in breaking through German defenses.

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- **Deep battle doctrine:** The Soviets also used a deep battle doctrine, which involved using multiple layers of troops to attack the enemy in depth. This doctrine allowed the Soviets to keep the Germans off balance and to prevent them from concentrating their forces.

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- **Partisan warfare:** The Soviets also used partisan warfare to harass the Germans and to disrupt their supply lines. This warfare was particularly effective in the forests and swamps of the Soviet Union.

Key Battles

The Soviet Armed Forces fought in a number of key battles during World War II. These included:

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- **Battle of Stalingrad:** The Battle of Stalingrad was one of the turning points of World War II. The Soviets fought a desperate battle to defend the city, and they eventually emerged victorious. This victory boosted Soviet morale and helped to turn the tide of the war.

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- **Battle of Kursk:** The Battle of Kursk was the largest tank battle in history. The Soviets defeated the Germans in this battle, and this victory helped to secure their control of the eastern front.

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- **Battle of Berlin:** The Battle of Berlin was the final battle of World War II in Europe. The Soviets fought their way into the German capital, and they eventually captured Hitler's bunker. This victory marked the end of the war in Europe.

Lend-Lease

The Soviet Union received a great deal of aid from the United States and Great Britain through the Lend-Lease program. This aid included food, supplies, and equipment, and it played a vital role in the Soviet war effort.

The Lend-Lease program was a major factor in the Soviet victory in World War II. It helped to keep the Soviet economy from collapsing, and it provided the Red Army with the equipment it needed to defeat the Germans.

The Soviet Armed Forces played a vital role in World War II. They fought a long and bloody war against Nazi Germany, and they eventually emerged victorious. The Soviet victory in World War II helped to secure Allied victory in the war, and it also helped to shape the postwar world.



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