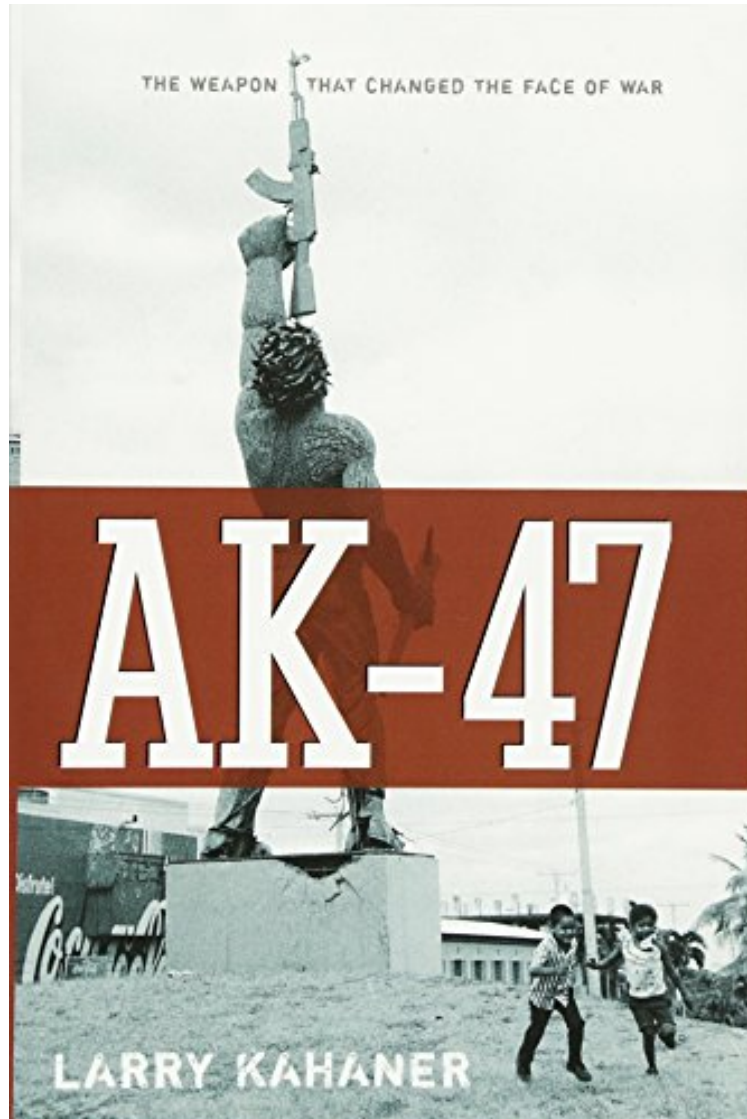


[Ebook pdf] AK-47: The Weapon that Changed the Face of War

AK-47: The Weapon that Changed the Face of War

Larry Kahaner

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Larry Kahaner : AK-47: The Weapon that Changed the Face of War before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised AK-47: The Weapon that Changed the Face of War:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. The AK-47, or...By dj...how I learned to stop researching and hate the bomb. Most of the other reviewers nailed it. This book was NOT written by a gun-owner or enthusiast. It was NOT written by a military historian. And the greatest of its crimes? It was NOT written objectively. This book is essentially a pseudo-political rant, with the AK-47 as the springboard. So much could be said about this marvelous rifle and its history in the 20th century (and beyond), its legacy, why it has achieved ubiquitous appeal, etc. etc. yet the author

failed to state some of the gun's more obvious achievements. It's a quick read, and it has some interesting back story for Karishnikov, but beyond that, don't bother. Why would a person even bother to write a book about something so specific as the AK-47 but fail to make it appealing to no one? And why would a person with such anti-gun sentiment and political bias embark on such an endeavor? I'm not sure, but it makes about as much sense to me as a deer joining the NRA. 8 of 9 people found the following review helpful. A Weak Effort By Hunt N. Peck My words will add little to what has been expressed above, but nevertheless, having suffered through 220 pages of this story, I feel compelled to say a few things about the book and its author. In general, this is a very poor effort by Mr. Kahaner. As described more completely in other posts, the book is replete with many errors relating to firearms, their functioning, ammunition, and general use. I can forgive a non-gun guy like Mr. Kahaner a few mistakes, but his errors are too numerous and significant to ignore. His imprecision with the facts in so many instances calls into question all of his statements and assertions, not just those related to firearms. It also calls into question his literary honesty and his dedication to accuracy. He says in the preface that Charlie Cutshaw, a knowledgeable gun writer and author, proofed his book for technical accuracy. My only explanation is that ol' Charlie must have been appalled at what he was reading and decided to let the book stand as a testament to Mr. Kahaner's literary imprecision. Moreover, the book is supposed to be about the political impact of the AK-47 - not a manual on its operating features. If Mr. Kahaner was uncomfortable with his grasp of the technical aspects of firearms operations, why didn't he just avoid the technical and focus on the supposed real subject of the book? Further, if his intellect is incapable of grasping the basic mechanical principles and concepts underlying firearms operations (after all, it ain't rocket science), why am I supposed to believe that his intellect is any more capable of understanding and accurately conveying the complex social, political and geographical influences that have come together in various parts of the world to produce armed conflict in which the AK-47 was used? Mr. Kahaner seems to suffer from the same naïve mis-perception that all people on the left do - that guns are inherently evil and that possession of the gun itself will reduce its operator to a state of depravity and cruelty. He blames the violence and upheaval in various parts of the world on the AK-47 alone, without ascribing any blame to those entities (i.e., individuals, organized groups, terrorists, and nations) that choose violence as a means of attaining their political goals. In truth, the AK-47, or whatever the weapon of choice or circumstance may be, is merely a means to an end. It is not, contrary to Mr. Kahaner's view, the root cause of evil. He also ascribes to the AK-47 some mythical power -- for example, in his estimation, it was the reason why the United States policy in Viet Nam failed (or as he puts it, why the U.S. lost the Viet Nam war). Now that's a very severe oversimplification of a very complex subject, but typical of the kind of superficial gloss that comprises the bulk of this book. I would expect a statement like that from a grade school student, but not someone posing as a serious author. Indeed, his description of the major and minor conflicts around the world in which the armed camps were equipped with AK-47s reads like he performed the majority of his research by reading CNN headlines. It all has a very rushed, depthless and unorganized feel about it. In total, it's a poor read and a bad reflection on Mr. Kahaner's skills as an author. Don't waste your time or money on this book. 14 of 14 people found the following review helpful. ak47-An Historical Review (kind of) By Ryan Fredrick Cox As an owner of several variants of the AK rifle, I bought this book in anticipation of learning something new about the weapon. Immediately, as mentioned by a previous reviewer, I felt like I was completely tricked. While the book did provide some decent historical information, the overall theme was disdain and contempt for the rifle, and the firearm's industry in general. It became glaringly obvious that I was reading an opinionated article from a Liberal, anti-gun journalist. The section that covered the gun bans enacted by the Clinton administration and the crimes in which AK's were used was especially horrible. My absolute favorite was how he described Diane Feinstein standing on stage holding an AK with a "banana shaped magazine", speaking of all of the crimes in which someone used an AK. You mean the one where she had the 75 round drum magazine, with the bolt closed, safety off, and waving it around at the others in attendance; who were oblivious because they are all ignorant as well. Followed closely by his obvious opinion on certain features of the gun that were banned during this period such as the pistol grip that allowed "from-the-hip-spraying". Really? The recurring theme throughout the book is that of how cheap, reliable, easy to learn and available the AK is. The author simply reiterates this throughout, intermixed with historical instances where the AK is used by governments legitimate and not, bands of roving thugs, etc. to reign terror. If you are an anti-gun person looking for some new material, this book is for you. If you would like a non-biased historical review without biased snippets, look elsewhere.

No single weapon has spread so much raw power to so many people in so little time—and had such a devastating effect—as the AK-47 assault rifle. This book examines the legacy of this world-changing weapon, from its creation as means of fighting the Nazis to its ubiquity today in every kind of conflict, from civil wars in Africa to gang wars in L.A.

* Journalist Kahaner (The Quotations of Chairman Greenspan: Words from the Man Who Can Shake the World) presents a detailed study of the AK-47, the single most deadly weapon ever produced, and its designer. Mikhail Kalashnikov, a mechanically inclined Russian soldier, came up with this simple submachine gun to counter superior

German weaponry during World War II. Brought into mass production in 1947 (this date formed the final part of the weapon's name, Avtomat Kalashnikov 1947), the AK-47 was shipped by the Soviet Union to Eastern Europe, Africa, Asia, South America, and the Middle East during the Cold War. In part because they are so easy to make, 80 to 100 million AKs have been manufactured and distributed during the last 59 years. Moreover, the AK has proven a superior weapon to the American M-16. Kahaner provides an interesting discussion of how internal politics in the U.S. Army led it to adopt, instead, an inferior, lightweight machine gun. Kalashnikov, who lives in Russia today, never became rich from his design, but he did receive recognition outside his homeland for the impact of his weapon. A fascinating examination; recommended for all libraries.—Stephen L. Hupp, West Virginia Univ. Lib., Parkersburg (Library Journal, October 15, 2006)