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ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT TODAY'S RUSSIAN COMBAT AIRCRAFT AND THEIR AIR-LAUNCHED WEAPONS



Written by Polish aviation author and expert Piotr Butowski, who (thanks to his sound knowledge of the Russian language) has scrutinized for many years the Soviet/Russian aerospace industry, this comprehensive trio of books produced by Harpia Publishing in Houston, Texas, is definitely a must. And a first class reference.

An exhaustive directory of the latest products of Russia's military aviation industry, these books as well as outlining aircraft currently equipping the various Russian air arms, take into account aircraft developed for and fielded by foreign states in the post-Soviet era. The first of two volumes on the subject presents in-depth coverage of tactical combat aircraft, trainers, Army Aviation helicopters, reconnaissance and surveillance aircraft, airborne command posts and relay aircraft. As well as familiar types such as the MiG-29 and Su-30MK family of fighters and Mi-24/35 assault helicopters that have proven so successful on the export market, Russia's Warplanes extends its reach to the various new and upgraded types that are beginning to populate Russia's rejuvenated air arms, including those still under development, including the enigmatic 'fifth-generation' Sukhoi T-50 fighter.

Piotr Butowski provides authoritative technical descriptions for each military aircraft – and significant sub-variant – currently available from Russia's aerospace industry, or otherwise in large-scale service. With the accuracy and insight familiar to Harpia's regular readers, each aircraft profile also includes specifications, and details of operators, upgrades, avionics and weapons.

The second volume concludes what can be considered a very comprehensive anthology of the country's latest military aviation hardware. The result forms an essential companion to Volume 1. Between them, the two works present in full detail the aircraft that equip the various Russian air arms, as well as those developed for and operated by foreign states in the post-Soviet era. Alongside technical descriptions for each military

aircraft – and every significant sub-variant – currently available from Russia's aerospace industry, or otherwise in large-scale service, P. Butowski provides historical background and accurate data relating to production and operators around the world. Volume 2 in the series is dedicated to long-range bombers – including the Tu-95MS and Tu-160 which made their combat debuts over Syria – maritime patrol and anti-submarine warfare aircraft, strategic transport and tanker aircraft, theatre transports, and trainers. The book provides authoritative accounts of Russia's current and future strategic bomber programmes, as well as other fascinating types including the world's largest military transport, the An-124, and the new-generation Yak-130 advanced trainer and light attack aircraft.

The third book presents a detailed account of all the types of weapon currently used on board Russian-made aircraft and helicopters, including Cold War-era munitions, the various weapons used by Russian aircraft during the Syrian campaign, and the latest precision-guided stores currently in development. The contents of this work encompasses the strategic air-launched weapons that comprise a vital element of Russia's nuclear forces, including little-known free-fall bombs, strategic and theatre-level air-to-surface missiles, and future projects such as exotic hypersonic weapons. Significant coverage is given over to the uniquely diverse range of tactical air-to-surface missiles, including details of their production, guidance methods and applications, with exhaustive tables of specifications. Study of Russian air-to-air missiles includes close-combat, medium-range and long-range types, while inclusion of helicopter-launched missiles extends the scope of this work to anti-armour weapons. Not neglected are the guns and gun pods that make up an important part of Russian aircraft's arsenals.

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