

A book review by Todd Shugart, posted 27 January 2017 at the closed Facebook group Aviation Enthusiast Book Club:

This is a combined review of Russia's Warplanes Volume 1 and Volume 2 by Piotr Butowski and published by Harpia Publishing. Many of us have purchased aircraft recognition books, Janes Defence books, and other analytical books on world air forces. However, none of these are as easy to read, as well researched, and so beautifully presented as in this series by Harpia. The quality of the format, the standard of publishing, and the simplicity that lends to an easy to understand and quick reference guide for Russian military aircraft and helicopters is simply excellent. What also stands out is the access that Piotr has had from industry and units that allows for such incredible detail on the latest weapon systems, radars, ECM, and other upgrades. Each aircraft is described in detail and more importantly it is easily to understand for the technologically challenged people like myself! Each volume is roughly 250 pages long and additionally Vol 2 has an addenda that provides updates to Vol 1. Piotr also included Russian unmanned aircraft and balloon programs. That is something you don't hear much about in aviation periodicals or books. These two volumes are used in some military headquarters and just yesterday I saw another glowing review in a NATO journal. And these are only two books within a large series of books by Harpia Publishing.

I am currently reviewing Arab MiGs Vol 6 and the Iraqi Air Arm since 2004. Additionally, I am reliably informed that there will be a third Russian volume on air launched weapons coming out soon. So watch this space! Lastly, I just want to reiterate that these are some of the finest books I have seen on modern Russian airpower and I highly recommend them. I would encourage the readers out there to check out Casemate Publishers and Harpia Publishing if you are interested in ordering these books.

Colin Dodds

This supports other very positive reviews of the series by Harpia. Reviewers generally seem to be saying they set new standards for such books. Clearly something to be looked at closely as I haven't actually got one of the series on my bookshelves ...YET! Thanks, Todd for this informative review.

Simon Jakubowski

Another great review Todd and I'll second your point of view on their excellence, these guys are the new Aerospace Publishing and lead the field in this sector. The African MiGs volumes that I have are fascinating.