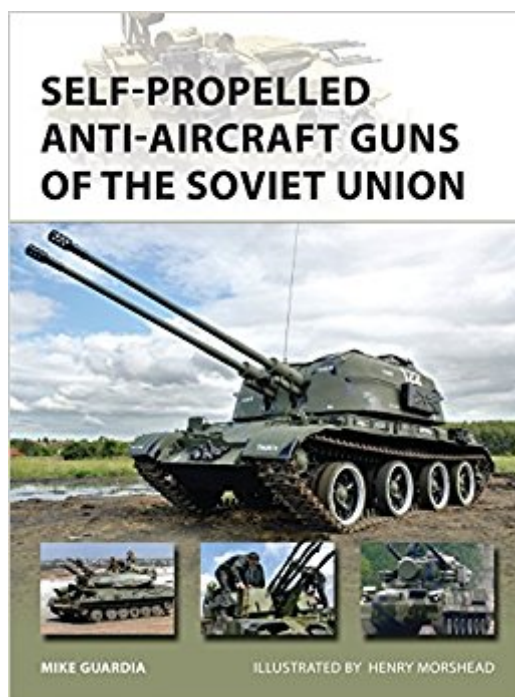


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# Self-Propelled Anti-Aircraft Guns Of The Soviet Union (New Vanguard)



## Synopsis

During the Cold War, the Soviet Army was perhaps the deadliest fighting force the world had ever seen. Within its mechanized forces, the Soviets accomplished something that their American counterparts never could - the fielding of a self-propelled anti-aircraft gun (SPAAG) that could keep pace with its heavy armored formations. This book examines the design, development and operational history of the Soviet Union's Cold War SPAAGs: the ZSU-37, ZSU-57-2, the infamous ZSU-23-4, and the 9K22 Tunguska (better known by its NATO reporting name: SA-19 "Grison"). These vehicles excelled in their air defense role, and many US Department of Defense publications were dedicated to examining how to defeat the ZSU and its radar tracking system. These formidable weapons were encountered again in Iraq during Operation Desert Storm, and had equipped Russian forces in Afghanistan, cementing their place in the landscape of modern warfare. This study explores the full history of the SPAAGs with revealing photographs, technical illustrations and detailed analysis.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This book is on the middle to upper end of the Osprey scale. It has a lot of really excellent photos and other illustrations and gives a good history of the various systems developed by the Soviets. Guardia also does an very good job describing similar systems fielded by NATO as well as NATO aircraft countermeasures. There are a number of editing errors I found troubling, by way of example one of the Soviet guns was given an armor penetration of 110 cm which seems like it should be 110

mm. Osprey's editorial staff should have caught that and I think they let down the reader, and the author by not tightening up and catching such errors before the book goes to print. Otherwise this is an excellent work and well worth getting. I recommend this for anyone with an interest in Soviet AFV or in air defense systems in general.

Self-propelled anti-aircraft weapons have been around for quite some time and certainly they'll often have a presence. Those of the Soviet Union are no different. This book takes the tale from the beginning with the ZSU-37 introduced in 1945 (but which didn't see combat apparently) through to the 9K22 Tunguska with a good amount of time spent on the well known SZU 23-4. This is the 222nd instalment of the New Vanguard series by Osprey - conforms to the premise of the series in that it is very concise, has lots of photographs of the vehicles from different angles and has colour illustrations. This latter is of course a boon for modellers and the splashes of colour really do liven up the books. There is a short bibliography and unlike many bibliographies in the Osprey series that deal with Soviet armour this one is made up of books written in English. In some instalments of this series there is so much information to pack in that there is no time to discuss the vehicles operational use. Luckily in this one there is room for some of that and it was interesting to read how some of these weapons went in a live scenario. All up a good instalment of this series and on an interesting subject to boot. Recommended.

Self-propelled anti-aircraft guns of the Soviet Union is another great book by the Osprey series, book provides great detail and lots of drawing and pictures. The most interesting for me was reading about the latest anti-aircraft system the SA-22 weapon system that is now in service and the mods being done on this system. The other older systems are also covered but the most recent data on the current new systems was well worth the purchase. Easy read and enjoyable

A clear-cut Osprey equipment style book. I knew almost nothing about SPAAGs, so I'm happy I learned something. You get the usual good histories, analyses, tech specs, etc. I wish there was more about these weapons in combat. It is interesting to note that these are great for urban combat.... and the US does not have any in its inventory.

REALLY detailed presentation of the Soviet army self-propelled AA guns. Discusses the Soviet Army thinking behind the development of the weapons as well as their tactical deployment. My only disappointment was that the book discusses the weapons that everyone knows about such as the

ZSU 57 - 2 and ZSU - 23- 4. I had hoped that there might be some discussion on weapons that may have been designed or developed but never placed into production or deployed, as inevitably happens with any army. But it was not to be. I think part of the reason for the detailed discussions of the weapons presented is that only four or five of them are included (because that was all that the Soviets deployed). Also, the title "Self - Propelled..... " means exactly that -- no towed AA guns are discussed, and there were several such guns developed in the 1940s and 1950s.

Beautifully-illustrated, this book looks at the SPAAGs employed during the Soviet era: the ZSU-37, the ZSU 57-2, the Shilka and the Tunguska. Mr. Guardia provides excellent insight into the design of each of these weapons and their employment in the Soviet Army and allies. The artwork is first-rate and the photographs are excellent. The text is a bit redundant in places, but the information is thorough for a volume of this size. Definitely a book you want if you are interested in air defense or armored vehicles in general.

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