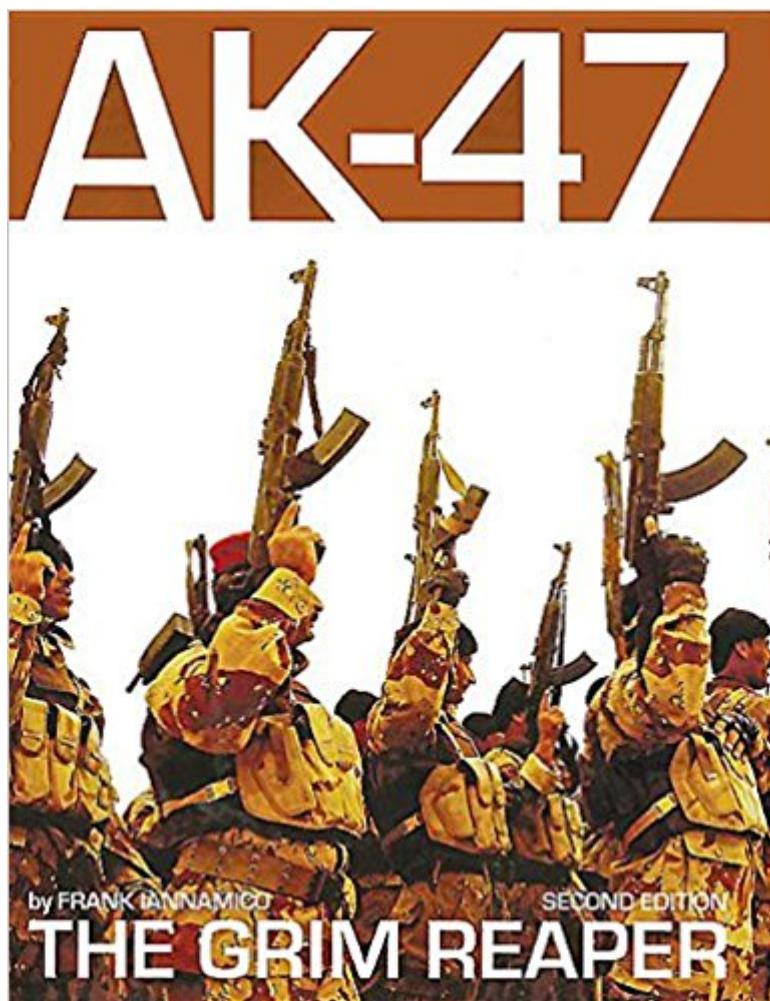


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AK-47: The Grim Reaper



Synopsis

It's back...but this time with more pages, more information and more photographs. The most definitive study on Kalashnikov pattern rifles to date boasts over 1,100 printed pages covering the AK rifle, as well as its variants manufactured in over 19 countries.

Book Information

Hardcover: 1086 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 57 customer reviews

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Customer Reviews

Probably the best Kalashnikov reference guide available in the West, with hundreds of pictures both black and white and in full color, complete with descriptions of the numerous military variants to have come out of the Com Bloc during the Cold War plus the commercial variants offered on the US market. It also has sections dedicated to weapon accoutrement, bayonets, magazines, &c. and the differences between those offered by the manifold countries to have manufactured the Kalashnikov weapon system and its variants. Unfortunately, it lacks anything on the two most direct Western descendants of the Avtomat Kalashnikova, the Finnish Valmet Rk62, its family and descendants, and the Israeli Galil, although it does cover the Finnish Rk62 magazines in steel and polymer and the purchase by Finland of Chinese and Russian Kalashnikovs.

This is the definitive collector's book on the AK series of firearms. It covers the full series of the AK rifles country by country, and is lavishly illustrated with excellent mostly B&W photos covering the most minute details. It makes identifying the exact model of the rifle by country and by version of the rifle a cinch. By way of an example: I was sold a Chinese type 56 (AKM) with the built in spike

bayonet. On close examination I noted absence of Chinese factory marks plus a few other small anomalies, compared with the illustrations in other AK books. Frank's book showed it was an Albanian copy of the type 56, and in seconds I could establish this. It details ALL of the differences, some of which I had missed. The book is fully comprehensive at this level throughout. The only thing that could add to the book is colour illustrations throughout, although there is a pretty comprehensive set of colour illustrations at the end. This would add a lot to the cost though. I rate this book as the 'bible' of the AK series. Don't waste your money on any others, as you will end up having to buy this one anyway.

Excellent reference. What keeps me from giving 5 stars is that I was hoping for more detail. But I can't really fault the author for that, since I understand that to keep the book to a "manageable" 1100 pages, something HAS to get left out. No doubt he had a vicious editor. Fifty-two pages devoted to magazines and it barely scratches the surface. If it had the detail I would like it would be the size of an Unabridged Oxford English Dictionary. Paper IS a bit thin, but with a nice finish, and photographs are sharp. I suspect that the weight of the paper is a factor of being 1100 pages. Good photos, but too many shots of the left side only for my taste. Myself, if I can't see both sides, I want to see the right side, but this is nitpicking. Now the author needs to get to work and produce an 1100 page book on each nation's AK.....

For the price I expected more color pictures, otherwise I love it.

I was looking for a first edition of "The Grim Reaper" but of course they are no longer in publication and if anyone have inquired about a used copy you know what price they were demanding. When I found out a second edition was published I immediate made the purchase. The second edition is larger and have more information than the first and of course the quality is first rate. If you're a collector of AK-47 or have an interest of firearms and their history this is a must buy book.

Great!

Awesome book for the ak collector. Pretty much will answer most of all the questions you can come up with.

The second edition of the AK47, the Grim Reaper has some additional information from the first

addition, most of it in the accessory section, still the best book currently on the Kalashnikov, it does have some glaring omissions including the Ukrainian Vepr, the Russian OTs-14, and Burmese local made AKs to name a few, perhaps a third volume can address these issues, as it stands the best book on the AK on the market.

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