



The Dirty War

By Anna Politkovskaya

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The Chechen War was supposed to be over in 1996 after the first Yeltsin campaign, but in the summer of 1999, the new Putin government decided, in their own words, to 'do the job properly'. Before all the bodies of those who had died in the first campaign had been located or identified, many more thousands would be slaughtered in another round of fighting. The first account to be written by a Russian woman, *A Dirty War* is an edgy and intense study of a conflict that shows no sign of being resolved. Exasperated by the Russian government's attempt to manipulate media coverage of the war, journalist Anna Politkovskaya undertook to go to Chechnya, to make regular reports and keep events in the public eye. In a series of despatches from July 1999 to January 2001 she vividly describes the atrocities and abuses of war, whether it be the corruption endemic in post-Communist Russia, in particular the government and the military, or the spurious arguments and abominable behaviour of the Chechen authorities. In these courageous reports, Politkovskaya excoriates male stupidity and brutality on both sides of the conflict and interviews the civilians whose homes and communities have been laid waste, leaving them nowhere to live, and nothing and no one to believe in.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

A special correspondent for the Russian newspaper *Novaya gazeta*, Politkovskaya received the 2000 Golden Pen Award by the Russian Union of Journalists for her coverage of the Russian military campaign in Chechnya. She braved arrest and interrogation by the Russian military this past February, sparking international protests, and this October she was forced to flee Russia after receiving credible death threats from the Russian military; she remains in exile. All of which places importance and credibility on her savage indictment of the current situation in the Muslim province of the former U.S.S.R., Chechnya. The present book, clearly translated by John Crowfoot (who also did *The KGB's Literary Archives*, among other titles), collects articles she wrote about the Second Chechen War (begun after the conflict had supposedly ended during the Yeltsin regime) from 2001 to 2001. Her on-sceners recount atrocities on both sides evenhandedly, and are passionately pro human rights, even when interviewing sordidly cynical Russian generals more preoccupied with the size of their apartments than the death and suffering brought upon the Chechen rebels. She reports that monumental corruption diverted humanitarian relief from the starving locals to greedy businessmen and the Russian military. Mothers of dead soldiers are reportedly bilked for cash by military representatives when seeking information on the locations of their sons' bodies. The many black-and-white photos of dead Chechens will surely disturb readers. Meanwhile, the usual killing goes on, at an estimated 15 to 20 deaths a day, according to the Chechen side. (Nov. 12) Forecast: Russia has recently begun recasting the Chechen conflict as part of the "war on terrorism," particularly given speculation of Chechen ties to al Qaeda and the bombings of a shopping mall and several apartment buildings in Russia. Politkovskaya's indictments may take on a different cast in that light, but the book's close reporting of the war's effects on everyday people are directly analogous to Afghanistan. Readers looking for accounts of war's impact on soldiers and civilians alike will find this book deeply disturbing; Politkovskaya will be able to further contextualize during a six-city tour this month.

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From Library Journal

Currently a journalist with the Russian newspaper *Novaya gazeta* in Moscow, Politkovskaya has spent the past 20 years covering social issues all around her country. This volume includes translations of articles she wrote during the Second Chechen War, from July 2001 through January 2001, based on several visits there at great risk to herself. She writes about profiteering by private businesspeople and government bureaucrats, humanitarian relief goods that never reach the intended recipients, the brutality of Russian military service for the enlisted troops, and the utter lawlessness that prevails in Chechnya. An old people's home in Grozny, mentioned in several chapters, is her best metaphor for the plight of the most helpless among the civilian population. The residents receive aid only occasionally, are evacuated late, and then return to a seriously damaged building in a devastated city. The author's opinions are very clear and forthright: she wants this war to end. Because this conflict receives only occasional coverage by the Western press, this collection is worthwhile, if uncomfortable, reading for an informed audience. Marcia L. Sprules, Council on Foreign Relations Lib., New York

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Review

"If you haven't done so yet, read Politkovskaya's books: *A Dirty War* and *Putin's Russia*" Independent "Read this book to discover the true nature of the Russian state under Putin, a state where corruption, torture and

murder are franchised out to his friends and the friends of his friends... Its assault on the Russian state is electrifying" Observer "Politkovskaya chronicles the deathly thud of the Russian war machine and the anguished cries of those crushed in its tread...[She] was awarded Amnesty's prestigious Global award for human-rights journalism. Maybe there is yet hope that the truth will out" Guardian "One of the most respected and feared journalists in the world...Despite death threats, she defied state intimidation with dispatches that investigated the true nature of the Russian occupation and documented atrocities against the Chechen people" Daily Telegraph

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Thomas Rasmussen:

Information is provisions for people to get better life, information nowadays can get by anyone at everywhere. The information can be a expertise or any news even restricted. What people must be consider if those information which is inside former life are challenging be find than now could be taking seriously which one is acceptable to believe or which one often the resource are convinced. If you receive the unstable resource then you get it as your main information there will be huge disadvantage for you. All those possibilities will not happen in you if you take The Dirty War as the daily resource information.

Walter Feuerstein:

In this period globalization it is important to someone to acquire information. The information will make professionals understand the condition of the world. The fitness of the world makes the information easier to share. You can find a lot of personal references to get information example: internet, classifieds, book, and soon. You can observe that now, a lot of publisher this print many kinds of book. The book that recommended to you is The Dirty War this book consist a lot of the information of the condition of this world now. This book was represented how does the world has grown up. The words styles that writer value to explain it is easy to understand. The particular writer made some study when he makes this book. This is why this book appropriate all of you.

Dennis Green:

That book can make you to feel relax. This specific book The Dirty War was multi-colored and of course has pictures on the website. As we know that book The Dirty War has many kinds or style. Start from kids until adolescents. For example Naruto or Investigator Conan you can read and feel that you are the character on there. So , not at all of book are make you bored, any it can make you feel happy, fun and loosen up. Try to choose the best book for yourself and try to like reading that will.

Jose Rivera:

As a student exactly feel bored in order to reading. If their teacher expected them to go to the library or to make summary for some publication, they are complained. Just minor students that has reading's heart or real their interest. They just do what the teacher want, like asked to the library. They go to presently there but

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