

Fiction highlights NATO-Soviet conflict

by Anthony K. Wikrent

The Hunt for Red October

by Tom Clancy

Naval Institute Press, Annapolis, 1984
469 pages, hardbound, \$14.95

Red Storm Rising

by Tom Clancy

G.P. Putnam's Sons, New York, 1986
652 pages, hardbound, \$19.95

Anywhere you go in Washington, D.C. this summer, you will spy somebody carrying a copy of one of Tom Clancy's three novels (the third being the recently released *Patriot Games*) with an unusually high incidence of sightings of *Red Storm Rising*—just out in paperback—around the Pentagon and the Executive Office Buildings where the National Security Council is housed. Clancy has apparently found a way to appeal to the yuppie American *apparatchiki*, and well he might. Both *The Hunt for Red October* and *Red Storm Rising* are notable for their ability to transport the reader from the stultifying world of mundane paper-pushing jobs and soap operas, into the highly secret, but far more real, world of national intelligence collection and analysis, and the front-line military units which stand guard minutes or even seconds this side of the line from the Apocalypse.

Clancy affords us a rare glimpse into that bone-chilling world, largely ignored by the major news media, where the two superpowers unceasingly watch each other with the utmost care, while jockeying for the best position should the situation “go live” and actual shooting begin.

Clancy achieved notoriety with his first novel, *Red October*, which details how the American military scrambles to surveil, contain, and stop the Soviet Navy just miles off the American coast, as the Russians desperately attempt to locate

and destroy a Soviet Navy captain who is implementing his methodically planned defection to the United States—bringing with him an entire, brand-new Soviet ballistic missile submarine, complete with nuclear-tipped missiles and a revolutionary new propulsion system.

The Hunt for Red October is one of a handful of novels that have been published by the stodgy Naval Institute Press, and it immediately touched off speculation among American intelligence insiders as to the source or sources of Clancy's information. After all, other than being a war-gaming enthusiast, the suburban Maryland insurance agent had no professional military background. Perhaps to wheedle some hints out of him, Clancy was invited to speak to the National War College. But, the fact was, that all of the information on submarine and surface warfare, and related technologies, contained in *Red October* is available in the open literature; Clancy only did a superb job of pulling it all together in a novel with a credible plot, thus making it possible to familiarize landlubbers with the complexities, and simplicities, of the tactics of modern naval warfare.

For instance, the reader will learn that modern weapons platforms very rarely use their active radars or sonars, for these are more likely to give away their own position before they reveal that of the enemy. The importance of such things as ocean surveillance satellites, and the anti-satellite weapons needed to negate them (which the U.S. Congress itself seems intent on “negating”) is made clear. As Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger wrote, in a review of *Patriot Games* he recently penned for *The Wall Street Journal*, “The real hero in *Red October* was our naval technology and our capability to locate and track Soviet submarines.”

Clancy makes you feel “as if you are there,” in the sonar room of an American attack sub, straining to listen to the stealthy approach of a Russian Typhoon, or in the cockpit of an American A-10 attack aircraft as it races a scant hundred feet above the waves to deliver a “message” to the powerful Russian flagship *Kirov*.

Assault on West Germany

Clancy's second novel is much more ambitious: *Red Storm Rising* describes, all too credibly, the course of a sudden Soviet assault into West Germany. But, unlike the technological *tour de force* of *Red October*, to make *Red Storm Rising* usefully instructive, not just merely entertaining, the reader must note the various assumptions Clancy has built into his war scenario.

First of all, Clancy places the Russian military under the tight control of the Soviet Communist Party (as he also does in *Red October*). The reality of today is that the Soviet Union is ruled by an iron-fisted group of Dostoevskian fanatics around Marshal Nikolai Ogarkov, who are committed to making Moscow the seat of a “Third and Final Roman” Empire. Worse, these Great Russian zealots are masters at *maskirovka*, strategic deception.

In Clancy's novel, the *maskirovka* does not work: NATO clearly sees that the war is coming, though NATO cannot answer the crucial question "Why?" The Russian loss of strategic surprise is the second assumption. The reality of Soviet military doctrine today is reflected in the words of Clancy's imaginary General Alekseyev, who, upon being informed of the party's decision to begin the assault only after four months of intense training and preparation, objects, and argues for an immediate attack: "Four months! Four months in which we may be detected, four months in which we may lose all the elements of surprise. Then what may happen? No, we have a plan already for this: Zhukov-4! Instant mobilization! We can all be back at our command posts in six hours. If we are going to conduct a surprise attack, then let us make it one no one can detect in time—72 hours from now!" Alekseyev's plea goes unheeded.

In a third assumption closely related to the second, NATO uses its tactical prescience to "do something right for a change," and get in the first punch—with U.S. Air Force Stealth fighters knocking out the Russian AWACS, giving NATO air superiority in the opening minutes of the war, and allowing NATO fighter-bombers to race in and decimate the second and third echelons of the Russian assault.

The intelligence coup that convinces otherwise irresolute NATO governments that the incantations of the diplomats have failed, is the fortuitous capture of a Russian spetsnaz unit commander, who falls into West German hands when he is run down by an automobile in an accident, just after picking up his operational orders. This gives the unwilling West German chancellor incontrovertible evidence that "the Russians are coming."

The United States may or may not have already deployed Stealth fighters—I seriously doubt it, given the catastrophic budget limitations imposed on the Pentagon for the past three years—but one should definitely not count on receiving so nicely packaged a warning as Clancy provides NATO in his novel.

Finally, in Clancy's novel, the Russians defer to the squeamishness of their East German political comrades, and decide not to use any nuclear, biological, and chemical (NBC) weapons. Now, it is a fair possibility that when and if the Russians actually do come crashing across the inter-German border, they will not use any NBC weapons, but not because one of their East European allies found a soft spot in the heart of Matushka Rus. As *EIR* has been alone in emphasizing, Marshal Ogarkov's war plan depends on the West continuing its economic self-stupification, allowing the backward economy of Holy Mother Russia to catch up to and surpass the West, and bestow technological supremacy on the Russian military—in the form of new weapons of mass destruction: radio frequency weapons—by default.

Radio frequency (RF) weapons operate by tuning into and interrupting the electromagnetic radiation that regulates living processes at the level of the cell. Thus, RF weapons

are able to kill incredibly large numbers of people, without the problem of collateral damage to surrounding economic infrastructure caused by nuclear weapons, or the contamination of the immediate and surrounding areas caused by NBC weapons. Russian research institutes have been working on RF weapons for over 15 years; Western scientists working on similar technologies are just now achieving power levels at efficiencies comparable to those achieved by the Russians nine or ten years ago. Marshal Ogarkov and his cohorts at the Voroshilov Academy envision a Russian attack against NATO that begins with spetsnaz troops using RF weapons against all key NATO installations, obliterating all means of resistance while keeping Western Europe's physical economic capacity largely intact for Matushka Rus. This is why, despite a clear and growing margin of Soviet superiority in both nuclear and conventional armaments, Marshal Ogarkov has stayed his hand so far.

Red Storm Rising ends pretty much as one would expect, given all these assumptions that so clearly favor NATO. (The only "surprises" are a successful Russian invasion of Iceland that seriously disrupts NATO defenses against Russian submarines, and a successful feint by Soviet naval aviation that leads to the disabling of the *USS Nimütz*.) With the momentum of the Russian offensive stalled, the hardliners in the Politburo press for escalation to nuclear weapons, but are overthrown in an internal coup by the moderates, who had opposed the war to begin with.

The real question is: Is this fiction or fact? The answer is: Both. The war itself, of course, is a work of fiction. But, as *EIR* has warned since the publication of the Special Report *Global Showdown: The Soviet Imperial War Plan for 1988*, in July 1985, the Soviet Union is presently engaged in a pre-war mobilization of its military potential, in anticipation of either forcing the West to capitulate, or of simply annihilating the West in the years immediately ahead. So, if the reader were to dismiss the above assumptions, retain Clancy's power of description, and let the imagination spin out various conclusions, the result is sobering. Suppose NATO were taken by surprise: Would the Russian assault, with its second and third echelons intact, have succeeded? What if the Soviets had used, even selectively, NBC weapons—or RF weapons—at the very beginning, or some other point of their assault? What if the Federal Republic of Germany were ruled by a Hans-Dietrich Genscher, and had chosen to surrender rather than fight?

Now, the line separating fact from fiction becomes very blurred indeed. By replacing Clancy's assumptions with the unmitigated and unforgiving reality that *EIR* has strived to bring to the attention of the public, *Red Storm Rising* becomes a primer for understanding the monstrous threat that now confronts our republic. It is a sad commentary when novels more accurately reflect reality than the National Intelligence Estimates and other pablum that makes the rounds in the corridors of power.