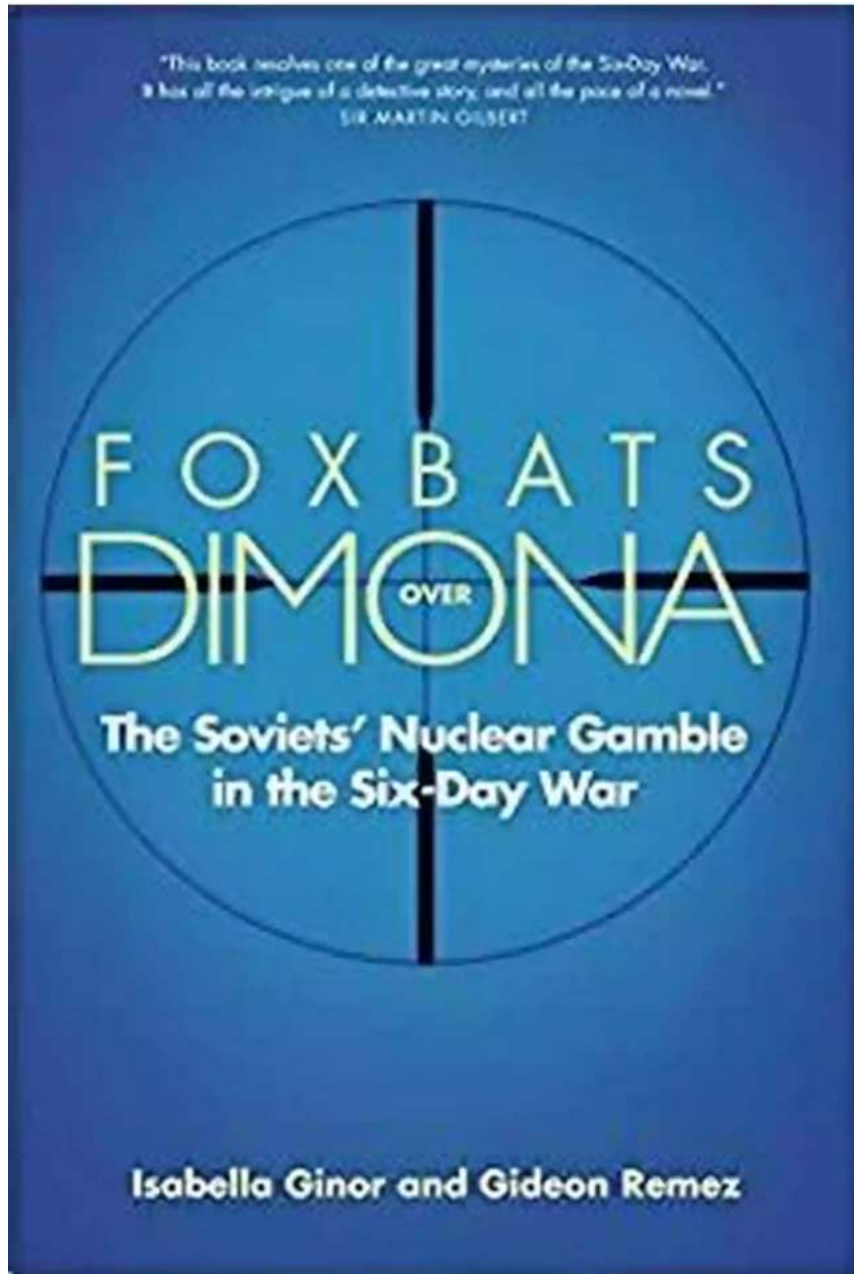


The Soviets Nuclear Gamble In The Six Day War

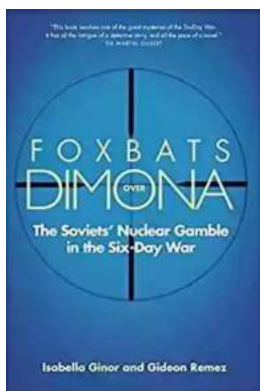


In the summer of 1967, a tense standoff between the Arab countries and Israel erupted into a full-blown war that would forever change the geopolitical landscape of the Middle East. The Six Day War, as it came to be known, witnessed unforeseen military strategies, intense battles, and the rise of a crucial but little-

known Soviet intervention that had the potential to unleash catastrophic consequences on a global scale. This article delves into the Soviets' nuclear gamble in this fateful conflict.

The Middle East on the Brink

Prior to the Six Day War, tensions in the Middle East had reached a boiling point. Arab nations, united by their desire to eliminate Israel, had attempted to strangle the young nation from its inception. Israel, bolstered by its military prowess, managed to fend off several attacks but was acutely aware of the precarious situation it found itself in.



Foxbats over Dimona: The Soviets' Nuclear

Gamble in the Six-Day War by Isabella Ginor(Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.1 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 1917 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 302 pages



Meanwhile, the Soviet Union, vying for dominance against the United States during the Cold War, saw an opportunity to expand its influence in the region. The Soviets provided military aid, strategic advice, and revolutionary weapons to Egypt, Syria, and other Arab countries, all with their eyes set on crushing Israel. However, the Soviets had an ace up their sleeve - their nuclear arsenal.

A Calculated Risk

As tensions between Israel and the Arab nations soared, the Soviets began contemplating whether to unleash their ultimate weapon – the nuclear bomb. Possessing a superior force, they believed that a strategic nuclear strike could decimate Israel and cripple their adversaries in the region while ensuring a Soviet-backed victory.

The Soviet leader at the time, Leonid Brezhnev, was hesitant about using nuclear weapons. While he desired to prove the Soviet Union's capabilities and strength, he feared exacerbating the already tense relations between the superpowers and triggering a catastrophic global conflict. Balancing the risks, Brezhnev took a gamble - to provide the Arab allies with the nuclear deterrent option.

The Samson Option

Under the code name "Operation Kama," Soviet officers secretly provided Arab countries with the necessary knowledge, equipment, and even nuclear devices for "Samson Option" in the event of a total defeat. The Samson Option referred to the Arab nations' willingness to use nuclear weapons as a final act of defiance against Israel and strengthen Soviet influence in the region.

Despite the audaciousness of this plan, the Soviets knew that once the nuclear genie was out of the bottle, controlling and containing the consequences would be nearly impossible. Nevertheless, the Soviets believed that the threat of a nuclear warhead was crucial in bolstering their allies' morale and deterring Israeli aggression.

The Six Day War Unfolds

In June 1967, the Israeli Defense Forces launched a pre-emptive strike, quickly gaining the upper hand in what would later be known as the Six Day War.

However, as the tides turned against the Arab nations, the Soviets' nuclear gamble began to unravel.

The Israeli intelligence agency, Mossad, had been monitoring the Soviet involvement closely. They intercepted Soviet communications and received intelligence from double agents, realizing the extent of the deployment of nuclear devices and the potential for their imminent use by the Arab allies.

Averting the Catastrophe

With this knowledge in hand, Israeli leaders immediately sought strategic alliances with other nations, especially the United States. They urgently conveyed the seriousness of the situation and the potential dangers a nuclear war would pose beyond the immediate conflict in the Middle East. Through secret backchannel negotiations, the Israeli intelligence managed to provide undeniable proof of the Soviet nuclear assistance to the United States.

The discovery of Soviet nuclear involvement rattled the White House and triggered frenzied diplomatic efforts to diffuse the crisis. American President Lyndon B. Johnson, determined to avoid a nuclear catastrophe, reached out to the Soviet leadership, demanding an immediate cessation of any nuclear activity in the region.

The Cold War's Nuclear Brink

The Soviets, realizing the extent of the American knowledge concerning their nuclear involvement, had no choice but to comply. The secret deployment of the devices was halted, and the imminent threat of a nuclear disaster was averted. Behind closed doors, negotiations were brokered to remove these weapons from the region entirely.

The Soviets' nuclear gamble had backfired. The risk they had taken to expand their influence in the Middle East had brought them perilously close to provoking a global nuclear conflict. The Six Day War served as a stark reminder of the Cold War's volatility and the lengths both superpowers were willing to go in their relentless pursuit for dominance.

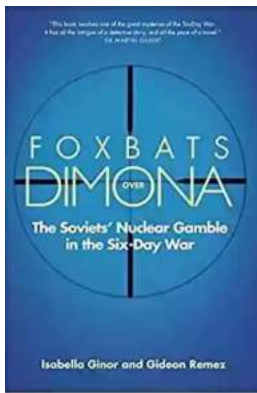
Legacy and Lessons Learned

The Soviets' nuclear gamble in the Six Day War had far-reaching consequences. It highlighted the dangers of arming allies with weapons of mass destruction and the difficulties in maintaining control over them. Additionally, it served as a wake-up call for the world to recognize the importance of preventing nuclear proliferation and de-escalating conflicts through diplomatic means.

The Six Day War not only reshaped the Middle East but also led to an increased awareness of the precarious balance between peace and the devastating power of nuclear weapons. It forever altered the dynamics of the Cold War and marked a turning point in the superpowers' approach towards regional conflicts.

The Soviets' nuclear gamble in the Six Day War was a high-stakes move with the potential for catastrophic consequences. While their plan was audacious, it ultimately failed and brought the world to the brink of a global nuclear catastrophe. The lessons learned from this pivotal moment in history continue to shape international relations and nuclear policy to this day.

As we reflect on this remarkable event, it serves as a stark reminder of the dangers inherent in geopolitical conflicts and the imperative need for diplomacy and de-escalation. The Soviet nuclear gamble in the Six Day War remains a poignant testament to the fragility of peace in a world armed with devastating weapons.



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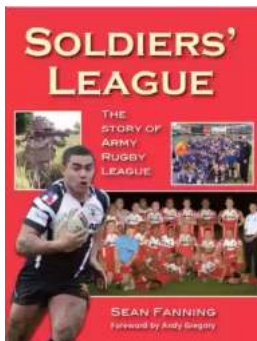
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Isabella Ginor and Gideon Remez's groundbreaking history of the Six-Day War in 1967 radically changes our understanding of that conflict, casting it as a crucial arena of Cold War intrigue that has shaped the Middle East to this day. The authors, award-winning Israeli journalists and historians, have investigated newly available documents and testimonies from the former Soviet Union, cross-checked them against Israeli and Western sources, and arrived at fresh and startling s.

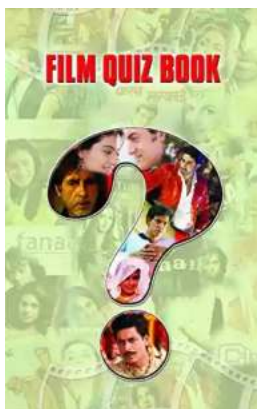
Contrary to previous interpretations, Ginor and Remez's book shows that the Six-Day War was the result of a joint Soviet-Arab gambit to provoke Israel into a preemptive attack. The authors reveal how the Soviets received a secret Israeli message indicating that Israel, despite its official ambiguity, was about to acquire nuclear weapons. Determined to destroy Israel's nuclear program before it could produce an atomic bomb, the Soviets then began preparing for war--well before Moscow accused Israel of offensive intent, the overt trigger of the crisis.

Ginor and Remez's startling account details how the Soviet-Arab onslaught was to be unleashed once Israel had been drawn into action and was branded as the aggressor. The Soviets had submarine-based nuclear missiles poised for use against Israel in case it already possessed and tried to use an atomic device, and the USSR prepared and actually began a marine landing on Israel's shores backed by strategic bombers and fighter squadrons. They sent their most advanced, still-secret aircraft, the MiG-25 Foxbat, on provocative sorties over Israel's Dimona nuclear complex to prepare the planned attack on it, and to scare Israel into making the first strike. It was only the unpredicted devastation of Israel's response that narrowly thwarted the Soviet design.



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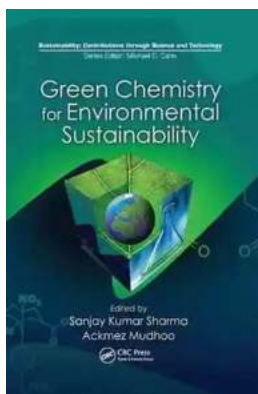
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