

*“Ten Literary Accounts of a War that Was Never Fought”*

Ted Grevstad-Nordbrock

Bibliography List

Bidwell, Sheldon, ed. (1978). World War 3. Feltham, England, Hamlyn Paperbacks.

Though non-fictional, Sheldon's work takes on an air of fiction when it hypothesizes about how a third world war in Europe might realistically start, and how it would play out. Like other books in this collection, slogging but indecisive conventional warfare inevitably leads to the use of nuclear weapons.

Clancy, Tom. (1986). Red Storm Rising. New York, Berkley Books. *Reprint edition (c.2001)*.

Clancy is, of course, the best-known author of the group included here. This work, one of his earliest, describes a NATO-Warsaw Pact conflict on land and on the seas.

Cook, J. L. (1990). Armor at Fulda Gap: A Visual Novel of the War of Tomorrow. New York, Avon Books.

Cook's illustrated work is an unusual mix of fact and fiction-of real-world armaments that would have been used to fight a third world war as well as fantastic imaginings of what the near future might hold. The title of the book makes reference to two common themes in the theory and literature describing a NATO-Warsaw Pact confrontation in Europe: the Fulda Gap, a historical passage-a "gap" in the otherwise rough terrain-from eastern Europe to the west, named after the German city; and armor, the tanks and mechanized vehicles that would contend for this strategic region.

Coyle, Harold. (1987). Team Yankee. New York, Berkley Books.

This best-selling work intimately chronicles the efforts of an American tank platoon in defending a small swath of West Germany during a Warsaw Pact invasion. The story is based on the Hackett's The Third World War: August 1985, which Coyle acknowledges in his introduction.

Hackett, John, General Sir. (1978). The Third World War: August 1985. New York, Berkley Books. Illustrated reprint edition.

This influential account of World War III is told by a British general. The illustrated edition features images of the battles, including the two terminal moments of the short war: nuclear strikes on Birmingham, England and Minsk.

Hackett, John, General Sir. (1982). The Third World War: The Untold Story. New York, Bantam Books.

Hackett's follow-up fleshes out and expands the narrative begun in "August

1985."

Macksey, Kenneth (1984). First Clash: Combat Close-Up in World War Three. New York, Berkley Books.

First Clash offers a Canadian take on NATO's efforts to repulse the Red Army during its invasion of West Germany. That this fiction is based in fact is emphasized through the use of annotated maps, images, and text boxes that contain discursive notes on tactics, armament, military organization, etc.

Palmer, Michael A. (1994). The War That Never Was. New York, ibooks, Inc.

Written after the Cold War ended, this book describes World War III on a global scale (a war that "never was"), as told by a fictional Russian character to his old enemy and new ally: an American.

Peters, Ralph. (1989). Red Army. New York, Pocket Books.

Peters's book is unique in that it tells the story of a conflict in Europe from the perspective of soldiers in the Red Army. This is perhaps one of the best written of the books of this genre.

Zaloga, S. J. (1989). Red Thrust. Novato, CA, Presidio Press.

Though no less fictional than any of the other works included here, Zaloga's text reads almost like a casebook. He offers a series of hypothetical NATO-Warsaw Pact battle scenarios in Western Europe, each with an accompanying postmortem: tactical strengths, weaknesses, and what might have been done by military leaders to affect a different outcome.