



# BOOK REVIEW - KARGIL - FROM SUNRISE TO VICTORY

*Cdr GS Oberoi*

The book 'Kargil - from Sunrise to Victory' is a first person account of the 1999 Kargil War, Operation Vijay. It very comprehensively explains the rationale, planning, conduct and impact of the war by the man at the helm of the affairs; Gen VP Malik, who was the incumbent Chief of the Army Staff, during the complete operation.

Gen Ved Prakash Malik (Retd) was the COAS from 01 Oct 97 to 30 Sep 2000. Concurrently, he was Chairman, Chief of Staff Committee, from 01 Jan

99 to 30 Sep 2000. Gen Malik is a graduate from Defence Services Staff College and Madras University. He is an alumni of National Defence College, New Delhi. He has been a member of India's National Security Advisory Board and has delivered lectures in many prestigious civil and military institutions in India and abroad. Currently, he heads the Institute of Security Studies in the Observer Research Foundation, New Delhi.

The book has been divided into 20 chapters.

It has been written in a very interesting manner and gives a very gripping account of the battles fought in Kargil. The author has presented the facts and has analysed and commended on related events before, during and after the Kargil war. His main objective is to highlight these lessons for the benefit of the nation and the armed forces.

He has also discussed about the happenings within our neighbouring country. He has given a brief insight into the issues which cover the geo strategic environment in the sub continent - a few years before the conflict, what was the politico - military setup in Pakistan before and during the war. He has tried to explain how the events unfolded in India and Pakistan before, during and in the aftermath of the war.

The author's description of the various battles fought during the conflict have been written in a very touching and gripping manner and certain incidents of bravado and courage bring tears to the eyes and makes you feel proud of the fact that you are an Indian. The various battles have been described very briefly without going into too much of detail, but the reader is bound to be profoundly affected by the narrative.

Gen Malik has also described, albeit very briefly the involvement of the Indian Air Force and the Indian Navy. He has also dealt with factors we modernisation of the armed forces, the politico - military relations and of media during the conflict. In fact the Kargil was the first war in our region, which was fought in the direct glare of the television cameras.

He has also dedicated a complete chapter on the role of Army Wives Welfare Association and how these ladies have been working behind the scenes and uplifting the morale of our soldiers. He has also briefly touched upon the nuclear implications and the effect of the China factor. He has given some useful suggestions, which if implemented, could improve the present system being followed in the armed forces.

This book has been very well written. I recommend that this book be read by all officers and men of the armed forces as it gives a very precise and detailed insight in the Kargil conflict including the events leading to the war and the aftermath of the war. The author has written in a very simple but elucidate manner and has ensured that almost all relevant points are covered quite well. A must read book for all personnel in the armed forces.

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### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

*The officer was commissioned on 01 Jul 91. He is a Specialist in Gunnery and an alumnus of Defence Services Staff College, Wellington. Presently he is Training Commander, INS Zamorin.*

