

Where to Purchase (or View) Soviet Military Mapping

- The following list includes suppliers of Soviet Military mapping and some websites where mapping can be viewed (and sometimes downloaded). It is not meant to be an exhaustive list and the inclusion of a company does not necessarily mean that we have purchased maps from that company or that we recommend them. Please let us know if you find any errors or if you locate additional suppliers.
- Note that only a few suppliers keep paper sheets in stock and that many will not sell single maps, preferring to supply sheets for a whole country instead.
- Some suppliers are able to provide digital data and occasionally this is free to download.

<u>Akosarev</u>	http://akosarev.info/engine/?interface=geo_maps&form=main	Copy of the old Poehali maps database?	
<u>Atlassen</u>	www.atlassen.info/kaarten/topograf/genshtab/genshtabt.html#summary	Maps of Belgium and Netherlands to view and download	
<u>Eastmap Oü</u> Previously called Eastnor Ltd	Aleksander Lesment Vaablase 28, 12916 Tallinn, ESTONIA	Tel: 00 (372) 50 29 131 alexlesment@eastmap.ee	Sometimes has sheets in stock.
<u>East View Geospatial</u>	10601 Wayzata Boulevard Minneapolis MN 55305-1515 USA	geospatial@eastview.com www.geospatial.com/	Specialist in supplying large commercial companies with maps and data. Publish an English translation of the legend to the 25k, 50k and 100k maps and 'Russian military mapping: a guide to using the most comprehensive source of global geospatial intelligence' (2005) [S696.c.200.80]
<u>GeoPubs</u>	Toby Harrison 4 Highland Grove Billericay, Essex CM11 1AF ENGLAND	sales@geopubs.co.uk www.geopubs.co.uk	May be able to sell Soviet mapping in addition to its regular catalogue of mainly earth science maps.
<u>Internationales Landkartenhaus (ILH)</u>	Kurze Straße 40 70794 Filderstadt GERMANY	ilhinfo@ilh-stuttgart.de www.ilh-stuttgart.de/	ILH is able to procure and supply many Soviet Military maps in paper and digital formats.
<u>Institut Cartogràfic i Geològic de Catalunya (ICGC)</u>	http://cartotecadigital.icc.cat/cdm/search/searchterm/govern%20sovietic/order/datea/lang/en_US		View online, particularly strong on town plans.
<u>Jana Seta</u>	Elizabetes street 85a Riga LV-1050 LATVIA	veikals@karsuveikals.lv www.karsuveikals.lv/en/genshtab/	Some maps in stock, others can be ordered. Sometimes possible to purchase individual sheets.
<u>Kyrgyz Alpine Club</u>	Bishkek KYRGYSTAN	https://kac.centralasia.kg/topographical-maps/	Maps at various scales for the local area to view and download
<u>loadmap.net</u>	http://loadmap.net/ Not available October 2021		Many Soviet military maps can be viewed and downloaded for free . Useful clickable indexes (double click on the orange boxes to drill down to a more detailed sheet layout)

Maps4u	http://www.maps4u.lt/en/news.php		Military and other historic maps, primarily of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia.
Mapstor.com	USA (?)	info@mapstor.com http://mapstor.com/	Large number of Soviet military (and other) topographic maps. Individual sheets can be downloaded for nominal charge and sets can be purchased. Mapstor has a connection with the (now defunct?) Poehali company.
mapy.eksploracja	http://mapy.eksploracja.pl/viewpage.php?page_id=48		Includes street plans of Polish cities and some other series.
National Library of Australia	https://catalogue.nla.gov.au/Search/Home?lookfor=soviet+military+&type=all&limit%5B%5D=&submit=Find&limit%5B%5D=format%3AMap		Some maps are available to view online. In some cases the graphic index is available online.
Oldmaps.co.uk	https://www.old-maps.co.uk/ Website expected to close on 31 October 2021		Includes some of the Soviet Military town plans.
OpenTiles	https://opentiles.org/ (Unavailable October 2021)		Funded entirely by sponsorship and run by volunteers. Launched in 2017. Free online world maps including Soviet military topos.
Omnimap	2838 Vicksburg Lane Plymouth MN 55447 USA	evmlsupport@eastview.com www.omnimap.com	Soviet maps are included as part of their more general sales catalogue. Some countries may be available from stock.
The Red Atlas	UK	https://redatlasbook.com/maps	View and buy prints of topographic maps of British Isles, Europe and North America, and city plans of many parts of the world (plus some propaganda and map related posters).
Stanford University	https://guides.library.stanford.edu/c.php?g=1022137&p=7839385		Index sheets and some sample sheets.
TopKart	PO Box 14 02-105 Warszawa 21 POLAND	terra@topkart.com.pl www.topkart.com.pl	Sells Soviet mapping (printed and/or raster) as well as mapping produced in Poland and other products.
Vlasenko	http://maps.vlasenko.net/ (Link may not work in Internet Explorer)		Soviet maps of the Ukraine. In Cyrillic. Free online viewing.

The (related) websites <https://www.sovietmaps.com> and <https://redatlasbook.com/> have lots of useful information including some **examples** of Soviet Military maps (<https://redatlasbook.com/topointro>) and an explanation of the **print codes** found on Soviet Military maps (www.sovietmaps.com/node/6) as well as links to further reading (see also below).

SOVIEWER Soviet Map Viewer, is a program for displaying digital Soviet topographic maps
<http://images.jomidav.com/sovietmaps/Soviewer.htm>

FURTHER READING

The red atlas : how the Soviet Union secretly mapped the world, by John Davies, Alexander J. Kent. Chicago : University of Chicago Press, 2017. 9780226389578. [CUL classmark S696.c.201.116]

An excellent and very readable book about Soviet Military mapping. For more information about the book and Soviet military maps see <https://redatlasbook.com/> (lots of useful links)

"This book describes, for the first time, this gigantic project, from its origins in Tsarist times to its legacy after the fall of communism. The 'look and feel' of the maps is examined and the various series, specifications and scales are identified. There is a detailed investigation into the many different methods by which the information was collected, with copious illustrations demonstrating, for example, how data gathered 'on the ground' differed from that derived from existing maps and guides and from the results of satellite imagery."

Soviet Topographic maps symbols, TM 30-548, Department of the Army Technical Manual, 1958 is available at https://s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/redatlas/TM30-548_1958.pdf

A printed version is can be seen in Cambridge University Library Map Department in 'Conventional Signs' drawer – ask a member of staff if you would like to see it.

Glossary of Soviet Military and related abbreviations TM 30-546, Department of the Army Technical Manual. 1957 is available at <https://archive.org/details/TM30-546>

Russian military mapping: a guide to using the most comprehensive source of global geospatial intelligence. Minneapolis : East View Cartographic, 2005. ISBN 0974297313. [CUL classmark: S696.c.200.80].

Foreign Maps, US Department of the Army Technical Manual TM 5- 248 (1963). Includes a useful summary of USSR mapping activities, authorities, and map characteristics at that time (pages 246-250) <https://archive.org/details/TM5-248/page/n319> .

Terrain analysis of Afghanistan, edited by Yuliya Smirnova. Minneapolis : East View Cartographic, 2003. 0974297305 [CUL classmark S696.c.200.135]. "The content of this book comes overwhelmingly from the terrain analysis studies found on the verso side of the 1:200,000 scale Soviet military topographic map series ..." Plus the equivalent publications for **Syria and Lebanon** [CUL classmark S696.b.201.193] and **Ukraine**. [CUL classmark S696.b.201.200]

Soviet military mapping of Britain, by John Davies. *The Ranger*, Summer 2006, p.46-50. <https://tinyurl.com/y4wgmog6> [CUL classmark L696.b.43]

Soviet Military Mapping of the Cold War Era, British Library blog post by John Davies, February 2017 <http://blogs.bl.uk/magnificentmaps/2017/02/soviet-military-mapping-of-the-cold-war-era.html>

Soviet military mapping of the UK and contemporary Ordnance Survey mapping : a comparative analysis, by Martin Davis. April 2014. BSc Dissertation. [CUL classmark Maps.20.T.46]

Hot geospatial intelligence from a Cold War: the Soviet military mapping of towns and cities, Alexander J. Kent and John M. Davies. *Cartography and geographic information science*, vol. 40, no. 3, 2013, pp 248-253. [CUL classmark P696.b.21]

'Where's my embassy, comrade?': an examination of the 1981 Soviet Military city plan of Canberra, Brendan Whyte. *The Globe*, Australian Map Curator's Circle, number 87, 2020. [CUL classmark P696.b.16]

Military Mapping by Russia and the Soviet Union, John L. Cruickshank, in *The History of Cartography*, Vol. 6: *Cartography in the Twentieth Century*, ed. Mark Monmonier (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2015), 932– 942. https://press.uchicago.edu/books/HOC/HOC_V6/HOC_VOLUME6_M.pdf [CUL classmark S696.b.079.6a]

The **articles** listed below from *Sheetlines*, the newsletter of the Charles Close Society [CUL classmarks S696.c.038 or L696.c.28], may be of interest. These articles (and many others) can also be found at <https://redatlasbook.com/references>.

Davies, John. *Uncle Joe Knew Where You Lived (part one.) Sheetlines* 72 (April 2005). Provides a brief overview of the history and scope Soviet global mapping, a description of the seven scales of maps of UK and Ireland and an explanation of the print codes.

Davies, John. *Uncle Joe Knew Where You Lived (part two.) Sheetlines* 73 (August 2005). Tells the story of the discovery of the Soviet maps in Latvia in 1993. Detailed examination of the large scale UK town plans to try to establish how they were created.

Davies, John. *Study Day Report* (8 October 2005). *Sheetlines* 74 (December 2005). An assessment by military intelligence expert Henry Dodds of the strategic importance of the maps during the Cold War era and speculation about how events could have evolved at that time. There is also more evidence on the source of the content of the UK town plans and an examination of the question of copyright.

Watt, David. *Soviet Military Mapping*. *Sheetlines* 74 (December 2005). An edited transcript of a paper presented at a Study Day on Soviet maps. Describes the history of the Russian Military Topographic Directorate (VTU) from 1812 to the present day and provides some astonishing statistics on the volume of world mapping they have produced.

Davies, John. *Recent Discoveries*. *Sheetlines* 77 (December 2006). Contains some updated and additional information.

**This Information Sheet is available as a MS Word document at
www.lib.cam.ac.uk/collections/departments/maps/information-sheets**

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