

## Where to Purchase (or View) Soviet Military Mapping

- The following list includes suppliers of paper and digital Soviet Military mapping as well as 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.

<b><u>Atlassen</u></b>	<a href="http://www.atlassen.info/kaarten/topograf/genshtab/genshtabt.html#summary">www.atlassen.info/kaarten/topograf/genshtab/genshtabt.html#summary</a>		Maps of Belgium and Netherlands to view and download
<b><u>Eastmap Oü</u></b> <i>Previously called Eastnor Ltd</i>	Aleksander Lesment Vaablase 28, 12916 Tallinn, <b>ESTONIA</b>	Tel: 00 (372) 50 29 131 alexlesment@eastmap.ee	Sometimes has sheets in stock.
<b><u>East View Geospatial</u></b>	10601 Wayzata Boulevard Minneapolis MN 55305-1515 <b>USA</b>	geospatial@eastview.com <a href="http://www.geospatial.com/">www.geospatial.com/</a>	Specialist map and data supplier for large commercial companies and academic institutions. 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]
<b><u>Internationales Landkartenhaus (ILH)</u></b>	Kurze Straße 40 70794 Filderstadt <b>GERMANY</b>	ilhinfo@ilh-stuttgart.de <a href="http://www.ilh-stuttgart.de/">www.ilh-stuttgart.de/</a>	ILH is able to procure and supply many Soviet Military maps in paper and digital formats.
<b><u>Institut Cartogràfic i Geològic de Catalunya (ICGC)</u></b>	<a href="http://cartotecadigital.icc.cat/cdm/search/searchterm/govern%20sovietic/order/datea/lang/en_US">http://cartotecadigital.icc.cat/cdm/search/searchterm/govern%20sovietic/order/datea/lang/en_US</a>		View online, particularly strong on town plans.
<b><u>Jana Seta</u></b>	Elizabetes street 85a Riga LV-1050 <b>LATVIA</b>	veikals@karsuveikals.lv <a href="http://www.karsuveikals.lv/en/genshtab/">www.karsuveikals.lv/en/genshtab/</a>	Some maps in stock, others can be ordered. Sometimes possible to purchase individual sheets.
<b><u>Maps4u</u></b>	<a href="http://www.maps4u.lt/en/news.php">http://www.maps4u.lt/en/news.php</a>		Military and other historic maps, primarily of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia.
<b><u>Mapstor.com</u></b>	USA (?)	info@mapstor.com <a href="http://mapstor.com/">http://mapstor.com/</a>	Large number of Soviet military (and other) topographic maps. Individual sheets can be <b>downloaded</b> for nominal charge and sets can be purchased. Mapstor has a connection with the (now defunct?) Poehali company.
<b><u>mapy.eksploracja</u></b>	<a href="http://mapy.eksploracja.pl/viewpage.php?page_id=48">http://mapy.eksploracja.pl/viewpage.php?page_id=48</a>		Includes street plans of Polish cities and some other series.

<b><u>National Library of Australia</u></b>	<a href="https://trove.nla.gov.au/search/category/images?keyword=soviet%20Union.%20Sovetskai%EF%B8%A0a%EF%B8%A1%20Armii%EF%B8%A0a%EF%B8%A1.%20General%CA%B9nyi%CC%86%20shtab&amp;l-availability=y&amp;l-availability=y%2Ff">https://trove.nla.gov.au/search/category/images?keyword=soviet%20Union.%20Sovetskai%EF%B8%A0a%EF%B8%A1%20Armii%EF%B8%A0a%EF%B8%A1.%20General%CA%B9nyi%CC%86%20shtab&amp;l-availability=y&amp;l-availability=y%2Ff</a>		Some maps are available to view online and in some cases the graphic index is available online.
<b><u>Omnimap</u></b>	2838 Vicksburg Lane Plymouth MN 55447 <b>USA</b>	<a href="mailto:evmlsupport@eastview.com">evmlsupport@eastview.com</a> <a href="http://www.omnimap.com">www.omnimap.com</a>	Soviet maps are included as part of their more general sales catalogue. Some countries may be available from stock.
<b><u>The Red Atlas</u></b>	<b>UK</b>	<a href="https://redatlasbook.com/maps">https://redatlasbook.com/maps</a>	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).
<b><u>Stanford University</u></b>	<a href="https://guides.library.stanford.edu/c.php?g=1022137&amp;p=7839385">https://guides.library.stanford.edu/c.php?g=1022137&amp;p=7839385</a>		Index sheets and some sample sheets.
<b><u>TopKart</u></b>	PO Box 14 02-105 Warszawa 21 <b>POLAND</b>	<a href="mailto:terra@topkart.com.pl">terra@topkart.com.pl</a> <a href="http://www.topkart.com.pl">www.topkart.com.pl</a>	Sells Soviet mapping (printed and/or raster) as well as mapping produced in Poland and other products.
<b><u>Vlasenko</u></b>		<a href="http://maps.vlasenko.net/">http://maps.vlasenko.net/</a> (Link may not work in Internet Explorer)	Soviet maps of the Ukraine. In Cyrillic. <b>Free online viewing.</b>

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/toposintro>) and an explanation of the **print codes** found on Soviet Military maps ([www.sovietmaps.com/node/6](http://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

There are lots of useful links and references at <https://redatlasbook.com/> Listed below is just a selection. Paper copies of many can be read in the Map Department.

**[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).

**[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](https://s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/redatlas/TM30-548_1958.pdf)

A printed version 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. Translation of the 2003 edition of the manual used by the Russian armed forces. [CUL classmark: [S696.c.200.80](#)].

**[Foreign Maps, US Department of the Army Technical Manual TM 5- 248 \(1956\)](#)**. 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. [CUL classmark [S696.b.079.6a](#)]. Online at [https://press.uchicago.edu/books/HOC/HOC\\_V6/HOC\\_VOLUME6\\_M.pdf](https://press.uchicago.edu/books/HOC/HOC_V6/HOC_VOLUME6_M.pdf)

**The Cartographic Journal**, Volume 59, 2022, Issue 4 is a Special Issue on Soviet Mapping. [CUL classmark [L696.b.8](#)]

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. <https://ccs-web.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/Issue72page26.pdf>

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. <https://ccs-web.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/Issue73page6.pdf>

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. <https://ccs-web.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/Issue74page13.pdf>

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. <https://ccs-web.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/Issue74page9.pdf>

Davies, John. *Recent Discoveries. Sheetlines* 77 (December 2006). Contains some updated and additional information. <https://ccs-web.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/Issue77page51.pdf>

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

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