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## Mikoyan-Gurevitch MiG-21 Fishbed (1955-2010)

*Gerard Paloque*

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**Gerard Paloque : Mikoyan-Gurevitch MiG-21 Fishbed (1955-2010)** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Mikoyan-Gurevitch MiG-21 Fishbed (1955-2010):

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. A colorful look at an important fighter By James Pernikoff The widely-used Russian fighter is tailor-made for this French series, and this time, the entire book is in color! The first 15 pages provide a technical history, including the Chinese-built versions, the trainers, and the various service-life-extension programs in use. This includes 4 specification tables, a color world map showing all the users, and a feature I particularly like, a 2-page spread showing small side views of every variant, with arrows denoting the changes in each version from its predecessors. The rest of the book covers all sixty of the countries that have flown Fishbeds (though in some cases, it was just to test captured birds), with a brief description of the MiG's service life with each air arm, and from 1 to 21 side views showing a variety of color schemes and markings. It is here that I have a problem with the book; the drawings for each country don't necessarily seem to be in either chronological order or in order by variant, and the dates given in quite a few entries seem suspect, especially where an air arm changed its insignia, as happened with many of the ex-Warsaw Pact air forces. But the side views are very well done, and there are also enough top and bottom views added to adequately depict quite a few subjects for modelers. Even with the quibbles, this is a nice, affordable book that pays homage to a great warplane, even if it has mostly been used by the "other side". 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Excellent pictorial guide to a most important jet fighter By James L. Spingarn This is a very worthwhile guide to the MiG-21 Fishbed, shown in its colors as used by the many different countries, that employed this ubiquitous, second-half of the 20th century Soviet-designed fighter. The artwork is

excellent and very colorful. The author has chosen the numerous and comprehensive aircraft versions and country depictions with great care. My only criticism is quite minor. In actuality, the dorsal spines of the MiG-21MF Fishbed J and the later MiG-21bis Fishbed L or N are different, but the author (and artist) shows them incorrectly to be identical. The latter's spine is thicker and extends further back on the vertical tail. The author also does a poor job showing the oversize dorsal spine on the MiG-21SMT Fishbed K; it looks little different than that on the MiG-21MF, but was vastly bigger. Further the probe under the nose on the MiG-21bis appears only on the Fishbed N not the L, a distinction the author doesn't make. All of the above are basically deminimus, but, just the same, for a handsome and useful book like this to rate 5 stars, it should in, my opinion, be accurate. After all, this is primarily a picture book. If you wish total accuracy, try the excellent but much more expensive definitive volume in the Famous Russian Aircraft series on the Mikoyan MiG-21 by Yefim Gordon and Keith Dexter (also available on .com). Still, it is an excellent value. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Excellent quick reference full of colour By Chester J. Zaba One of my standard model building references now. Covers all versions of the ubiquitous MiG fighter. Heavily illustrated with colour profiles of EVERY SINGLE MiG 21 operator. Top flight book from a real label publisher!

The MiG-21 originated with an official request from the Soviet authorities in 1954 for a light, high-performance (Mach 2 at 20 000 m) frontline fighter to protect military and production installations from potential raids by American bombers. Built for almost half a century in twenty or so different versions, in four successive generations, the Fishbed (its NATO codename) was not only the jet which was built in the largest numbers in the whole of aviation history, but also the aircraft which was built in greatest numbers since the end of the Second World War, all types and all countries included. Used by fifty or so air forces on four of the five continents, the MiG-21 took part in most of the major conflicts during the four last decades, from the Six-Day War in 1967 to the Balkans in 1999. At the present time more than a thousand examples of this fighter, of which a large number were built in China (Shenyang F-7 and J-7) are still in service, with their career continuing thanks to modernization programs for the surviving aircraft which have enabled them to pass cheerfully into the 21st Century.

a wealth of information on the plane, from 1955 to present. (Model Retailer) About the Author Gerard Paloque, former crew member of the Air Force, specializes in profiles of aerial fighters of all times and is the author of numerous books published by Histoire Collections (Patrouilles aeriennes, la 5th Air Force, F4 Phantom...).