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New Questions of Operational Art at Its Present
Stage of Development

by

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In recent years, substantial qualitative changes have taken place in the development of the Soviet Armed Forces and in the armed forces of the enemy, changes which have called into being a whole series of new tasks and problems in the development of the theory of operational art as a science. In the present article, only a few of these will be reviewed: ① achievement of a unified point of view in the preparation of operations (combat actions) for accomplishing tasks under various conditions of the initiation and conduct of war; ② questions of the preparation of a departure position prior to the start of military actions; ③ methods of routing enemy groupings under various conditions of the start of a war; ④ conduct of operations with limited use of nuclear weapons; and several others.

In recent years, a lively discussion of these questions and others has been carried on in the press and at military-scientific theoretical conferences in military districts, fleets, and academies. A study of published materials shows that they are still far from having a unified point of view on all questions.

On achieving unification in the preparation of initial operations (combat) actions, for accomplishing tasks under the various conditions of the possible start of a war. It is very important under present conditions to conduct comprehensive research and to substantiate the possible nature of the initial operations (combat actions) of formations of various branches of the armed forces and, in connection with this, to determine the most advisable way to prepare these operations (combat actions) and to establish groupings of troops, forces and means capable of accomplishing tasks under any conditions of the possible start of a future war. ✓

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