

Wagner Group

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Résumé ou extrait : The Wagner Private Military Company (PMC) first appeared in Ukraine's Donbas region during the initial Russian intervention in the spring of 2014. Its fighters--lacking national insignia, Russian flags, or unit designations and always concealing their faces in public--presented an unorthodox and ambiguous presence. However, their use of Russian-made arms, equipment, and uniforms left little doubt about Moscow's involvement, reinforcing Wagner's role as a deniable yet effective force in place of poorly trained local militias. Over the following years, Wagner served Moscow's strategic interests by maintaining both ambiguity and control over various local proxies. While Wagner was not initially involved in Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine on 24 February 2022, a series of military setbacks suffered by the Russian Armed Forces (VSRF) led to its redeployment. Following a rapid expansion, Wagner became instrumental in achieving one of the Kremlin's first major military successes of the

war--the capture of the heavily fortified town of Popasna in late April and early May 2022. From that point, under the nominal leadership of Yevgeny Prigozhin, Wagner grew significantly in both manpower and firepower. The group also played a central role in Project 42174, a large-scale recruitment program that enlisted Russian prison inmates as assault troops. Tens of thousands of these recruits were deployed--nearly 20,000 of whom were killed--during the brutal Battle of Bakhmut, which raged from July 2022 to May 2023. This operation marked Russia's first major military victory in nearly a year and had a lasting impact on the tactics and structure of the VSRF. Richly illustrated with rare photographs, custom-drawn artwork, and analysis based on captured Russian documents, Wagner Group Private Military Company, Volume 2 provides an in-depth examination of the group's emergence, organization, combat operations, and eventual downfall. Offering a comprehensive study of one of the most significant and controversial private military forces of modern times, this volume is essential reading for those seeking to understand the evolution of Wagner and its role in contemporary warfare.

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