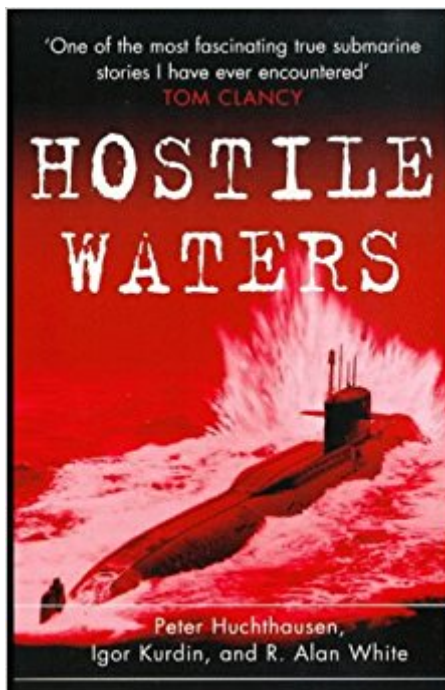


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# Hostile Waters



## Synopsis

In the fall of 1986, with the Cold War nearly over, an aging Soviet ballistic missile sub suffered a crippling accident, coming within moments of a nuclear meltdown. Had her reactors exploded, the radioactivity released into the Gulf would have signaled the annihilation of the Eastern Seaboard. This is the true story of the young Soviet sailors who fought to save their submarine, risking fire, smoke, poison gas and intense radioactivity. Told in the words of the survivors, *Hostile Waters* reads like a Tom Clancy tale of underwater intrigue and terror, but this story really happened. Its highly classified story has finally surfaced. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

## Book Information

Paperback: 365 pages

Publisher: Arrow Books; New Ed edition (1998)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 009926966X

ISBN-13: 978-0099269663

Package Dimensions: 7 x 4.1 x 1 inches

Shipping Weight: 7 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 47 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #809,376 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #317 in [Books > Engineering & Transportation > Engineering > Military Technology](#) #1632 in [Books > History > Military > Naval](#) #71463 in [Books > Biographies & Memoirs](#)

## Customer Reviews

During the Cold War, Soviet nuclear submarines tirelessly patrolled the Atlantic. Their missiles took aim at Washington, New York, and other major American cities. But they were also fairly low-tech contraptions, at least in comparison to the sophisticated U.S. subs that quietly tracked them. In 1986, one of these Soviet vessels nearly suffered a meltdown not far from Bermuda in what might have been a worse-than-Chernobyl accident. *Hostile Waters* tells this story more like a novel than a textbook, but also makes good use of declassified material and personal interviews. In his brief foreword, Tom Clancy calls it "one of the most fascinating true submarine stories I have ever encountered"--high praise from the man who brought us *The Hunt for Red October*. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

A U.S. naval officer, a Russian naval officer, and a thriller writer joined forces to produce this dramatic account of the 1986 fire aboard K-219, a Soviet ballistic missile submarine, and its sinking off Bermuda. Those events have received some previous coverage, but the book goes into far more detail, depicting a classic battle of men against the sea in which a young engineer sacrificed his life to prevent a seagoing Chernobyl and the Soviet captain scuttled the submarine rather than have his crew ordered back aboard. In the best Hunt for Red October manner, the U.S. Navy is depicted as endangering the survivors in an effort to acquire K-219, and, indeed, the Soviets receive most of the book's attention and sympathy. The book's novel-like form raises the question, How much has been fictionalized or at least reconstructed to make it read--immensely successfully--like a thriller? Enough, at any rate, to entice HBO into making a TV movie of it, premiering this summer. Roland Green --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I remember watching the made for cable movie on HBO about this story. It was very well made considering the fact it was HBO and was not a major motion picture release for movie theaters. The movie actually had a great cast with Rutger Hauer as Capt. Britanov and Martin Sheen as the skipper of the American hunter-killer sub. I've always wanted to buy the movie but being that it was made for cable released by HBO, I didn't think it would be easy to find a DVD of this movie. It is being sold on but I have yet to justify the cost for paying it to watch the movie again. But upon reviewing more about the movie, I found out that there was the book that the movie was supposedly based on. So I ordered the book, which was cheap enough that I didn't even hesitate to order. The book is definitely worth reading if you liked the movie. As to whether or not the American sub actually hit the K-219 in which the ensuing story of the missile silo disaster unfolds... you'll have to read the book. I am asking myself the same question...

A true life thriller if ever there was one! Huchthausen is an excellent story teller!

As one of the authors of *Hostile Waters*, I skim through now and again to read comments left by readers. I was very surprised to see D. Epstein's odd claim that the book was "technically inaccurate." This book was researched long, hard and very well, using both Russian and US sources, including first-person accounts and the testimony of survivors. Epstein alleges that we goofed by claiming the USS AUGUSTA collided with K-219 and yet, somehow, did not sink. Epstein says that US boats are single hulled (true) and have but one internal compartment (not true...there are two, or even three if you count the sonar sphere). He claims that a flooding casualty anywhere

aboard the AUGUSTA would have doomed her, thus, could not have happened. Yet nowhere in the book do we claim, ever, that AUGUSTA collided with K-219. AUGUSTA did suffer a glancing collision with a second Soviet unit in the vicinity, and limped home to Groton for repairs. The angle, speed and energy state of the two boats dictated the results. The inherent toughness of US SSN design saved the day, as it did recently when the USS SAN FRANCISCO slammed head-on into a seamount, crushing the bow, Yet she did not go down; a testament to our design philosophy, and the training of our crews. Epstein claims he found a second error: that when K-219 struck the bottom she did not implode "because she was already flooded." Actually, she was mostly filled with water, but two compartments retained their pressure to the very end and resisted the sea all the way down. One of them trapped a sailor, who could not overcome the pressure to make good his escape. The clanky old K-219 retained enough structural integrity to make a subsequent salvage visit quite difficult: the muzzle hatches on her silos were down and locked, and required a great deal of effort to pry open. Soviet submarines were built to a high strength margin. But they were filled with second and third-rate systems, and contained designed-in traps that would, again and again, prove lethal to their crews. Perhaps Epstein is remembering the movie, Hostile Waters, and not the book?

truly a good read! if you are interested in historical events with real life drama involved, then "hostile waters by Peter Huchhausen, Igor Kurdin & R. Alan White" is the kind of book that grips the reader, with unfolding events that you will find it hard to put down. the story brings to the reader the desperation and feelings of isolation for the crew of an antiquated Russian submarine, when disaster strikes their vessel on patrol not far off the North American coast. with events on board quickly spinning out of control some crew dead, others badly injured, the reader is drawn into the heroism and self sacrifice by the captain and members of his crew as they battle insurmountable odds to save the world from yet another nuclear calamity (this story takes place in 1986, the same year as the Chernobyl disaster in the USSR). it also opens to the reader the dramatic changes that were taking place in a cash strapped Soviet navy, trying to keep up with the technological advances of the Western navy's and of a Soviet government that was struggling to re-invent itself from old despotic ways into the uncharted territory of glasnost & perestroika.

Great price in great condition. Good book to go with the movie.

An explosion on a Russian nuclear submarine carrying fifteen rockets with thirty thermonuclear warheads too close to the shores of the United States could have the worst of consequences

despite the valiant struggles of the sub's captain and crew. The action in this true story is nonstop as the book keeps the reader on a razor's edge between the nearly unsolvable problem that must be fixed even at the cost of lives and careers and the unthinkable option of a global catastrophe. First find a comfortable chair then kick back because you aren't going to be able to put this one down until the very end.

The parallels between this book and "The Hunt for Red October" are rather spooky considering "Hunt for Red October" was written first and is fictional while this book is non-fiction. Makes me wonder if some of the key players in this story were acting out "The Hunt for Red October" for real. As an ex US submarine officer, I found some of the facts here difficult to believe. It is possible that the Soviet navy was just very different from the US. Still it is difficult to believe that the Soviets did not know how to do an air drop at sea or design fail-safe reactors. I found the characters: their lifestyle and politics interesting. The officers of a submarine must have been a very conservative sample of Soviet society yet, here in 1986, they were fed up with the Soviet regime and mocked its politics.

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