

# THE MOST VIOLENT MACHINE THAT HAS EVER BEEN BUILT



## AK 47 ... and nothing to add



AK 47 (commonly called as a “Kalashnikov”) is a machine gun that has killed more people than atomic bomb thrown both on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945. It attends almost every bigger conflict that took place in the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. This gun gave independence and freedom, but brought also violence and death.

### The rise of a lethal weapon

When Mikhail Kalashnikov was treated after being severely injured during the fights of World War II, he got the idea that the Red Army of Soviet Union had got several problems during the battles in case of the lack of rifles. As all of the world armies used modern machine guns then, Russians still fought with their prehistoric rifles which appeared in such a limited amount that soldiers were forced to wait until their friends would die to take their guns and shot to the enemies. This motivated Michail to construct some kind of a gun that will help his nation to win the war. His invention was the machine that has changed the warcraft forever.



The emblem of Mozambique



M. Kalashnikov

### Legendar simplicity

AK 47 (the abbreviation of a phrase: ‘Kalashnikov’s Automat’ and the year of the end of constructing process) is surely the simplest and the most widely used rifle in the world. Its construction is only a bit more difficult than the sling’s one. In the easiest words, AK 47 (calibre 7,62 milimetres) consists of a breech, a spring and some cylindric both wooden and metallic parts. That’s why you can dig it in the soil, leave it for a few years, then dig it out, put some bullets and change the nearest tree into a pack of sawdusts. This simplicity together with a lack of copyrights made this gun the most widespread in the world. The amount of its copies is estimated on about 100 millions.

### Kalashnikov is still alive in real and virtual world

“Kalashnikov” existed in dozens of millions copies, was the equipment of about fifty national armies (either the Polish one) and was manufactured in thousands tiny blacksmiths all over the world for terroristic groups, independence movements and mainly illegal groups and guerillas. It has appeared in many films, computer games, songs and it’s the element of the Mozambique’s national flag and emblem. This gun is perpetually modernized up to nowadays, thus it’s still in a wide use which means you’re able to buy it for a few dollars on a market square.

### What’s wrong with AK 47

Its main disadvantage seems to be its weight (4,5 kilos) and its magazine which may consist of only 30 bullets. As this assault rifle can shot 600 times a minute, the magazine is empty after 3 seconds which isn’t a breathtaking result. Moreover AK 47 is very noisy while its optical instruments are unexact, and its radius of action is estimated on no more than 1 kilometer. However that’s not important when we take under account its reliability and capability. Possessing a single-fire rifle we may kill a few people, however having an assault rifle we are able to come up with an army, thus having a problem with aiming into a barn standing ten metres away.



Soldier with his AK 47

### The prize of popularity

This gun has already become a legend. Not because its constructor got nothing despite of several medals for this invention, not because of the fact that it gives a lot of troubles to the authorities, not because it has brought death for millions of people. ‘Kalashnikov’ widely used as a synonym of a word ‘gun’ is a symbol of war, of courage and bravery, of guerillas fighting for freedom, but in spite of that, it mainly describes the senseless death of innocent people as well. All in all, we know that AK 47 has changed the world forever, but the prize was, in my opinion, much too high ...

Wojciech Bańczyk

Abbreviation - skrót  
Barn – stodoła  
Blacksmith – kuźnia  
Guerilla - partyzantka  
Rifle - karabin  
Sawdust – trociny  
Sling – proca  
Spring - sprężyna  
Violent – gwałtowny, brutalny