

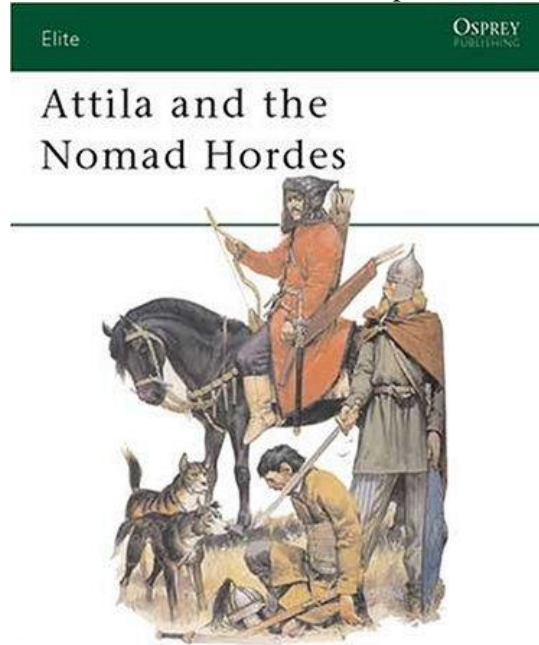
## Attila and the Nomad Hordes

Osprey Elite series No. 30 (1990)

By David Nicolle; illustrated by Angus McBride

### Review by Rob Morgan

This is one of the Osprey Elite titles, but I am not sure why it features in this particular series. The Elites are more expensive and longer (about 64 pages) than the Men-at-Arms titles. The problem I have with this is given away by the subtitle 'Warfare on the Eurasian Steppes: 4<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> centuries.' This is a vast period of history, from the Roman move to Constantinople



David Nicolle • Illustrated by Angus McBride

and the fall of the West to Genghis Khan's Mongol Conquests. It's too big to be anything other than a taster, and a taster for several other Osprey titles. The time-line provided alone covers a dozen empires rising and falling away, and the warriors and warfare covered are only, and then tenuously, linked by the term 'nomad,' which may not always be an accurate one.

Still, there's a good stab made at the weapons, the use of horses, (which was a common factor) and, interestingly, fortifications, which have long warranted a detailed account. There follow short, but interesting accounts of the Huns, the Turks, the 'Turgish,' the Avars, Khazars, the multitude of warlike races along the Silk Road, and on to the Pechenegs and numerous minor groups. Nicolle treats them in four 'waves' over the centuries, a fairly effective method when all's said and done. I

did find his account of the 'Forest Peoples' interesting, the Bulgars, the Siberians, and Bashkirs and Ugrians, but each account is too short to be of great value to the wargamer.

The illustrations are sound, however, and as always Angus McBride's plates are of serious interest and value. He's asked to cover too great a period, yet the plates of Goths (B3) of Chinese Infantry (D3), of Avars and Bulgars (Plate E) and of Finno-Ugrians (plate J2) will provide plenty of thought for anyone intending a raiding force or small-scale skirmish.

Suffice to say, I borrowed this Osprey for the purpose of review. I wouldn't buy it.

The table top potential is huge of course!

Not that many suitable figures come to mind sadly, but the 6mm ranges, like Irregular, can provide the big cavalry armies, while in 15mm scale, the same manufacturer has a decent range of Mongols. You can build small forces of the Forest Peoples, and many Siberians by dipping into Mick Yarrow's Siberia range. In 20/25mm it's plenty of Mongols again, Orion, Red Box, and Strelets, while Zvezda produce the superb 'Mongol Golden Horde' set of

mounted cavalry. You struggle for infantry though. Orion also makes boxes of Khazars and Pechenegs. Red Box has a good set of Chinese infantry too.

A still neglected period and part of the world, but the emergence of so many Ukrainian and Russian model companies may well alter this in years to come.