

ETHNIC CONFLICT IN THE CAUCASUS

THEORIES OF ETHNIC CONFLICT

- Ancient Hatreds
- Symbolic Politics/hypernationalism
- Scapegoats
- Security dilemma
- Greed
- Grievance or perhaps plain old nationalism

THE ROLE OF THIRD PARTIES

- Responsibility to protect
- Moral Hazard
- Threats to newly independent states

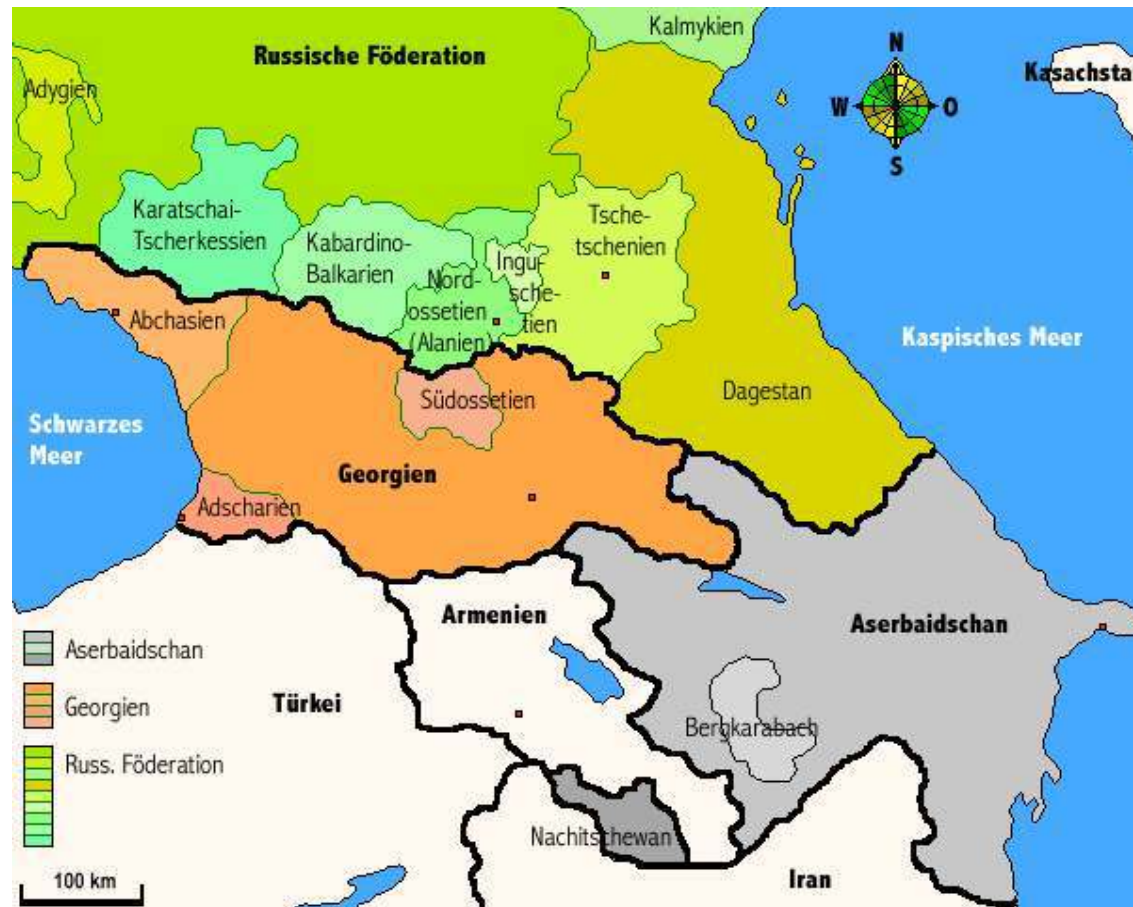
CAUCASUS: THEORIES APPLIED

- “Extremism” of minorities or oppression of host states
- Scapegoating
- Security dilemma
- Opportunistic rebels
- Minorities as potential fifth columns

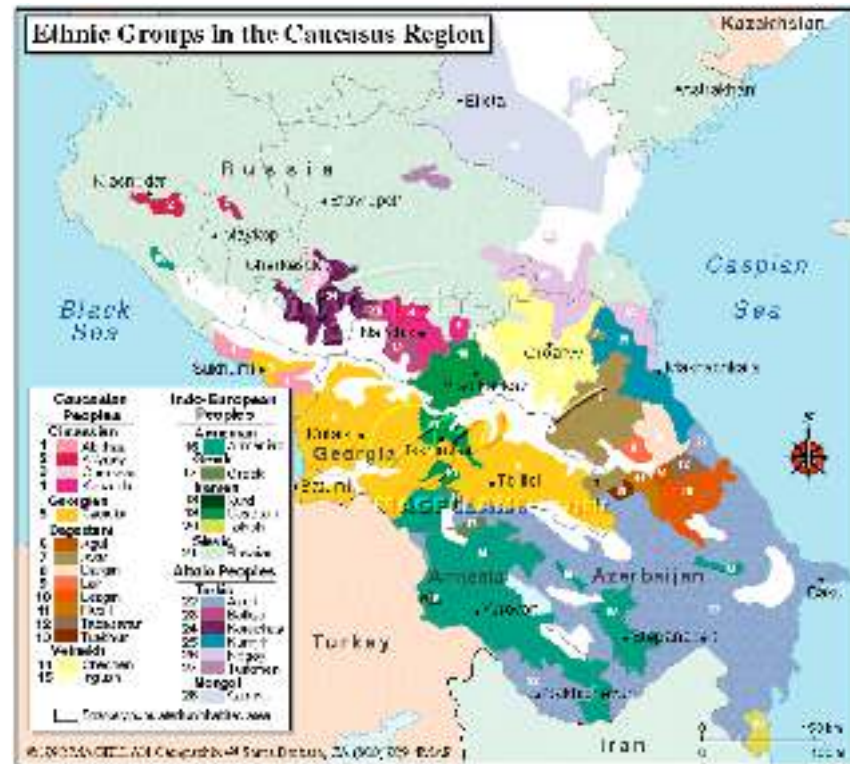
CAUCASUS: BASIC INFORMATION

- Main groups: Armenians, Azerbaijanis, Georgians, The Abkhaz, the Ossetians
- Republics: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia
- Autonomies: Abkhazia, South Ossetia, Nagorno-Karabagh, Ajaria, Nakhijevan
- The Wars: Abkhazia (1992-93); South Ossetia I (1991-92); South Ossetia II (2008); Nagorno-Karabagh 1992-1994.

The Caucasus



Federalism and Ethnicity



Federalism and Religion



CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS IN THE CAUCASUS

- 1985: Gorbachev comes to power and launches *Perestroika*.
- 1988: Mobilization in Karabagh and Armenia and countermobilization in Azerbaijan
- 1989: Mobilization in Abkhazia and South Ossetia and countermobilization in Georgia
- 1990: Communists lose power in Armenia and Georgia. Both republics declare their intention to seek independence.
- 1991: The war in South Ossetia begins in January.
- 1991: Coup d'etat in August
- 1991: The Soviet Union collapses in December and the 15 republics become independent.
- 1992: The conflict in Nagorno-Karabagh becomes militarized in January-February.
- 1992: The conflict in Abkhazia escalates to a full scale war in July-August.
- 1992: Cease-fire in South-Ossetia and the region becomes a de facto protectorate of Russia.
- 1993: The Abkhza rout the Georgian army and Abkhazia becomes de facto independent
- 1994: Cease-fire in Nagorno-Karabagh with the region becoming de facto a part of Armenia and Azerbaijan losing 6 districts outside of Karabagh to the Armenian forces.
- 1994-2008: 14 years of no war no peace.
- 2008: The second war of South Ossetia and the Russian Recognition of both South Ossetia and Abkhazia as de jure independent states.

WHY WARS IN ABKHAZIA AND SOUTH OSSETIA BUT NOT IN JAVAKHETI AND KVEMO KARTLI

- Variation in fears related to third party incentives.