Chechnya
by Kelley Laird

The root of animosity between Russians and Chechens extends for more than a century, beginning when Chechens opposed Russia’s conquest of the Caucasus between 1818 and 1917. Tension reached an apex in the 1940s when Stalin deported thousands of Chechens to Siberia and East Asia in fear that they would collaborate with German Nazis.

However, most scholars would agree that the long-standing Russian-Chechen resentment truly exploded when Chechnya vied for autonomy as a separate Republic after the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991. In 1994 a war ensued between the Russian Federation and Chechnya after the Pro-Russian Chechen opposition failed to defeat the separatist regime. In August 1996 the Khasavyurt Agreement, a tentative peace accord, ended the hostilities and a peace treaty was signed between the elected President of Chechnya, Aslan Maskhadov, and Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin. Still, the peace was impermanent and human rights abuses continued against Chechen citizens, both from Russian military and Chechen insurgents. The autonomy Chechnya seeks was never realized by those negotiations.

After the failure of talks, both the conflict and the discussion about what constitutes human rights abuses and terrorism have become increasingly polarized and volatile. New Chechen insurgent tactics include terrorist attacks on Russian citizens. These actions claim to respond to continued human rights abuses taking place in Chechnya and against Chechen refugees in neighboring Republics like Dagestan. In turn, the Russian Federation renewed attacks against Chechnya in 1999, citing a response to Chechen terrorism and organized crime.

In the wake of September 11, the United States recast a new focus on terrorism, leading other political actors to adopt or reject the new discourse of terrorism according to their objectives. All over the world, revolutionaries and insurgents have been renamed as terrorists, and many protracted ethnic and regional conflicts have been considered in new light. If Chechnya originally had international and even Russian public support for secession in the 1994 conflict, today Chechen suicide attacks sway worldwide and public opinions to support Russia’s war on Chechen terrorists.

Is Putin using riding this wave to further his suppression of Chechen secession? This, along with a number of other questions must be considered when examining the Russian-Chechen conflict. The articles in this database seek answers to these questions, along with elucidating other relevant information concerning this conflict, the politics, economics, cultural and social injustices behind it, as well as the complications surrounding future policy initiatives regarding Chechnya.

The Background to the Russo-Chechen Conflict

Information in this section describes the various factors influencing the outbreak of both Chechen wars, and will give the reader a good background to this protracted conflict.

---

1 This section has a supplement that begins on page S-2.

Claims three variables caused the Russo-Chechen wars between 1994 and 1999: Russian national security interests, the value of the Caspian Oil pipeline, and Russian domestic politics all were primary factors causing war in Chechnya.


Delves into the background of the Russo-Chechen war, analyzing whether this invasion was necessary, successful, and viable. Considers the future of Russo-Chechen relations.


Background information regarding the dissolution of the Soviet Union, and the war in Chechnya. Looks at possible solutions to geopolitical and ethnic conflicts, in addition to Russian public opinion on these topics.


Chechnya Weekly presents coverage of the crisis in the breakaway republic. Its mission is to inform policymakers, the media, and the public of developments in Chechnya, discuss the origins of the conflict and explore the possibilities for peace. Beginning January 2000 with Volume I, Chechnya Weekly is written by John Dunlop.


Provides the background to the Russian invasion of Chechnya in December 1994, tracing events from 4,000 BC to the time of the invasion. The genocide and oppression endured by the Chechens under the communists is discussed, along with the convulsive revolution of 1991. Excellent unbiased historical account of roots of separatist conflict.


Discusses the implications of the two Russian-Chechen wars for international law and the observance of human rights in Chechnya. Describes causes of the conflict; types of violations committed; legal definitions of the most serious crimes.


Account of the military operations of Russia in the North Caucasus; Geopolitical and geoeconomic significance of the North Caucasus; Implications of the Russian strategy for Chechnya and the West.

Written by two Russian reporters, gives background into the Chechen/Russian feud dating back to 1944, as well as current roots of conflict. Suggests that Russian leaders failed to review the context of the past as relevant to civil conflict of 1994. Argues that then President Yeltsin failed to “capitalize on moderate position” of Chechen leader to institute peace.


Written from a position more favorable to Chechens, this book is a resource of photos documenting the human rights implications of the destruction of Grozny. Discusses fall of the Soviet Union and claims for Islamic freedom for Chechnya. Indicates the importance of oil in Chechnya as a telling factor in the continued conflict.


Describes history of Russian dominance in Caucasus, focusing particularly on the violence that began in 1994. Emphasizes that Russia must adopt coherent policies when dealing with the Caucasus, or the area will be unstable.


This is a highly recommended reading for understanding Russian domestic politics impacts political, economic, and social dimensions of the conflict in Chechnya.


Examines the main explanations for the civil war in Chechnya, Russia in 1994. Background and causes of the Chechen conflict with discussion on the Russian strategies in Chechnya during the term of Russian President Boris Yeltsin.


Discusses Matthew Evangelista’s book *The Chechen Wars: Will Russia Go the Way of the Soviet Union?* Argues that Chechen violence of the 90’s was idiosyncratic. Explains Chechnya was an example for all Russian Republics, and discusses Putin’s renaming of war in Chechnya along with Russia’s support.


This book discusses how Russia’s superior military had to withdraw and give way to stalemated peace to Chechnya after the first two-year civil conflict. It ties the failure to the “strategy of
ambush and military terrorist actions” by Chechen rebels. Its strength lies in the in-depth study of the war, its phases, and the internal documents accompanying these phases.


Argues that the Russian Federation’s war with the breakaway Republic of Chechnya is indicative of much larger problems within the federation; Russia’s practice of inflating reports of military success. Gives history of Russian relations with the Caucasus, Islamic influences in Caucasus, and the inadequacy of military solution in Chechnya.


Discusses the lessons to be learned from the Caucasus War and its link to Russia’s problems with Chechnya. Reviews key issues of interest, analyzes pertinent topics and relevant issues, and connects the implications of the conflicts in the Caucasus with Russian history.


International pressure for Russia to reach a peaceful solution in Chechnya was intense until September 11. However since then, Putin has convinced the West that the Chechen conflict was a fight against Islamic terrorists, and international pressure has waned since. Background on Russia’s military involvement in Chechnya, and past, present and possible future implications are elaborated.


Explores the demographic and economic concerns of the North Caucasian regarding the war between Chechnya and Russia. Economic dependency of the North Caucasian republics on the center, and the legacy of the past in North Caucasian politics.


Describes the background to Russo-Chechen conflict, discussing Chechens as terrorists and citizens. Discusses the fight for independence since 1992 and Russia’s response.


ABSTRACT: Investigates state efforts to justify armed resistance to ethnic secessionism on the 1994-1996 war fought by Russia against Chechnya. Strategies of justification which Russia used against Chechnya; Discussion of mass response to forceful resistance to Chechen separatism; Effectiveness of government to justify forceful resistance to Chechen separatism.

Chechnya Weekly is the foundation’s coverage of the crisis in the breakaway republic. Its mission is to inform policymakers, the media, and the public of developments in Chechnya, discuss the origins of the conflict and explore the possibilities for peace. Beginning January 2003 with Volume IV, Chechnya Weekly is written by Lawrence A. Uzzell.


Prague Watchdog is an online service that collects and disseminates information on the conflict in Chechnya, focusing on human rights, humanitarian aid conditions, media access and coverage, and the local political situation. It is generally sympathetic to Chechen cause.

The Russian Connection with the “War on Terror”

The documents here analyze Russia’s links to terrorism, describing domestic terrorism in Russia perpetrated by Chechen insurgents, and reflecting on renaming the Russian-Chechen conflict as part of the global “War on Terror.”


This document highlights the clash between conventional approaches to terrorism and upholding civil liberties and human rights.


Human rights abuses have been committed by both sides in this conflict. However, since the terrorist attacks on the Moscow theatre the situation for refugees, civilians still within Chechnya, and Chechens throughout the Russian Federation seems to have worsened.


Counterterrorism and Chechnya are different matters in Russian security policy. This article examines how the struggle against terrorism shapes essential features of Russia’s domestic policies and international responses.


Discusses the Russian strategy in responding to threats from terrorists, and explains Putin’s 12-step policy program which includes “finishing the job” in Chechnya, and the need for more military control within to discipline the ranks as well as in the Chechen region to maintain security.

Relations between the U.S. and Russia have grown closer since September 11, especially regarding international terrorism. However, Russia’s approach to fighting international terrorism is sometimes ambivalent, and their military lacks the infrastructure to be “tough on terror.”


Focuses on the supportive relations between Russia and the United States since the September 11. Discusses difficulties surrounding the democratization of Russia and American promotion of democracy. Discusses President Vladimir Putin’s crusade against rebels in Chechnya and the importance of Russia as an ally in the War on Terror.


Assesses the counter-terrorist operations (CTO) of the combined military forces and units of Russian Federation in Northern Caucasus, Russia. Implications of the operation on the military ability to perform constitutional duty. Advantages of using coordinated forces in a CTO; factors influencing the difficulty in combating terrorists.


Analyzes separatist movements and terrorist issues up to 2003 from Sri Lanka, Russian Caucasus and northern Spain. Discusses the success and failure of separatists in politics.


Account of the military operations of Russia in the North Caucasus; Geopolitical and geo-economic significance of the North Caucasus; Implications of the Russian strategy for Chechnya and the West.


A reader providing an analytic framework for understanding the nature of terrorism and its causes. It brings together 28 readings--five specially written for this volume--written from a range of viewpoints and providing a balance between descriptive and interpretative approaches.


This book discusses how Russia’s vastly superior military had to withdraw and give way to a stalemated peace to Chechnya after the first two-year civil conflict. It ties the failure to the guerilla tactics of Chechen rebels. The book’s strength lies in the in-depth study of the war, it’s phases, and the internal documents accompanying these phases.

Discusses the types, forms and methods of action by the Russian Armed Forces during special military operations. Differences between the antiterrorist operation by the Joint Force; Assessment of the antiterrorist operation in Northern Caucasus, Russia.


Examines Russian President Vladimir Putin’s political backing behind the U.S. anti-terrorist campaign. Description on Putin’s representations of the Chechen war; allegations of Chechen links with terrorism.


Focuses on regional politics and international relations in the Caucasus and Central Asia, following the September 11, 2001. Analyzes the impact of the terrorist attacks, and the attitude of citizens toward the international community. Discusses republics in south Caucasus that will be affected by the changes in the U.S. foreign relations with Iran and Russia.


Focuses on the problems confronting Russia in concurrence with the proximity of the Caucasus to Chechnya. Impact of the failed peace settlement between Russia and Chechnya; Reason for the withdrawal of Russian control in Chechnya; Portrayal of Chechnya as an anarchical society; Influence of Islam on Chechen nationalism.


Argues that the Russian Federation’s war with the breakaway Republic of Chechnya is indicative of much larger problems within the federation. Notes the Russian practice of inflating reports of military success. Gives history of Russian relations with the Caucasus, Islamic influences in Caucasus, and the inadequacy of military solution in Chechnya.


Reports on the violence in Chechnya, Russia. President Vladimir Putin has accused Georgia of sheltering what he calls Chechen and international terrorists. The article also details deadly clashes with rebels in Grozny.


International pressure for Russia to reach a peaceful solution in Chechnya was intense until September 11. Since then, Putin has convinced the West that the Chechen conflict was a fight against Islamic terrorists, and international pressure has waned since. Background on Russia’s military involvement in Chechnya, and past, present and possible future implications are elaborated.

This book chapter discusses terrorism and destabilization in the Chechnya break-away republic and also throughout Russia by Chechen rebels. It discusses Russia’s policy implications, and continued insistence for assistance from the West for this “War on Terror” in Chechnya.


Focuses on the potential threats to the national security and territorial integrity of Russia, relating to boundary disputes with Chechnya in the North Caucasus. Identifies these threats, and details the boundary disputes. Gives insight into an interview with former Minister of Defense of the Russian Federation General Pavel Grachev.


Examination of the Putin Administration’s response in the aftermath of September 11. Equates Russia’s war against Chechen terrorists with the U.S. attack on Al Qaeda. Made strong case for a Russian alliance with the U.S. against terrorists. Discusses two alternative storylines in opposition to Putin’s response, and those who support all sides represented.


Focuses on the antiterrorist operation in Northern Caucasus, Russia. Missions performed by army aviation on orders of the Joint Armed Force commander; Organization of teamwork between army aviation and combined arms and artillery; Main shortfalls in airfield technical support; Command and control of army aviation subunits.


Explores the ways which the U.S. contributed to the spread of terrorism as it concerns the former Soviet Union and the Russian Federation. Support of the U.S. for terrorist groups; Role of U.S. -trained terrorists in Russia’s conflict with Chechnya.

http://cfrterrorism.org/groups/chechens.html.

Answers questions regarding basic background information to Russo-Chechan conflict, discussing Chechens as terrorists and as citizens; also discussing the fight for independence since 1992 and Russia’s response.


 Discusses the perception of the Russian public concerning the Russo-Chechen wars, and the way in which former President Boris Yeltsin and incumbent President Vladimir Putin used the
war to their political advantage. Gives lessons learned by the government from the media during the war and the classification of Chechen insurgents.


Reports on conflicts in the Caucasus, relevant political stakeholders and their actions to promote peace in the region, and discusses President Putin’s need to stamp out terrorism in the regions.


Discusses how the Chechen rebels have used terrorism to try to push their agenda in Chechen conflict; also discusses how Putin has used these actions to further his support for renewed aggression in Chechnya.


The impact of the U.S. war against Al Qaeda and the Taliban in Afghanistan brought Russia closer with the United States, and set it firmly on the path of security, political and economic integration with the West. Will the United States and Russia succeed in defeating terrorist networks in Afghanistan, Central Asia and the Caucasus?


Reports the abuses of human rights among Caucasus in the Russian Federation, and the increase in conflict between the residents and the occupying Russian forces. Gives origin of the conflict, and a brief comparison between international war against terrorism.

Russia’s Suppression of the Chechen Secession

This section examines Russia’s reluctance to allow Chechen secession. Political and economic reasons for keeping Chechnya in the Russian Federation are cited.


Claims three variables caused the Russo-Chechen wars between 1994 and 1999: Russian national security interests, the value of the Caspian Oil pipeline, and Russian domestic politics all were primary factors causing war in Chechnya.

Good discussion of Russian anti-terrorist strategy; including Putin’s 12-step policy program which includes “finishing the job” in Chechnya. Of key interest is the need for more military control within to discipline the ranks as well as in the Chechen region to maintain security.


Chechnya Weekly presents coverage of the crisis in the breakaway republic. Its mission is to inform policymakers, the media, and the public of developments in Chechnya, discuss the origins of the conflict and explore the possibilities for peace. Beginning January 2000 with Volume I, Chechnya Weekly is written by John Dunlop.


Author claims Yeltsin and the Kremlin used Chechnya as an example to prevent a separatist domino effect in Russia, and Putin has since used the rise of crime during the “uneasy armistice” for renewed aggression in Chechnya. Claims the reasons for Chechen violence in the 90’s stem from elite personality clashes and initiatives on either side of the conflict.


Examines the main explanations for the civil war in Chechnya, Russia in 1994. Background and causes of the Chechen conflict with discussion on the Russian strategies in Chechnya during the term of Russian President Boris Yeltsin.


Discusses Matthew Evangelista’s book The Chechen Wars: Will Russia Go the Way of the Soviet Union? while purporting the idea that Chechen violence of the 90’s “concerns idiosyncrasies of individual personalities and collective decision-making.” Explains Chechnya was an example for all Russian Republics, and discusses Putin’s renaming of war in Chechnya along with Russia’s support.


Discusses the lessons to be learned from the Caucasus War and its link to Russia’s problems with Chechnya. Reviews key issues of interest, analyzes pertinent topics and relevant issues, and connects the implications of the conflicts in the Caucasus with Russian history.


International pressure for Russia to reach a peaceful solution in Chechnya was intense until 9-11. After 9-11, Putin finally convinced the West that the Chechen conflict was a fight against Islamic
terrorists, and international pressure has waned since. Background on Russia's military involvement in Chechnya, and past, present and possible future implications are elaborated.


Focusses on the potential threats to the national security and territorial integrity of Russia, relating to boundary disputes with Chechnya in the North Caucasus. Identifies these threats, and details the boundary disputes. Gives insight into an interview with former Minister of Defense of the Russian Federation General Pavel Grachev.


Explores the demographic and economic concerns of the North Caucasian regarding the war between Chechnya and Russia. Economic dependency of the North Caucasian republics on the center, and the legacy of the past in North Caucasian politics.


The discovery of billions of dollars of energy wealth has put the Caspian Sea back on the map. Yet for most of the region’s inhabitants, the oil boom has so far been more of a bust. It is also sparking developments that threaten to turn all of Central Asia into a zone of instability and crisis.


Answers questions regarding basic background information to Russo-Chechan conflict, discussing Chechens as terrorists, and as citizens; also discussing the fight for independence since 1992 and Russia’s response.


Reports on conflicts in the Caucasus, relevant political stakeholders and their actions to promote peace in the regions, and discusses President Putin’s need to stamp out terrorism in the region.


Investigates state efforts to justify armed resistance to ethnic secessionism on the 1994-1996 war fought by Russia against Chechnya. Strategies of justification which Russia used against Chechnya; Discussion of mass response to forceful resistance to Chechen separatism; Effectiveness of government to justify forceful resistance to Chechen separatism.


Discusses how the Chechen rebels have used terrorism to try to push their agenda in Chechen conflict; also discusses how Putin has used these actions to further his support for renewed aggression in Chechnya.

Chechnya Weekly is the foundation's coverage of the crisis in the breakaway republic. Its mission is to inform policymakers, the media, and the public of developments in Chechnya, discuss the origins of the conflict and explore the possibilities for peace. Beginning January 2003 with Volume IV, Chechnya Weekly is written by Lawrence A. Uzzell.

Legal and Illegal Measures Towards an Independent Chechnya

Documents primarily analyze Chechen roles as freedom fighters, terrorists, victims, citizens, and politicians, and how the fight for independence manifests differently for Chechens. Reflects on relevant documents and events produced and perpetuated by Chechens.


“Netwar”—a mode of conflict engaged in by networked, nonstate actors—is associated with social activism, terror and crime. The recent war in Chechnya shows how netwar can be used in ways to confront the larger conventional forces of nationstates. The Chechens employed a range of activities, from social activism to terror to complement their military netwar.


Presents a letter from Chechen Republic of Ichkeria foreign minister Ilyas Akhmadov to the International Court of Justice regarding the independence of the republic upon the dissolution of the former Soviet Union.


Analyzes separatist movements and terrorist issues up to 2003 from Sri Lanka, Russian Caucasus and northern Spain. Discusses the success and failure of separatists in politics.


Tensions between Russia and Chechnya are likely to remain, especially because the Khasavyurt agreements, which ended the war, did not resolve Chechnya’s legal status, but postponed until December 31, 2001. Chechnya faces the challenge of creating state institutions that protect the rights of all its citizens, yet it’s criminal conduct code is not on par.


A record of the constitution formulated by the Chechen Republic in 1992. Discusses inter alia the formation of Independent Chechen Republic, specifies respect for human rights, autonomy over resource use and management, and the right to self-determination primarily.

A record of the new constitution formulated by the Chechen Republic in 2002-2003.


Explains how Chechen Republic Administrators attempted to rewrite the constitution and hold a referendum in 2002, but shows how the Kremlin disagreed with part of the new constitution, thus slowing the process of referenda until 2003. Suggests referendum should not be upheld, as voters were intimidated and human rights abuses were recorded during voting process.


Hostage-taking coupled with suicidal terrorism is new, played out in a Moscow theater in late October 2002. Forty armed Chechen terrorists announced to 800 plus hostages that the event was a suicide mission. Suicidal terrorists are rarely observed in action. An American psychologist collaborated with Russian colleagues to collect interviews from the hostages.


Discusses how the Chechen rebels have used terrorism to try to push their agenda in Chechen conflict; also discusses how Putin has used these actions to further his support for renewed aggression in Chechnya.


Prague Watchdog is an on-line service that collects and disseminates information on the conflict in Chechnya, focusing on human rights, humanitarian aid conditions, media access and coverage, and the local political situation. It is generally sympathetic to Chechen cause.

Russian Public Opinions on Chechens, The War and Terrorism

The information in this section elucidates Russian public opinions of Chechnya, the Chechen wars, and terrorism both before and after the first and second war, and since September 11, 2001.


Analyzes a survey on how Russians view human rights and the conflict in Chechnya. Discusses support for human rights; indifference to threats to human rights and censorship; views on Chechnya.

This book chapter discusses terrorism and destabilization in the Chechnya break-away republic and also throughout Russia by Chechen rebels. It discusses Russia’s policy implications, and continued insistence for assistance from the West for this “War on Terror” in Chechnya.


Examination of the Putin Administration’s response in the aftermath of the September 11 attacks equating Russia’s war against Chechen terrorists with U.S. attack on Al Qaeda. Made strong case for a Russian alliance with the U.S. against terrorists. Discusses two alternative storylines in opposition to Putin’s response, and those who support all sides represented.


Examines the impact of the September 11 terrorist attacks on the Islamic factor in the Russo-Chechen war. Role of the Russian media in maintaining and consolidating public support for the conflict in Chechnya during the second war; Information on the shifts in Russian popular attitudes toward the war.


Discusses the perception of the Russian public concerning the Russo-Chechen wars, and the way in which former President Boris Yeltsin and incumbent President Vladimir Putin used the war to their political advantage. Gives lessons learned by the government from the media during the war and the classification of Chechen insurgents.


Discusses the increasingly negative attitudes Russian society has toward the Caucasus regarding terrorism in Russia. Discusses deporting terrorists out of Russia.


This article discusses Russian Orthodox nationalist groups and the intense debates on how to rename Islamic fundamentalism. Previously, Islam was not a focused enemy like the West, but opinions have shifted in the wake of September 11 toward incorporating Islamic fundamentalists as enemies to the Russian Orthodox tradition.

Russian Relations with International Actors Regarding Chechnya

Documents in this section are all linked with international opinions mostly regarding the current Russian-Chechen conflict. Some go into policy recommendations, while others decry human rights violations, but all give an interesting picture of various international actors’ support or outrage regarding Chechnya.


Discusses the failure due to lack of funding of the National Public Commission that Russia set up to appease international actors during the 2000 U.N. Commission, as well as problems of the Office of the Special Representative of the President on Human Rights and Freedoms. Calls for these organizations to be strengthened and for Russia to be more accountable.


Reports on Amnesty International’s global concerns. Urges the U.N. to pass a resolution of “serious concern” regarding human rights abuses by all parties in Chechnya with special request of Russian Federation to take steps to halt these abuses and to follow through on last year’s resolutions. Also calls for international inquiry committee to examine abuses.

2000. Chechnya: Implications for Russia, and the Caucus. Hearing before the Committee on Foreign Relations, United States Senate, One Hundred Sixth Congress, First Session, November 4, 1999.


A report describing the humanitarian actions Doctors Without Border took upon the request from the Council of Europe.


Decries the Chechen conflict in the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, and calls for Russian government officials to investigate abuses committed by Russian military. Describes
forced disappearances, village clean-ups, and arson along with other rights violations committed by both sides.


Delves into the background of the Russo-Chechen war, and analyzes whether this invasion was necessary, successful, and viable. Considers the future of Russo-Chechen relations.


Discussion of Putin’s initial economic and political policies and mandates as President. Discusses his “turn to the West,” and how it has decentralized Russia’s control over situations in the Caucasus and Central Asia, resulting in declining control in these areas.


Examines the legal constraints on the international community’s responses to gross violations of human rights and humanitarian law in Kosovo, East Timor and Chechnya. Nature of the international legal system; Relevant provisions of human rights and humanitarian law; Legal constraints and available remedies.


Analyzes Russia’s foreign policy as a two-level system where both foreign and domestic factors should be identified. Argues that most states don’t want to raise human rights standards over traditionally greater concerns like security and economics. Uses culture clashes in Russia as a main reason for the uncertainty in its foreign policy.


Focuses on the supportive relations between Russia and the United States since September 11. Discusses difficulties surrounding the democratization of Russia; U.S. promotion of democracy. Discusses President Vladimir Putin crusade against rebels in Chechnya, and the importance of Russia as an ally in the war against terrorism.


This report identifies the failure of Russia and Chechnya to fully comply with the Code of Military Conduct, which was adopted by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) before the Chechen war broke in 1994. Also updates the current status of human rights violations in Chechnya. Insists that action should be taken.

Chechnya Weekly presents coverage of the crisis in the breakaway republic. Its mission is to inform policymakers, the media, and the public of developments in Chechnya, discuss the origins of the conflict and explore the possibilities for peace. Beginning January 2000 with Volume I, Chechnya Weekly is written by John Dunlop.


Discusses the implications of the two Russian-Chechen wars for international law and the observance of human rights in Chechnya. Describes causes of the conflict; types of violations committed; legal definitions of the most serious crimes.


Evaluates the ability of the Council of Europe to change the policy of Russia toward its conflict with Chechnya. Russian perceptions of the Council of Europe; reaction of Russian officials to the urges of the Council of Europe against its use of violence against Chechnya.


Account of the military operations of Russia in the North Caucasus; Geopolitical and geoeconomic significance of the North Caucasus; Implications of the Russian strategy for Chechnya and the West.


Russia’s adherence to emerging international human rights is commonly judged by the human rights disaster in Chechnya. Contested are the notions that human rights abuses in Chechnya fully illustrate Russia’s stance on international human rights. Suggests that Chechnya is an exceptional case, and that Russia has brought human rights standards in line with the West.


This is highly recommended reading for understanding how Russian domestic politics impacts political, economic, and social dimensions of the conflict in Chechnya.

Examines the reasons that allow the Russian Federation to enter the Council of Europe in 1996. Compliance with entrance requirements and human rights norms; Assurances made by Russia. Discussion on the political dialogue over human rights violations in Chechnya.


This article examines the evolution of Saudi-Russian relations since September 11 focusing in particular on Chechnya and the Saudi role in the “global war on terrorism.” Some analysts argue that the recent improvement in Saudi-Russian relations heralds the beginning of something akin to an alliance.


Examines Russian President Vladimir Putin’s political backing behind the U.S. anti-terrorist campaign. Description on Putin’s representations of the Chechen war; allegations of Chechen links with terrorism.


Includes a chapter discussing Russia’s relations with the West regarding Chechnya and options for policy and diplomacy.


Investigates Russia’s foreign relations with the former Soviet republics, focusing on conflicts over the energy resources in the former Soviet South, Central Asia and Caucasus. Discusses Russian control of the former Soviet republics’ economic development and trade.


Explores the ways in which the U.S. contributed to the spread of terrorism as it concerns the former Soviet Union and the Russian Federation. Support of the U.S. for terrorist groups; Role of U.S. -trained terrorists in Russia’s conflict with Chechnya.


Describes both parties human rights abuses towards Chechens, but especially the Russian Federation’s tenuous accountability in the prosecution of perpetrators of human rights abuses on both sides. Calls for the European Parliament to take serious action in ensuring Russia is committed to ending the Chechen conflict.

Decries the ongoing two year conflict to the U.N. Commission on Human Rights, and calls for member countries to insist Russian government officials commit to investigations of ongoing abuses committed by Russian military. Calls on Russia to stop citing terrorist threats as an excuse for military human rights abuses in Chechnya.


Calls for Council of Europe to pressure Russian Federation to first follow up on charges of human rights abuses committed and sanctioned by Russian Federation. Points out Russia’s culpability and hypocrisy in human rights abuses in Chechnya; even as it has passed resolutions to work for peace human rights abuses still occur.


Reports on conflicts in the Caucasus, relevant political stakeholders and their actions to promote peace in the regions, and discusses President Putin’s need to stamp out terrorism in the regions.


Chechnya Weekly is the foundation’s coverage of the crisis in the breakaway republic. Its mission is to inform policymakers, the media, and the public of developments in Chechnya, discuss the origins of the conflict and explore the possibilities for peace. Beginning January 2003 with Volume IV, Chechnya Weekly is written by Lawrence A. Uzzell.


Describes the indiscriminate bombing and shelling of civilians and their property in Grozny. Applauds Western Europe’s quick response denouncing these actions, while urging Boris Yeltsin to condemn these attacks and follow through to punish those responsible.


Describes the human rights abuses at Alkhan-Yurt including looting, rape, and murder of civilians and their property. Discusses Russia’s responsibility to act in accordance with Protocol II of the Geneva Convention and with the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms which Russia has ratified.


Tensions between Russia and Chechnya are likely to remain, especially because the Khasavyurt agreements, which ended the war, did not resolve Chechnya’s legal status, but postponed until December 31, 2001. Chechnya faces the challenge of creating state institutions that protect the rights of all its citizens, yet it’s criminal conduct code is not on par.

Human Rights Watch decries the continued human rights abuses in Chechnya committed by the Russian military. Calls for the international community to establish an independent monitoring committee to investigate human rights abuses, and for international actors to track these abuses and apply pressure on Russian Federation to reform.


Examines if the Russian army were indeed guilty of human rights abuses, the nature of abuses and whether the military and political leadership could have chosen different methods. Evidence of human rights violations documented in Chechnya stem from tactics adopted by the Russian state; basis of the main Western allegation of human rights abuses.

Refugees from Chechnya

Documents here reveal the dire circumstances of the internally displaced people who have had to flee their homes in the midst of this conflict, describing their plight, problems, and probable futures as refugees.


This report points to serious violations of international human rights by Russian law enforcement and security forces; it emphasizes the obstacles faced by victims, particularly women, children and ethnic minorities, in obtaining justice. Accounts for the dramatic changes in the political, economic and legal systems of the Russian Federation and discusses impact.


Describes the current state of crises in Chechnya by discussing continued human rights abuses like forced disappearances and torture from both sides. Claims that violence has now spread into neighboring areas where many refugees have fled. Discusses the referendum for a new constitution, and obvious signs of vote rigging.


Interesting look at Russian human rights abuses against Chechens during first war, which caused mass migration and displacement. Describes the refugee population and the conditions refugees live in after the war. Gives civilian toll during the 1994 to 1996 war between Russia and Chechnya.

Population displacements in the aftermath of the Chechen conflict undermine a complex political balance existing among the numerous ethnic groups in the neighboring Republic of Dagestan. The destabilisation of Dagestan threatens to bring ethnic conflict to virtually the only state in the Caucasus to have avoided it thus far.


Documents new attempts on the part of Russian government to force internally displaced persons living in Ingushetia back to Chechnya, and also looks at continued human rights violations by both sides within Chechen borders. Encourages the international community to prevent Russia from forcing refugees to return to an unsafe home.


The deteriorating security situation in Ingushetia shows compelling pressure on part of Russian Federation and pro-Kremlin Chechen government to force Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) to return to Chechnya. Ingushetia has suffered many of the same human rights abuses as Chechnya due to its harboring of IDPs.

**Russia's Future in Chechnya**

These articles and books consider future policy initiatives in Chechnya, and what their prospects for Chechen autonomy may be.


Delves into the background of the Russo-Chechen war, and analyzes whether this invasion was necessary, successful, and viable. Considers the future of Russo-Chechen relations.


Good discussion of Russian anti-terrorist strategy; including Putin’s 12-step policy program which includes “finishing the job” in Chechnya. Of key interest is the need for more military control within to discipline the ranks as well as in the Chechen region to maintain security.


Background information regarding the dissolution of the Soviet Union, and the war in Chechnya. Looks at possible solutions to geopolitical and ethnic conflicts, in addition to Russian public opinion on these topics.

Chechnya Weekly presents coverage of the crisis in the breakaway republic. Its mission is to inform policymakers, the media, and the public of developments in Chechnya, discuss the origins of the conflict and explore the possibilities for peace. Beginning January 2000 with Volume I, Chechnya Weekly is written by John Dunlop.


Account of the military operations of Russia in the North Caucasus; Geopolitical and geo-economic significance of the North Caucasus; Implications of the Russian strategy for Chechnya and the West.


Describes history of Russian dominance in Caucasus, focusing particularly on the violence that took off in 1994. Emphasizes that Russia must adopt coherent policies when dealing with the Caucasus or the area will destabilize.


This is highly recommended reading for understanding Russian domestic politics impacts political, economic, and social dimensions of the conflict in Chechnya.


This book discusses how Russia’s vastly superior military had to withdraw and give way to a stalemated peace to Chechnya after the first two-year civil conflict. It ties the failure to the guerilla tactics of Chechen rebels. It’s strength lies in the in-depth study of the war, its phases, and the internal documents accompanying these phases.


Reviews the books Russia Confronts Chechnya: The Roots of a Separatist Conflict by John B. Dunlop, Chechnya: Calamity in the Caucasus by Carlotta Gall and Thomas de Waal, and The War in Chechnya by Stasys Knezys and Romanas Sedlickas.


Argues that the Russian Federation’s war with the breakaway Republic of Chechnya is indicative of much larger problems within the federation. Russian practice of inflating reports of military success. Gives history of Russian relations with the Caucasus, Islamic influences in Caucasus, and the inadequacy of military solution in Chechnya.


Includes a chapter discussing Russia’s relations with the West regarding Chechnya and options for policy and diplomacy.


Focuses on the potential threats to the national security and territorial integrity of Russian, relating to boundary disputes with Chechnya in the North Caucasus. Identifies these threats, and details the boundary disputes. Gives insight into an interview with former Minister of Defense of the Russian Federation General Pavel Grachev.


Decries the ongoing two year conflict to the U.N. Commission on Human Rights, and calls for member countries to insist Russian government officials commit to investigations of ongoing abuses committed by Russian military. Calls on Russia stop citing terrorist threats as an excuse for military human rights abuses in Chechnya.


In Russia’s Restless Frontier, the authors examine the implications of the war with Chechnya for Russia’s post-Soviet evolution. Considering Chechnya’s impact on Russia’s military, domestic politics, foreign policy, and ethnic relations, the authors contend that the Chechen factor must be addressed before Russia can continue its development.


Chechnya Weekly is the foundation’s coverage of the crisis in the breakaway republic. Its mission is to inform policymakers, the media, and the public of developments in Chechnya, discuss the origins of the conflict and explore the possibilities for peace. Beginning January 2003 with Volume IV, Chechnya Weekly is written by Lawrence A. Uzzell.


While fighting in Chechnya has ceased, forced disappearances continue. Little inquiry has been done by Russian Federation, and this report highlights disappearances. It also advises Russia to act according to 1992 U.N. General Assembly’s Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Disappearances.