
Edge of Empires: A History of Georgia. Georgia: A Political History since Independence, by Donald Rayfield, is reviewed. Georgia mostly features on the edges of other peoples' histories. Xenophon, describing Greek mercenaries' attempts to get home in 400BC, wrote the first description of it. Books about the Soviet Union highlight Georgia's role as a rebellious captive and as the birthplace of Josef Stalin, its most infamous son. A flurry of recent accounts describe the brief, disastrous war with Russia in 2008.


Georgia's "revolution of roses," Nov 22-23, 2003, brought an unprecedented generational change in post-Soviet political leaderships, based on support for democracy. Here, Devdariani provides an overview of Georgia's complex party development factors that led to the fall of Pres Eduard Shevardnadze's government.

On Nov 22, 2004, the eve of the first anniversary of Georgia's 2003 "Rose Revolution," President Mikheil Saakashvili reiterated the supreme goal of his presidency: "to reunite Georgia." Halting the flow of smuggled goods and keeping Russia at bay are key to restoring Georgia's territorial integrity. Saakashvili came to power after he promised to combat crime and corruption, restore the country's territorial unity, and solve the many associated economic and governance problems. Here, Freese accounts the situation in Georgia and how Saakashvili tackled the contraband problem in the country.


On the eastern shore of the Black Sea lies a narrow strip of fertile land called Abkhazia. Insofar as Georgia's recognition by the United Nations constitutes international law, Abkhazia is part of Georgia. Since August 1992, fighting between Georgian troops and Abkhazian separatists has killed hundreds of people, made thousands homeless, and blocked Russia's main trade route into the Transcaucasus. Georgia is adamant that it will not let the area go. In the end, the Abkhazians may have to accept life as a minority inside Georgia, or become an outpost of the Russian federation, without whose support they cannot survive. The Russians have clear interests in Abkhazia, and some Russians have joined in the fighting to help the separatists. Negotiations are going on between Russia and Georgia and are due to
end on February 5, 1993. Fighting between Georgians and Ossetians in South Ossetia, another disputed part of Georgia, broke out in 1989 and caused many casualties before a joint Russian-Georgian-Ossetian peacekeeping force was set up in 1992.


More than a decade after it swept Eastern Europe free of Communist regimes, people power has removed another ancient relic from a former Soviet satellite. Edward Shevardnadze's departure after 11 years as Georgia's president was remarkable above all for its peacefulness: after 3 weeks of non-violent protests against fraudulent parliamentary elections, and after his supporters in government and in the armed forces had begun to desert him, he bowed to the inevitable and resigned on the night of November 23. Georgians will point to this non-violence to argue that their country is fundamentally different to its Caucasian neighbors, Armenia and Azerbaijan. Both of these held flawed elections earlier this year too. But the consequences were not a "velvet revolution" like Georgia's but, in Azerbaijan's case, violently repressed riots. That things in Georgia happened differently is a tribute partly to the vibrancy of the democratic opposition there, and partly to the fact that the West's involvement was much greater.

On the night of Aug 7-8, 2008, the Georgian army launched a full-scale assault to restore constitutional order to Georgia's rebellious northern province of South Ossetia. After several days of intense fighting, this assault was rebuffed by the intervention of Russian military forces. Nearly a year has passed since these tragic events, yet there is still widespread disagreement over what happened, why it happened, and what lessons ought to be derived from the conflict. For Pres Mikheil Saakashvili of Georgia, the Russian intervention was the pre-planned cold-blooded murder of a small, free independent country by a ruthless big neighbor. For Pres Dmitry Medvedev of Russia, however, Georgia’s initial assault was a pre-planned act of genocide by Tbilisi against the people of South Ossetia. The lesson here is that policy differences with this or that Russian government can and should be managed pragmatically. To the extent that the Obama administration now appreciates this, there is indeed hope that US relations with Russia can be set on a new path.


Introduction As the government of Georgia continues its quest for economic modernization and admission into the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and European Union (EU), it must first normalize relations with the Russian Federation to facilitate achievement of these long-term goals. Options that could be
considered include: * Deemphasize the role played by the North Caucasus in Georgian politics * Positively promote the 2014 Sochi Olympics * Assuage Russian anxieties about the possibility of NATO expansion * Reduce the level of overt anti-Russian rhetoric in public statements, official documents, and parliamentary actions * Lower the priority of resolving Abkhazia and South Ossetia's independence in national politics.


Georgia and Russia agree upon one thing: the situation in the breakaway province of Abkhazia is bad and getting worse. Georgia, an ex-Soviet republic with close links to America, says that Russia is illegally putting more troops in the region. Last week it produced video footage of what looks like a Russian warplane shooting down an unmanned Georgian surveillance drone. Russia retorts that its troops are deployed legally as peacekeepers. The most pessimistic interpretation is that the Kremlin, having decided that the West is too divided and distracted to care about Georgia, is increasing the pressure in order to destabilise its small neighbour and perhaps replace the current rulers with a more pro-Russian lot. The outside world so far has taken neither the Georgian nor the Russian version of events at face value. The Georgian president, Mikheil Saakashvili, is facing a strident opposition that regards him as a corrupt and eccentric autocrat. It could be that hardliners in Moscow would welcome confrontation with Georgia to set the tone for the new presidency of
Dmitry Medvedev. It is hard to see an easy way out. The big question is how far Russia will push. Georgia is an important link in the energy corridor that connects the oil-rich Caspian region with the outside world.


After the Russia-Georgia war, tensions grew in the relationship between Russia and the West. These tensions have occasionally led some to argue that a New Cold War may be on the horizon between Russia and the West. Others have even claimed that the Old Cold War has not really ended. This work investigates such arguments by examining Western ties to Georgia, Russia's power resurgence, and Georgia's role in that war. The authors claim that those, who interpret the Russia-Georgia war within a Cold War paradigm, neglect the complexities of that conflict. During similar conflicts, the Cold War is an easily comprehensible and adoptable paradigm for the West, particularly the US. Adopting a Cold War perspective, however, ignores that Tbilisi had a significant role to play in defining the 2008 war. Russia versus West tensions can no longer be characterized by the ideological rivalries of the Cold War. Moreover, the Russia-Georgia war appears to indicate a return to older forms of international rivalry.

The article is about the concept of identity classification of the leading European cultural groups and Georgia's place among them. The article overviews Georgia's profile and historical relationships with Europe; highlights Georgia's contemporary contributions in European culture in parallel with one of the country's main priorities in terms of foreign, policy - euro integration. The author proves that Georgia has come a long way and nowadays it's obvious that Europe has always been the main orientation for it, thus it is only natural that Georgia has been exerting every effort to become a full valuable member of the European, family.