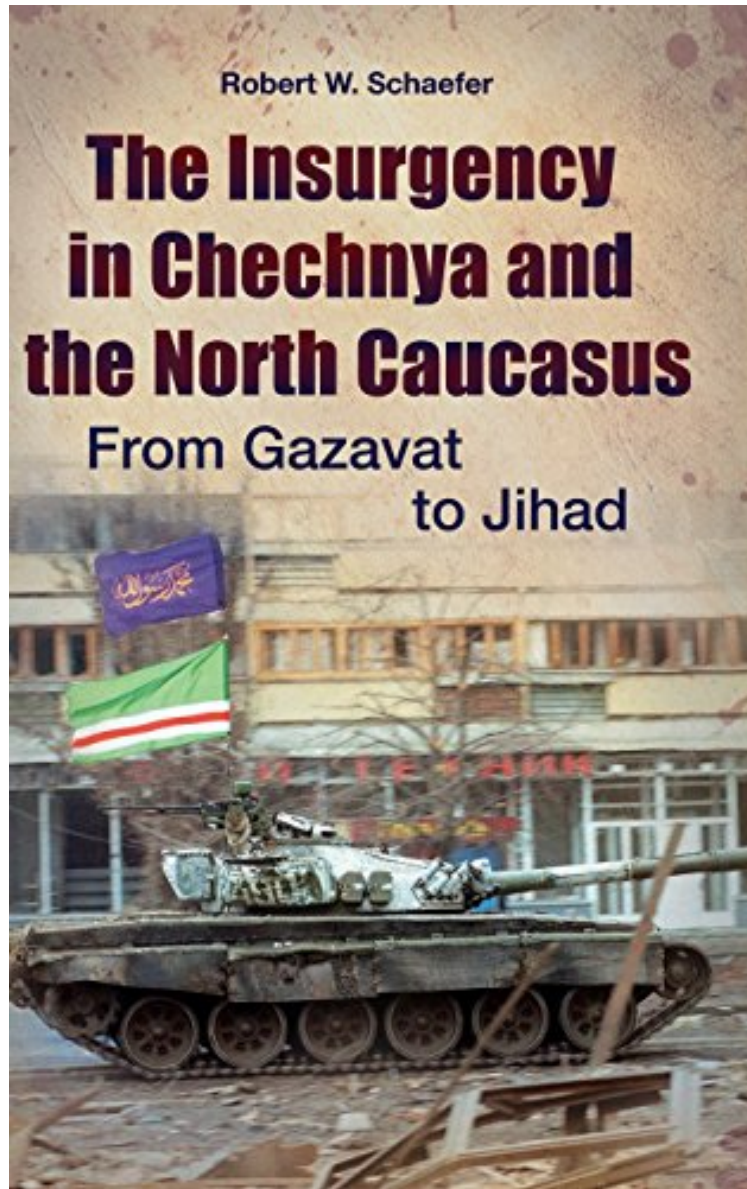


(Mobile book) The Insurgency in Chechnya and the North Caucasus: From Gazavat to Jihad (Praeger Security International)

The Insurgency in Chechnya and the North Caucasus: From Gazavat to Jihad (Praeger Security International)

Robert W. Schaefer

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Robert W. Schaefer : The Insurgency in Chechnya and the North Caucasus: From Gazavat to Jihad (Praeger Security International) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Insurgency in Chechnya and the North Caucasus: From Gazavat to Jihad (Praeger Security International):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Pleasantly SurprisedBy Frederick Nace, Jr.The insurgency in the North Caucasus is far from over, and the motivations that drive the insurgents are still little understood by the Russian bureaucracy. I expected this book (like most in Western academia looking into this region) to be the same misguided approach and was pleasantly surprised. The Russians would be well served by Rob Schaefer's effort, where he brings an objective look inside of the problem, not deferring to the myopia of either party. Schaefer brings the unique view of the Warrior Diplomat, steeped in insurgency and counter-insurgency doctrine to a complex situation and provides the best method to understand it. He explains insurgency and the history of the area meticulously, so that his analysis of current events is well-rooted and easily understood by amateur and academic alike.7 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Russia's Failure in Chechnya May be its Only Hope for ChangeBy Ethan S. BurgerGreetings:This book is GREAT. I finished it in two days. I have been following the Russian-Chechen conflict since the Soviet Union's break-up, and found this book to be the most insightful to come out in years on the topic.The framework (which is a great pedagogical tool -- although I am not in complete agreement with it), diagrams, and description are outstanding. Often in my own work (the French experience in Algeria or the U.S. experience in Viet Nam) I have used similar frameworks and found them to be most helpful for students and professional groups.Personally, I believe that the conflict in the Northern Caucasus will not end until the Russian elite realize that the cost of the low intensity conflict is too great to continue indefinitely. The forthcoming Winter Olympics and World Cup Games will be a nightmare for Russia.Ethan S. BurgerSenior LecturerFaculty of LawCentre for Transnational Crime PreventionUniversity of Wollongong.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy history Buffvery good to understand that conflict I would recommend it

Winner of a Kirkus Star, multiple awards, and named to numerous "best of" lists, *The Insurgency in Chechnya and the North Caucasus: From Gazavat to Jihad* is the most acclaimed book to have ever been written on the subject and helps both the average reader and the seasoned analyst make sense of the situation in the Caucasus. With the Crimean crisis in full swing and increasing violence throughout the region, understanding this volatile conflict is especially important in light of efforts to "reset" the relationship between Russia and the United States. For the first time, a Special Forces expert on insurgency and Russia offers the definitive guide on the conflict, explaining why the Russian approach to counter terrorism has failed and why terrorist and insurgent attacks in Russia have increased sharply over the past few years. *The Insurgency in Chechnya and the North Caucasus: From Gazavat to Jihad* is a comprehensive treatment of this 300 year-old conflict. Thematically organized, refreshingly accessible and well-written, it cuts through the rhetoric to provide the critical lens through which readers can truly understand the "why" and "how" of insurgencies and terrorism - and lay bare the intricacies of the Chechen and North Caucasus conflict - one of the world's longest-running contemporary insurgencies. A fascinating case study of a counterinsurgency campaign that is in direct contravention of US and Western doctrine, this book is also the perfect companion to those studying insurgencies because it shows an enemy-centric approach to counterinsurgency in action. As such, it's been chosen as a textbook in numerous terrorism and insurgency programs throughout the world, and named to the "Top 150 Books on Terrorism and Counterterrorism" by the Terrorism Research Initiative. The book examines the differences and linkages between insurgency and terrorism; the origins of conflict in the North Caucasus; and the influences of different strains of Islam, of al-Qaida, and of the War on Terror. A critical examination of never-before-revealed Russian counterinsurgency (COIN) campaigns explains why those campaigns have consistently failed and why the region has seen such an upswing in violence since the conflict was officially declared "over" in 2006. The book's features include detailed statistics from the North Caucasus Incident Database (every violent incident in the region over a two-year period); charts showing the complex strategies of the insurgency and the Russian counterinsurgency campaigns; declassified intelligence reports; maps and a bibliography. Presented through the lens of counterinsurgency theory, doctrine and practice, this incisive analysis explores the historic roots of each issue, the key players, and the farthest-reaching effects.

From Kirkus sStarred "Schaefer's debut is an in-depth critical assessment of the Russo-Chechen conflict that reflects a deep understanding of counterinsurgency in general and how it relates to that region specifically. Although the Russian government officially declared an end to the Second Chechen War in 2009, the insurgency in the North Caucasus is far from over, according to Schaefer. In clear, layman-friendly prose, he argues convincingly and meticulously that Russia's strategy failures stem from a vital misunderstanding of the nature of Chechen resistance; the Russian government's insistence that Chechen rebels are less resistance fighters than they are mere terrorist criminals is a misinterpretation that, in Schaefer's view, has led to the misapplication of counterterrorist tactics that not only failed to quell the Chechen resistance movement while the war was on, but have allowed it to regroup in the last two years. Schaefer, a lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army Special Forces, wields his military and foreign policy expertise handily, building his arguments from the rudiments up so that casual readers can easily follow while also scoring insights that ought to make this work indispensable to more interested actors and observers. He provides invaluable context by explaining the nature of insurgencies and terrorist acts, details the long history of regional power

struggles (and particularly the protracted hostilities between Russians and various North Caucasian ethnic groups) and analyzes the extent to which certain Islamic sects have shaped the conflict and motivated insurgents' causes. At root, Schaefer's argument is that the Russian approach, in deviation from Western standards, puts too little emphasis on political strategies to combat the insurgency, instead relying on vastly superior firepower in an attempt to break the Chechens, who have been waging a campaign without an end-game strategy and are destined to fail as long as Russia's interest in the region remains strong. Whether or not Schaefer's conclusions are persuasive, his reasoning is honest, well-researched and refreshingly free of partisan rhetoric. A tour de force in breadth and depth." Named to Kirkus's "Best of 2011" Winner of the USA Book News 2011 Best Book Award for Current Events Winner of the 2012 Independent Publishers Book Award for Foreign Affairs (Bronze) Winner of the 2012 Military Writers Society of America Gold Medal for History Named to the "Top 150 Books on Terrorism and Counterterrorism" by the Terrorism Research Initiative "A remarkable book ... Col Schaefer's book does a fine job in summarizing the breadth and depth of the conflict, and making the latest military thinking about insurgencies accessible, while steering clear of polemic or bias. This book tells you a lot about the Caucasus. And also about the brainpower assets of the American military." -- The Economist. "enormously helpful in understanding the ongoing conflict in the North Caucasus, and the gnawing feeling of dread as Russia prepares to host the 2014 Winter Olympics ... free of cynicism and romance ... It makes one wish military analysts had taken on the Afghan puzzle with similar energy, say, a decade or so back." -- The New York Times "a first-rate study that is part history, part counterinsurgency theory, and part predictive analysis... The North Caucasus is a complex and bewildering ethnic and cultural mix that is hard for a foreigner to understand. Robert Schaefer has done much to overcome this through his thorough research and balanced approach. His history of the region and the post-Soviet phase is especially well done... strongly recommend -- Journal of Military History "Scrupulously researched" -- The National Interest "Incisive, insightful – in short, invaluable." -- Liz Fuller, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's Caucasus Report Thoughtful and comprehensive analysis ... useful to the policymaker ... helps answer the paradox that most of those who have studied the region grappled with: Why have the Russians never succeeded in extinguishing this 300-year old insurgency while, at the same time, the Chechens have never been able to win their independence? -- Parameters "comprehensive and informative ... Schaefer's informed analysis of the Chechen insurgency makes this a book that every student of counterinsurgency or the Caucasus region should own." -- Military Writers Society of America "Demystifies our longest running graduate-level conflict." -- Col. "Nick" Pratt, USMC (ret.), Director of the Program on Terrorism and Security Studies, G.C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies "A 'must read' for those who are looking for answers about how to stop the brutality and violence in Southern Russia." -- The New Book From the Author Chapters of this book have been chosen as part of the official course curriculum for the Program on Terrorism and Security Studies at the George C. Marshall Center for European Security Studies.