



Black Garden: Armenia and Azerbaijan Through Peace and War

Thomas de Waal

Download now

Read Online →

Black Garden: Armenia and Azerbaijan Through Peace and War

Thomas de Waal

Black Garden: Armenia and Azerbaijan Through Peace and War Thomas de Waal
Choice Outstanding Academic Title 2003

Black Garden is the definitive study of how Armenia and Azerbaijan, two southern Soviet republics, got sucked into a conflict that helped bring them to independence, bringing to an end the Soviet Union, and plaguing a region of great strategic importance. It cuts between a careful reconstruction of the history of Nagorny Karabakh conflict since 1988 and on-the-spot reporting on its convoluted aftermath.

Part contemporary history, part travel book, part political analysis, the book is based on six months traveling through the south Caucasus, more than 120 original interviews in the region, Moscow, and Washington, and unique primary sources, such as Politburo archives.

The historical chapters trace how the conflict lay unresolved in the Soviet era; how Armenian and Azerbaijani leaders exacerbated it; how the Politburo failed to cope with the crisis; how the war began and ended; how the international community failed to sort out the conflict.

What emerges is a complex and subtle portrait of a beautiful and fascinating region, blighted by historical prejudice and conflict.

Black Garden: Armenia and Azerbaijan Through Peace and War Details

Date : Published August 25th 2004 by New York University Press (first published 2003)

ISBN : 9780814719459

Author : Thomas de Waal

Format : Paperback 400 pages

Genre : History, Nonfiction, War, Politics, Cultural, Russia

 [Download Black Garden: Armenia and Azerbaijan Through Peace and ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Black Garden: Armenia and Azerbaijan Through Peace an ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Black Garden: Armenia and Azerbaijan Through Peace and War
Thomas de Waal

From Reader Review Black Garden: Armenia and Azerbaijan Through Peace and War for online ebook

Reuben says

The glowing praise this book has received from worthy critics is well-earned, and I cannot recommend a better introduction to the dispute over Nagorno Karabakh. This is an acute and balanced view of the region, its politics, and the small-minded xenophobia that continues to drive the dispute. With this effort, de Waal has written the authoritative overview of the conflict and the region's political climate.

Highly recommended.

P.S. Disregard the hyperbole and complaints of bias. Zealots on either side who wail about the book's imbalance are the greatest testament to its objectivity. Sometimes the truth hurts, and when Armenians and Azeris are willing to accept some of the hard truths covered in this book, there may finally be progress in the region.

Andrea says

Interesting to read a bit about the "other side". Having lived in Azerbaijan, I have only heard their side of the war.

Nare says

The strength of the book lies in its assessment of how the conflict in Nagorno-Kharabagh has affected the social and political environment of the Caucasus. The problem lies in that this assessment is not fairly balanced to both sides of the question. In the prologue, De Waal states repeatedly that he is taking an unbiased, third-party approach to his assessment. Yet, I found a clear imbalance in the focus of most chapters, leaning towards the Azeri perspective. In describing the situation of both the Armenian and Azeri refugees after their exodus from Baku and Kharabagh, respectively, De Waal appeals to emotion in describing the Azeri settlements. The sources used and the structure of the chapters reflects that it was not necessarily objective, but served as a point of influence.

One of my favorite parts of the book was the use of human experience and narrative to describe the relations between the Azeri's and Armenians before the war and the sporadic inclusion post-war. The narrative that described the close relations that the two shared before the war and the longing for such after the war gave me hope that there will be an eventual agreement between the sides. The book shines a light on the heavy hand that the Soviet Union, and its eventual disenfranchisement, played in the conflict. The use of anecdotes adds more weight to the analysis.

Elizabeth says

Thomas de Waal is a respected journalist who has written about the conflict in Chechnya as well as covered

this conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan over the region of Nagorno-Karabakh. He attempts to write a balanced account of the ingredients that led to this conflict, one that is still unresolved, and under a tenuous cease-fire that's held since 1994 (with some isolated shooting across the cease-fire line from both sides).

Matt says

This is great book that depicts the conflict in Nagorny-Karabakh. I'm not an expert but from what I can tell, the author is fairly objective. The author goes over the history of the region from 1988 to the present years of frozen conflict.

I would recommend this book, although not as an introduction to Karabakh. It is a tad lengthy, and filled with anecdotes -- some personal and some not. The anecdotes add a personal touch and some context to the storyline but they also add weight to the book.

Nicholas Whyte says

<http://nhw.livejournal.com/125758.html>[return][return]This is a really good book. Even if you don't have a professional interest in the Nagorno-Karabakh question (and let's face it, not a lot of people do), I think the studies of how a historical dispute over a very small patch of land destroyed two countries and helped to destroy the Soviet Union are of worldwide, human interest. The narrative of the conflict is interspersed with either interviews with today's survivors or historical reflections on how we got there.[return][return]The first few chapters are also particularly interesting because of the light they throw on Gorbachev, especially from research in the Politburo archives. In a week when we have all been debating the extent to which Ronald Reagan deserves any credit at all, I found this September 1988 exchange between the General Secretary and the hapless official in charge of preventing the conflict illustrative of the fantasy world in which the leadership of the other superpower lived:[return][return]*[Gorbachev] rang and said: "... Tell them that if they don't stop this, we will expel them from the Party!" I said, "Mikhail Sergeyeovich, they've already trampled on their party cards. The members of the committee are all the organisers of these demonstrations!... What Party methods are you talking about?"* [return][return]Two years later, of course, the Soviet Union suddenly collapsed completely. This was one of the few warning signs. (Also the August 1990 coup attempt in Moscow had a direct effect on the outcome of the war.)[return][return]The interesting human story is what happens to people who used to live in a society that has been destroyed. The chapters about the massacre in Sumgait in early 1988, and about the children of Azerbaijan's 750,000 refugees, are particularly vivid.

Michael Dean says

Superbly researched. Fairly positions both sides of the conflict. The updated versions offers well thought-out conclusions.

Dato says

Հայաստանի և Ադրբայջանի միջև ընդհանուր հարաբերակցության փոփոխումը, որը հանգեցրեց 1992 թվականի հոկտեմբերին Կոնգրեսի կողմից Մեծ Բրիտանիայի և Հյուսիս Ատլանտյան կազմակերպության (ՆԱՏՕ) դիմումի մերժմանը, հանգեցրեց 1992 թվականի հոկտեմբերին Կոնգրեսի կողմից Մեծ Բրիտանիայի և Հյուսիս Ատլանտյան կազմակերպության (ՆԱՏՕ) դիմումի մերժմանը:

ՆԱՏՕ-ն ինչպե՞ս կարող էր օգնել Հայաստանին: ՆԱՏՕ-ն ինչպե՞ս կարող էր օգնել Ադրբայջանին: ՆԱՏՕ-ն ինչպե՞ս կարող էր օգնել Վրաստանին: ՆԱՏՕ-ն ինչպե՞ս կարող էր օգնել Գեորգիային: ՆԱՏՕ-ն ինչպե՞ս կարող էր օգնել Աբխազիային: ՆԱՏՕ-ն ինչպե՞ս կարող էր օգնել Դաղստանին: ՆԱՏՕ-ն ինչպե՞ս կարող էր օգնել Կաբարդինո-Բալկարիային: ՆԱՏՕ-ն ինչպե՞ս կարող էր օգնել Կարաբաղին: ՆԱՏՕ-ն ինչպե՞ս կարող էր օգնել Հայաստանին:

ՆԱՏՕ-ն ինչպե՞ս կարող էր օգնել Հայաստանին: ՆԱՏՕ-ն ինչպե՞ս կարող էր օգնել Ադրբայջանին: ՆԱՏՕ-ն ինչպե՞ս կարող էր օգնել Վրաստանին: ՆԱՏՕ-ն ինչպե՞ս կարող էր օգնել Գեորգիային: ՆԱՏՕ-ն ինչպե՞ս կարող էր օգնել Աբխազիային: ՆԱՏՕ-ն ինչպե՞ս կարող էր օգնել Դաղստանին: ՆԱՏՕ-ն ինչպե՞ս կարող էր օգնել Կաբարդինո-Բալկարիային: ՆԱՏՕ-ն ինչպե՞ս կարող էր օգնել Կարաբաղին: ՆԱՏՕ-ն ինչպե՞ս կարող էր օգնել Հայաստանին:

ՆԱՏՕ-ն ինչպե՞ս կարող էր օգնել Հայաստանին: ՆԱՏՕ-ն ինչպե՞ս կարող էր օգնել Ադրբայջանին: ՆԱՏՕ-ն ինչպե՞ս կարող էր օգնել Վրաստանին: ՆԱՏՕ-ն ինչպե՞ս կարող էր օգնել Գեորգիային: ՆԱՏՕ-ն ինչպե՞ս կարող էր օգնել Աբխազիային: ՆԱՏՕ-ն ինչպե՞ս կարող էր օգնել Դաղստանին: ՆԱՏՕ-ն ինչպե՞ս կարող էր օգնել Կաբարդինո-Բալկարիային: ՆԱՏՕ-ն ինչպե՞ս կարող էր օգնել Կարաբաղին: ՆԱՏՕ-ն ինչպե՞ս կարող էր օգնել Հայաստանին:

ՆԱՏՕ-ն ինչպե՞ս կարող էր օգնել Հայաստանին: ՆԱՏՕ-ն ինչպե՞ս կարող էր օգնել Ադրբայջանին: ՆԱՏՕ-ն ինչպե՞ս կարող էր օգնել Վրաստանին: ՆԱՏՕ-ն ինչպե՞ս կարող էր օգնել Գեորգիային: ՆԱՏՕ-ն ինչպե՞ս կարող էր օգնել Աբխազիային: ՆԱՏՕ-ն ինչպե՞ս կարող էր օգնել Դաղստանին: ՆԱՏՕ-ն ինչպե՞ս կարող էր օգնել Կաբարդինո-Բալկարիային: ՆԱՏՕ-ն ինչպե՞ս կարող էր օգնել Կարաբաղին: ՆԱՏՕ-ն ինչպե՞ս կարող էր օգնել Հայաստանին:

Shaig says

I don't understand how 'balanced and objective' this book can be if it mostly presents Armenian civilians' viewpoints and never mention about more than 600 civil Azerbaijanis being tortured/killed in Khojaly in February 26th 1992 by Armenians.

Rune Norheim says

Very good book. Provokes both sides. Read it after visiting Stepanakert .

Sasha says

After reading this and bits on the short-lived Transcaucasian Democratic Federative Republic, I believe more than ever that we are united by a single "cultural space." That although the land was never a geographically delimited area, it is first and foremost the sum total of three homogenous cultures. Being nationalists, our leaders reject this. I wish they'd read and remember Evgeni Gegechkori's (head of the TDFR) words used to explain the uniting of the Transcaucasian people: "Alone we are a bane to our own existence...each is made whole by the other."

Armen Grigoryan says

Interesting insight to the conflict.

Emma says

3.5. disappointing editing: formatting, mechanics, even spacing were distracting, and the circular chronology does the reader no favors. still one of the most comprehensive NK accounts.

AskHistorians says

The most comprehensive work on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. Though de Waal is not an academic, he is a recognised authority on the Caucasus, and his book is by far the most important, and neutral, publication on the conflict. It has become nearly impossible to find anyone who doesn't cite this book when writing about the conflict.

Travis Taylor says

An excellent, seemingly well rounded coverage of a brutal war. I'm sure there are parts of this book that offend both sides, but it is the insight into the pride and frailty of the human psyche that led to the causes and escalation and non-resolution of this conflict that means that neither side can claim victory or righteousness.
