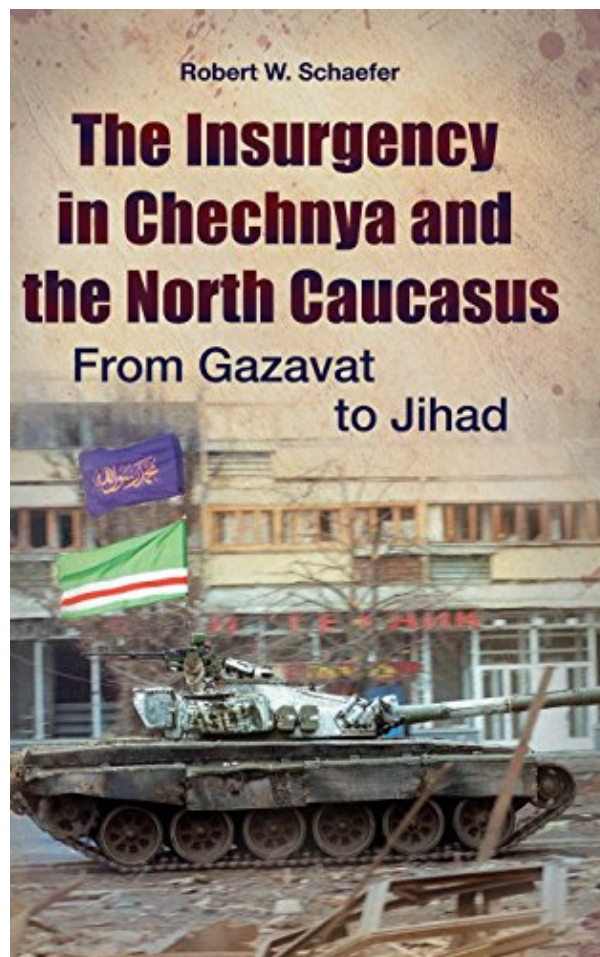


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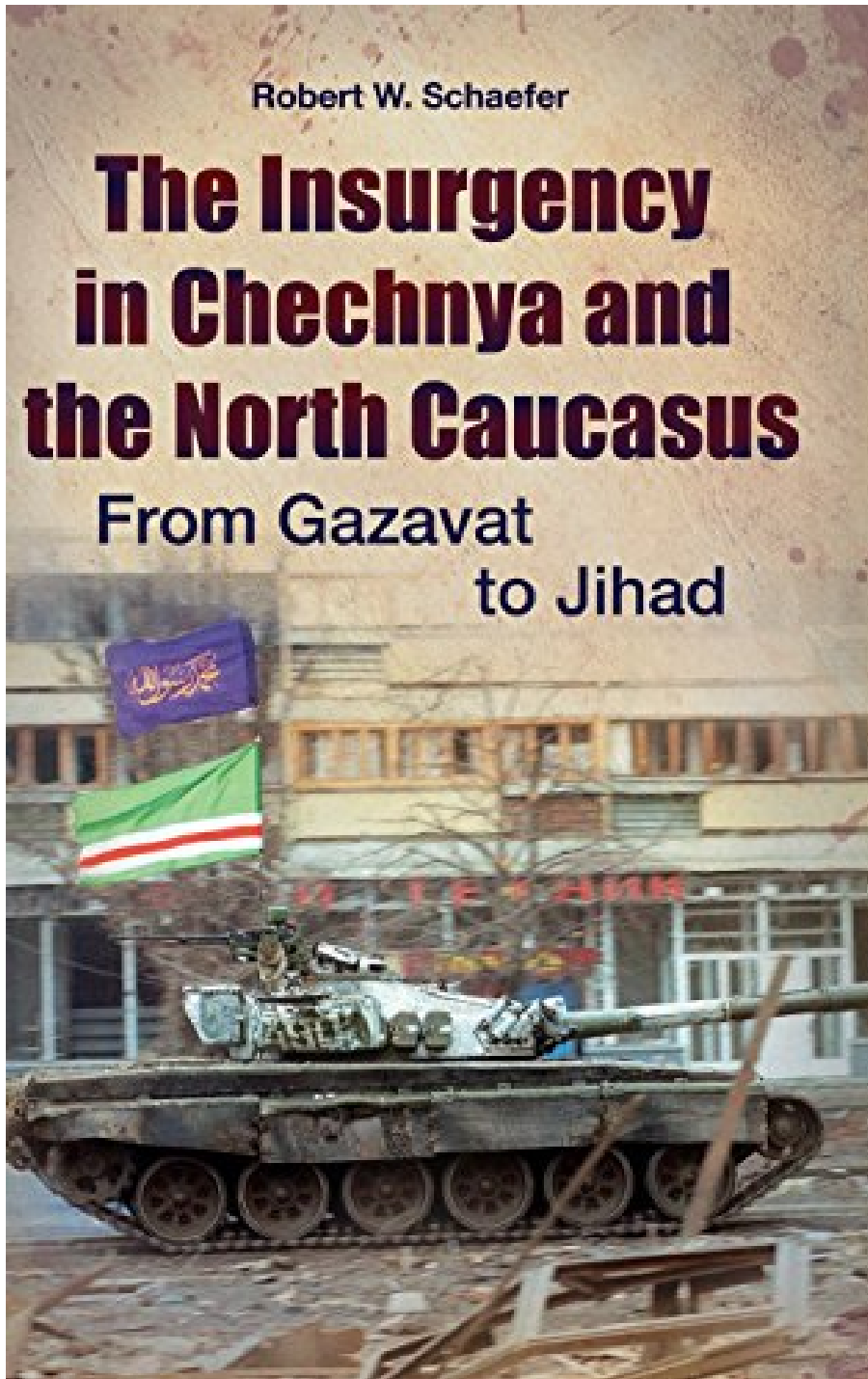
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## **PDF**

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.

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- Dimensions: 9.30" h x 1.30" w x 6.20" l, 1.45 pounds

- Binding: Hardcover
- 303 pages

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Most helpful customer reviews

16 of 16 people found the following review helpful.

Like a sword cutting through the Gordian Knot

By R. Bunn

I was a bit skeptical at first - after all, another book on Chechnya, what else is there to say? Wow, was I wrong. This book is not another re-hashing of the events or even a solid military analysis of battles and tactics, this book is a re-conceptualization of the entire conflict - a re-conceptualization that should have been done long ago. Perhaps it requires a certain amount of time and distance to pass before a conflict can be seen for what it really is; perhaps it takes a counterinsurgency expert to drill down to the bottom of a conflict and lay it all out for us before we can really see what's going on. Regardless, that's exactly what this book does. There is clarity here - and if ever there was a conflict that needed clarity -- needed a sword to cut through the Kavkaskii Uzel (Caucasian Knot) -- it's the insurgency in the Caucasus. Schaefer is able to achieve this clarity because, as he states from the beginning, he uses an "amoral" approach to the analysis. He's not interested in the "right" or "wrong" of a particular action as much as he is interested in showing how that action (insurgent, terrorist, police, military or political) either feeds the fire or helps to make the area more secure. Every serious student of Russia, the Caucasus, or counterinsurgency should read this book. Moreover, we would all be served best if the journalists covering the conflict read this book before making pronouncements or deciding how to report a story.

16 of 16 people found the following review helpful.

Meticulous and Illuminating!

By Jennifer Hunt

Beginning this book as a complete novice on the subject, I now feel as though I have completed a graduate seminar on insurgency in Chechnya and the North Caucasus. Author Robert W. Schaefer meticulously

examines and explains a problematic historical conflict in a little understood region. I appreciate that what is typically a difficult topic is painstakingly elucidated through the lens of an expert. Schaefer's study delivers the breadth and substance of a doctoral dissertation, with a refreshingly accessible structure and tone. The book's comprehensive framework and historical context are bolstered by the author's first-hand experience. Simply illuminating!

12 of 12 people found the following review helpful.

A phenomenally well-informed book.

By B. O'Connor

In writing this book, LTC Robert Schaefer continues his legacy of service. I have recently completed my second reading of "The Insurgency in Chechnya and the North Caucasus: From Gazavat to Jihad," and I may seriously consider going through it a third time. The multiple readings were necessary because this book is so full of information and insight. I have read other books on the lingering situation in the North Caucasus; however, nothing I have previously read approaches the historical information provided in this book. The transition from the provision of an objective history of the region and the historically-shaped perspective on the current situation is seamless. In fact, the objectivity with which LTC Schaefer wrote this book may also be one of its strongest points. His ability to divorce himself from a nation-centric perspective while analyzing this conflict makes this book nearly unique amongst its peers. However, at no time does the book have the hollow ring of an overly academic text--the author's experiences are reflected throughout. Perhaps out of subjective bias, I was most impressed with the portions pertaining to internationally-recognized laws of conflict and rules of engagement. I would recommend this book to any serious student of modern conflict, counterinsurgency, or anyone who has a strong interest in the region. Be forewarned, however, this is neither light nor brief reading; it is a serious text overflowing with information and lessons for anyone who is interested in the subject matter.

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