

Conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh

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Historical overview

- In 1801 the Georgian protectorate - Georgia's annexation to Russia.
- Russian attempts to control over the region led to the conquest of a number of Khanates in 1806-1809 and ultimately to the first Russia-Persian war 1812-1813.
- The treaty of Gulistan 1813.
- The treaty of Turkmanchai in 1828.

Persian Territorial Losses after the Gulistan Treaty of 1813 and the Turkmanchai Treaty of 1828



Produced by the Office of The Geographer and Global Issues, Bureau of Intelligence and Research, US Department of State. Adjustments added separately on Wikipedia

Names for first-order administrative divisions (republics and krais) are unofficial provisional names. 2702 6-94 STATE (INR/GIO)

Historical overview

- During the latter part of the 19th century and for most of the Soviet period, the Soviet position in the Caucasus ran along the frontier with Turkey and Persia (later Iran).
- During the Russian revolution 1917 -Transcaucasian Federation was born (the Georgian Mensheviks, the Azerbaijan Musavat party and the Dashnaks).
- The South Caucasus separated from Russia and declare its independence in 1918. In 1918 three democratic republic were declared, Azerbaijan and Georgian and Armenian Democratic Republics.

Historical overview

- By 31.05.1920, Azerbaijan was invaded by Sovietized by Russia's 11th Red Army.
- Four months later, Armenia was invaded by the Kemalist Army of Karabekir Pasa and partitioned between Turkey and Russia.
- The Soviet military campaign against Georgia was launched on February 11th, 1921.
- The region was the part of the Soviet union for 70years.

Nagorno-Karabakh



Karabakh - "black garden,,
"Nagorno-" is a Russian word meaning "mountain,,.

Status: de jure part of the Republic of Azerbaijan, unilaterally declared itself an independent republic in 1991

Capital: Stepanakert.

Area: 4,400 sq km

Main religion:

Christianity **Languages spoken:** Armenian.



AZERBAIJAN

Baku

IRAN



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Why did Stalin give Nagorno-Karabakh to Azerbaijan?



Stalin wanted to pit the ethnic groups in the South Caucasus regions against each other.

„Divide and rule“ principle

Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast was placed within Azerbaijan SSR.

Stalin made concessions to Azerbaijan SSR because of its economic importance, specifically its oil resources.

Nagorno-Karabakh conflict

- Nationalist demonstrations – transfer Nagorno-Karabakh into Armenia.
- 1988- Nagorno-Karabakh - referendum to unify with Armenia.
- The first cases of mass violence were recorded in Sumgait, February 1988 - 32 dead (26 Armenians and 6 Azeri) during three days 27-29 February.
- The month of November was one of the great refugees flows. According to unofficial sources, around 180'000 Armenians had left Azerbaijan, and 160'000 Azeri had left Armenia by the end of the month.

Nagorno-Karabakh conflict

- On 12 January 1989 - 'special government administration' in Karabakh - direct control from Moscow.
- Sporadic clashes became frequent by the first months of 1991.
- On 2 September 1991 - independent republic of Nagorno Karabakh.
- During Autumn, Azerbaijani forces moved to counter Nagorno Karabakh's declaration of Independence.
- 1992-1994 full - scale war.

Images of War



Guerillas in Nagorno-Karabakh.



Source: TASS





**Over 1 million
displaced**

1994 Cease-Fire

- The cease-fire has not been successful, as the goals of both sides have not been met:
- Armenia occupies 20% of Azeri territory;
- Azerbaijan demands its right to self-determination, the end of the occupation and the return of Karabakh to Azerbaijan;
- perceives Russia as aiding Orthodox Armenia.

Nagorno-Karabakh conflict

- The human sufferings included 25 000-30 000 people dead,
- 250 000-350 000 refugees from Azerbaijan in Armenia, and
- 750 000-1 000 000 refugees and Internally Displaced People (IDPs) from Armenia, Karabakh and occupied Azerbaijani territories in Azerbaijan.

Armenian, Azerbaijani Presidents Agree On Preamble To 'Madrid Principles, Sochi 2010.



Sochi 2011



Nagorno-Karabakh conflict

The possibility of war remains on the agenda



Azeri military budget from 2004 - 463 million USD to 1 600 million USD in 2010.



Conclusion



No end to conflict in sight
Both sides unwilling to make concessions
“Primordial” claims over territory by both sides
The unsolved problem of what to do with refugees
Continued fighting despite cease-fire
Russia claiming to uphold cease-fire while arming Armenia;
U.S. making oil deals with Azerbaijan.
Building of oil pipelines likely to upset Armenia