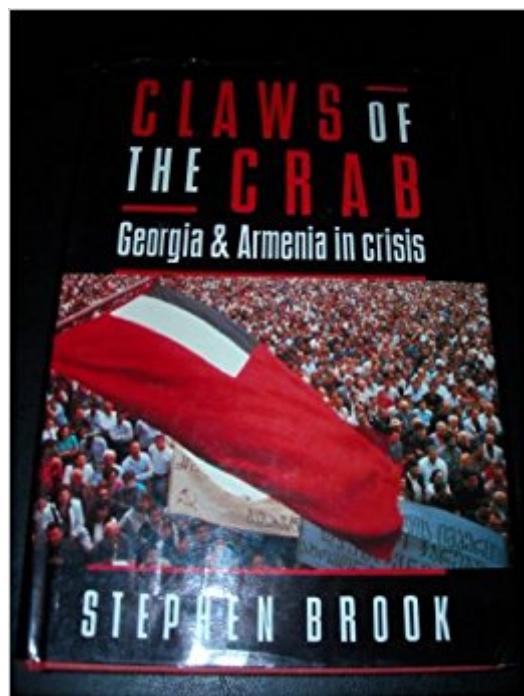


The book was found

Claws Of The Crab: Georgia And Armenia In Crisis



Synopsis

Travel book about the disintegration and the rush for independence of the Soviet Union.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Brook visited the Caucasus during 1991-92 as its two newly independent republics, Georgia and Armenia, sought to stave off chaos. In Georgia, on the brink of civil war, President Zviad Gamsakhurdia's neofascist posturing and extreme nationalism, which had isolated the country and brought it to a cultural standstill, gave way to the more democratic policies of former Soviet foreign minister Eduard Shevardnadze, who chaired a ruling council to foster progressive government. In Armenia, Brook (L.A. Lore) found a proud, austere people whose homeland, pulverized by the 1988 earthquake, was further strained by an uprising in Nagorno-Karabakh (an Armenian enclave surrounded by Azerbaijan), by Azeri massacres and blockades, and by a diaspora that drew away much of Armenia's brightest people. This compelling blend of exotic travelogue and astute reporting delineates peoples of the former Soviet empire struggling to transform political hothouses into cohesive nation-states. Photos. Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc.

THIS IS ONE OF THE BEST TRAVEL ESSAYS THAT I HAVE READ. ARMENIA AND GEORGIA ARE TWO ANCIENT AND PROUD NATIONS WITH AN EXQUISITE CULTURE, LOCATED IN THE CAUCASUS AT THE CROSSROAD OF EUROPE AND ASIA, IN THE BORDERLAND OF ORTHODOX CHRISTIANITY REPRESENTED BY RUSSIA, AND ISLAM REPRESENTED BY TURKEY AND IRAN. ARMENIA AND GEORGIA WERE THE TWO FIRST

CHRISTIAN NATIONS IN THE EARLY FOURTHCENTURY.THE BOOK CONTAINS HISTORY,TRAVELOGUE,ANECDOTES WITH LOCAL PEOPLE,AND THECONVOLUTED POLITICAL SITUATION IN THE EARLY NINETIES, WHEN THE TWO COUNTRIESBECAME INDEPENDENT AFTER SEVEN DECADES OF TOTALITARIAN COMMUNISM PLAGUEDWITH GENOCIDE, REPRESSION , ATHEISM, AND ECONOMIC DISASTER.THE BOOK IS SET IN 1991 AND 1992, WHEN THE TWO COUNTRIES FACED POLITICAL INESTABILITY,ETHNIC-RELIGIOUS WAR AND SCARCITY.THE AUTHOR DESCRIBES THE MISGOVERNMENT OF THE PETTY DICTATOR ZVIAD GAMSAKHURDIAIN GEORGIA, AND OF HIS OVERTHROW IN THE EARLY 1992, ALSO THE CONFLICT IN SOUTH OSSETIAWHICH HAS BEEN PART OF GEORGIA (NORTH OSSETIA IS INSIDE THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION).IN ARMENIA THERE WAS THE CONFLICT OF NAGORNO-KARABAH, POPULATED MAINLY BY ARMENIANSBUT LOCATED INSIDE AZERBAIJAN.VERY INTERSTING ARE THE DEPICTIONS OF BOTH ARMENIANS AND GEORGians, VERY WARM ANDCULTURED PEOPLE , AND THE WAY THEY DEALT WITH THE PROBLEMS OF EVERY DAY LIFE AND THELEGACY OF SEVEN DISASTROUS DECADES OF SOVIET RULE.I ENJOYED THE DESCRIPTION MADE BY THE AUTHOR OF THE MARVELOUS CHURCHES OF BOTH COUNTRIES,SOME OF THEM AS OLD AS THE FOURTH CENTURY.POSTSCRIPT: 23 YEARS LATER,THE ETHNIC-RELIGIOUS CONFLICT HAVE CALMED DOWN, THE SOVIETLEGACY IS NOW AWFUL HISTORY, THE TWO COUNTRIES HOWEVER (AS THE REST OF THE WORLD), AREBEING ENGULFED BY THE GLOBALIST TYRANNY OF INTERNATIONAL CAPITALISM.THE 24TH OF APRIL OF 2015 IS THE HUNDRETH ANIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE PERPETRATEDBY TURKEY, IN WHICH AROUND ONE MILLION PERISHED.

Book ReviewBrook, Stephen. Claws of the Crab: Georgia and Armenia in Crisis. Sinclair-Stevenson, 1992.This is another treasure of a book about the Caucasus that I unearthed from the bowels of the Wandsworth Public Library system in south London. Only one other person had borrowed it, back in September 1999 when I was working in the Georgian capital of Tbilisi. Reading this book, I discovered that Stephen Brook had got there before me when all the exciting stuff was happening at the start of the nineties. Independence from the Soviet Union, the overthrow of the tyrannical president Zviad Gamsakhurdia and the battles for Nagorno Karabakh - Brook was there or thereabouts. Studiedly sympathetic to the Armenians and guardedly admiring of the Georgians, Claws of the Crab is a rare eyewitness account of many of the events that made independent Georgia and Armenia what they are today. Suffice to say that there's been remarkably little change

since the book's completion in 1992.

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