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The Caucasus

This is a fascinating new survey of the Caucasus which provides a unified narrative history of this complex and turbulent region at the borderlands of Europe, Asia and the Middle East, from prehistory to the present. For thousands of years the Caucasus has formed a hub of intersecting routes of migration, invasion, trade and culture, and a geographical bridge between Europe and Asia, subject to recurring imperial invasion. Drawing on sources in English and Russian, and translations from Persian and Arabic, this authoritative study centres on the region's indigenous peoples, including Abkhazians, Armenians, Azerbaijanis, Chechens, Daghestanis, Circassians and Georgians, and their relations with outsiders who still play a part in the life of the region today. The book presents a critical view of the role of Russian imperialism in the Caucasian countries, and the desperate struggle of most of its native peoples in their efforts to establish a precarious independence.

JAMES FORSYTH is former Reader and Head of the Department of Russian at the University of Aberdeen. His previous publications include *A History of the Peoples of Siberia* (Cambridge, 1992).

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Note from the publisher on stylistic conventions

Translations from Russian, French and German are the author's; translations from other languages are from the original source. In the main text simplified transliteration systems have been used for most languages with the English-speaking reader in mind. In Russian, for example, soft signs and hard signs are omitted. Diacritics on vowels have generally been dropped from Arabic and Persian words. Turkish consonants have been amended to indicate pronunciation to the English-speaking reader. Ejectives in Georgian are, however, included. Finally, some Anglicised place-names vary according to contemporary practice. Where different names apply to a single location over time, often depending on who controlled or ruled an area (such as Tiflis/Tbilisi or Trapezunt/Trebizond/Trabzon), the appropriate form is used.