



# CAOCL - Center for Advanced Operational Culture Learning Regional, Culture, and Language Familiarization - RCLF



## Suggested Readings

### TRANS-CAUCASUS

#### History

**Griffin, Nicholas, *Caucasus: Mountain Men and Holy Wars* (Thomas Dunne Books of St. Martin's Press, 2001).**

This text will provide the Marine with information to identify broad regional trends, historical context and culture characteristics as well as the extent of foreign involvement and interests in the Trans-Caucasus. This source will also provide information on the potential impact of American culture on the region. This text will also provide data to support the comparison of five dimensions of operational culture in the nations of the micro-region. Griffin's work is a combination travel guide and historical analysis concentrating on the history of the Murid Wars, affords the Marine with data on the historical narrative of the region.

**King, Charles, *The Ghost of Freedom: A History of the Caucasus* (Oxford University Press, 2008).**

This text will provide the Marine with information to identify broad regional trends, historical context, and culture characteristics as well as the extent as well as the extent of foreign involvement and interests in the Trans-Caucasus. This source will also provide data to support the study of five dimensions of operational culture in the nations of the micro-region. King's work provides a general history of the region from the period of Russian imperial expansion to the present, including the current conflicts in the north Caucasus (Chechnya), Georgia (South Ossetia and Abkhazia), and between Armenia and Azerbaijan (Nagorno-Karabakh).

**Yo'av Karny, *Highlanders: A Journey to the Caucasus in Quest of Memory* (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2000).**

#### Miscellaneous

**Akay, Hale. *Security Sector in Turkey: Questions, Problems, and Solutions* (Istanbul, Turkey: Turkish Economic and Social Studies Foundation, February 2010).**

This article provides an overview of the Turkey's national security system, including major legislation and documents, security decision-making and oversight institutions, armed forces, and internal security forces.

**Anderson, Perry. "After Kemal," *London Review of Books*, Vol. 30, No. 18 (25 September 2008): 13-22. Available at <http://www.lrb.co.uk/v30/n18/perry-anderson/after-kemal>**

This article provides a review of the evolution of Turkish politics and society since the creation of the republic. This is a useful survey that includes important dates and events in Turkish history, and also identifies major processes and forces that capture the split personality of a nation straddling multiple cultures and influences.



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**Aydinli, Ersel.** “A Pragmatic Shift for the Turkish Generals and an End to the Coup Era in Turkey,” *Middle East Journal*, Vol. 63, No. 4 (Autumn 2009): 581-96. Available at [http://www.bilkent.edu.tr/~ersel/Makaleler/a\\_paradigmatic\\_shift\\_for\\_the\\_turkish\\_generals\\_and\\_an\\_end\\_to\\_the\\_coup\\_era\\_in\\_turkey.pdf](http://www.bilkent.edu.tr/~ersel/Makaleler/a_paradigmatic_shift_for_the_turkish_generals_and_an_end_to_the_coup_era_in_turkey.pdf)

The Turkish armed forces have long maintained a special role, providing defense against external threats, while shouldering the responsibility of maintaining domestic stability and upholding the secular nature of the state. This special role has prompted the military to intervene in domestic politics on numerous occasions, including through *coup d'états*. The democratization reforms in the last several years in Turkey have increasingly challenged this traditional military role. This article provides a Turkish perspective on the changing dynamics of civil-military relations.

**Bechev, Dimitar, ed.** *What Does Turkey Think? (European Council on Foreign Relations, 2011)*. Available at [http://www.ecfr.eu/page/-/ECFR35\\_TURKEY\\_AW.pdf](http://www.ecfr.eu/page/-/ECFR35_TURKEY_AW.pdf)

This is a collection of essays written by Turkish authors analyzing political, social, and foreign policy issues facing Turkey.

**Boonstra, Jos and Neil Melvin.** *Challenging the South Caucasus Security Deficit (Madrid, Spain: FRIDE, April 2011)*. Available at [http://www.fride.org/download/WP108\\_South\\_Caucasus\\_Eng.pdf](http://www.fride.org/download/WP108_South_Caucasus_Eng.pdf)

This report analyzes the attempts the European Union to promote peace, stability, and development in the Trans-Caucasus and recommends policies to promote these goals.

**Capezza, David.** “Turkey’s Military is a Catalyst for Reform,” *Middle East Quarterly (Summer 2009)*: 13-23. Available at <http://www.meforum.org/2160/turkey-military-catalyst-for-reform>

This article makes the case that the Turkish military has traditionally been a force of modernization and reform in Turkish politics and society, occasionally intervening in domestic politics to restore stability.

**Casier, Marlies and Joost Jongerden.** “Understanding Today’s Kurdish Movement: Leftist Heritage, Martyrdom, Democracy and Gender,” *European Journal of Turkish Studies*, Vol. 14 (2012). Available at <http://ejts.revues.org/4656>

This article is an introduction to a collection of articles analyzing various aspects of the Kurdistan Workers’ Party (PKK), the most influential politico-military movement seeking to advance the rights of the Kurdish minority in Turkey.

**Devlet, Nadir.** *Turkey and Greater Azerbaijan: A Card to Play? (Washington, DC: German Marshall Fund of the United States, July 24, 2012)*. Available at [http://www.gmfus.org/wp-content/blogs.dir/1/files\\_mf/1343139823Devlet\\_TurkishAzeriRelations\\_Jul12.pdf](http://www.gmfus.org/wp-content/blogs.dir/1/files_mf/1343139823Devlet_TurkishAzeriRelations_Jul12.pdf)

This is a short analysis of the possible political mobilization of the large Azeri minority in Iran and the implications for Iran, Azerbaijan, and Turkey.



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**Dorrnsoro, Gilles. "Rules and Resources: Uses of the Clan in the Village of Kirazbahce (Turkey)," *European Journal of Turkish Studies*, Vol. 4 (2006).** Available at <http://ejts.revues.org/615>

This article traces the gradual transformation of the kinship usage in a Kurdish village in Turkey. While in the past the clan used to be a dominant social institution meeting the social, economic, political, and security needs of clan members, rural migration to cities gradually marginalized the clan structure as individuals' needs were now met by new institutions. Thus clan identity gradually lost its significance.

**Eastwood, William. "Procession in the Street: Georgian Orthodox Privilege and Religious Minorities' Response to Invisibility," *Anthropology of East Europe Review*, Vol. 27, No. 1 (2009): 20-28.** Available at <http://scholarworks.iu.edu/journals/index.php/aeer/article/view/263/339>

This article discusses the privileged position of the Orthodox Church in Georgia, a country which has long been home to people adhering to diverse religions and religious practices. It points to the mutually beneficial relationship between the Orthodox Church and state in Georgia – the church seeking to maintain its privileged position over other religions, and the state seeking the church's help in nation-building policies.

**Gordesman, Anthony H., Bryan Gold, Robert Shelala and Michael Gibbs. *US and Iranian Strategic Competition: Turkey and the South Caucasus* (Washington, DC: Center for Strategic and International Studies, February 6, 2013).** Available at [https://csis.org/files/publication/130206\\_turk\\_casp\\_chap9.pdf](https://csis.org/files/publication/130206_turk_casp_chap9.pdf)

This article provides a comprehensive look at the international politics in the Trans-Caucasus in the context of the US-Iranian strategic rivalry, including political, security and economic issues affecting the interactions between states in the region.

**Grant, Bruce. "Cosmopolitan Baku," *Ethnos*, Vol. 75, No. 2 (June 2010): 123-47.** Available at <http://as.nyu.edu/docs/IO/2407/2010--grant--cosmopolitan.pdf>

This article looks back on the last 100 years of the history of Azerbaijan's capital Baku, a cosmopolitan city at the crossroads of Asia and Europe. Imperial Russia and the Soviet Union provided relatively safe environments wherein multiple cultures in Baku co-existed and thrived. Since Azerbaijan's independence more than twenty years ago, however, the city is increasingly becoming ethnically homogenous, losing its cultural diversity and the traditional attraction it once possessed.

**Goksel, Diba and Zaur Shiriyev, *The Geopolitical Scene of the Caucasus: A Decade of Perspectives* (Istanbul, Turkey: Toplumsal Katilim ve Gelisim Vakfi, 2013).** Available at [http://www.turkishpolicy.com/dosyalar/files/The\\_Geopolitical\\_Scene\\_of\\_the\\_Caucasus\\_A\\_Decade\\_of\\_Perspectives.pdf](http://www.turkishpolicy.com/dosyalar/files/The_Geopolitical_Scene_of_the_Caucasus_A_Decade_of_Perspectives.pdf)

This book provides a sweeping overview of international, political, security, and economic issues in the Trans-Caucasus. It also presents outside actors' interests and policies in the region.



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**Harris, Leila M. "States at the Limit: Tracing Contemporary State-Society Relations in the Borderlands of Southeastern Turkey," *European Journal of Turkish Studies*, Vol. 10 (2009).** Available at <http://ejts.revues.org/4122>

This article analyzes the state-individual relationship in Turkey's peripheral regions. It points to how decisions and policies designed at the state level affect everyday life for people in the periphery.

**Hendrich, Beatrice. "Introduction – Beyond State Islam: Religiosity and Spirituality in Contemporary Turkey," *European Journal of Turkish Studies*, Vol. 13 (2011).** Available at <http://ejts.revues.org/4527>

This article is an introduction to a collection of articles on the diverse religious and spiritual practices in Turkey. The introduction provides an overview of the evolution of religion and its relationship with politics throughout the history of the Turkish Republic.

**Ishkanian, Armine. "Between Tragedy and Reality: Armenian Women's Labor Migration in the Post-Soviet Period," *Anthropology of East Europe Review*, Vol. 20, No. 2 (2002): 23-9.** Available at <http://scholarworks.iu.edu/journals/index.php/aeer/article/view/396/471>

This article surveys the experience of Armenian women seeking work abroad after the end of the Soviet Union.

**Kaplan, Robert D. *Eastward to Tartary: Travels in the Balkans, the Middle East, and the Caucasus* (New York, NY: Random House, 2000).**

Narrating the dramatic stories of people he meets while traveling to illuminate his own analysis of regional history, Kaplan takes the reader on a trip from Eastern Europe through the Middle East to Central Asia to provide a snapshot of the development and the culture of countries which emerged from the break-up of two powerful empires – the Ottoman Empire and the Soviet Union.

**MacDougall, James C. *Post-Soviet Strategic Alignment: The Weight of History in the South Caucasus*, PhD dissertation (Washington DC: Georgetown University, 2009).** Available at <https://repository.library.georgetown.edu/bitstream/handle/10822/553091/macDougallJames.pdf?sequence=1>

This dissertation thesis explores different theoretical approaches to explaining why Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia – three small post-Soviet states, which share many similarities – exhibit very distinct behaviors in the security area.

**Sarigil, Zeki. "Deconstructing the Turkish Military's Popularity," *Armed Forces and Society*, Vol. 35, No. 4 (July 2009): 709-27.**

This article analyzes the reasons for the popularity the armed forces enjoy among Turkish society. It identifies how various societal groups view the military and explores the impact of various political, social, and personal factors on societal confidence in the institution.



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**Shahnazarian, Nona. "Breaking the Nation's Taboo: The Meds Yeghern and Turkish Intellectuals," *PONARS Eurasia* (Washington DC: George Washington University, September 2009).**  Available at <http://www.ponarseurasia.org/>

The article analyzes the attempts of some intellectuals in Turkey to come to terms with the past, more specifically with what ethnic Armenians consider a genocide perpetrated by Ottoman authorities against Armenians during the First World War.

**Shahnazarian, Nona. "Police Reform and Corruption in Georgia, Armenia, and Nagorno-Karabakh," *PONARS Eurasia* (Washington DC: George Washington University, September 2009).**  Available at <http://www.ponarseurasia.org/>

The article examines the efforts to root out corruption in police force in the Trans-Caucasus, a traditional practice not only among law-enforcement officials but also among the population. It points out to differences in approaches and results in fighting corruption.

**Sumbadze, N. and G. Tarkhan-Mouravi. *Genber & Society in Samtskhe-Javakheti, Georgia* (Tbilisi, Georgia: Institute for Policy Studies, 2004).**

This report analyzes how gender roles affect access to power and information, economic activity, political participation, values, and adherence to norms in the Samtskhe-Javakheti region of Georgia. It concludes that gender relations are significantly impacted by ethnicity, age, culture, ideology, religion, economic status, education, and urban versus rural location.

**Tezcur, Gunes Murat. "Kurdish Nationalism and Identity in Turkey: A Conceptual Reinterpretation," *European Journal of Turkish Studies*, Vol. 10 (2009).**  Available at <http://ejts.revues.org/4008>

This article discusses the ambiguity and richness of Kurdish political identity in Turkey. It points to the complex interplay between Turkish nationalism and Kurdish nationalism.

**Uyar, Mesut and A. Kadir Varoglu. "In Search of Modernity and Rationality: The Evolution of Turkish Military Academy in a Historical Perspective," *Armed Forces and Society*, Vol. 35, No. 1 (October 2008): 180-202.**

This article analyzes the evolution of academic curriculum in the Turkish Military Academy since its establishment in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. It points out that the military, seeking to lead the modernization of society, adopted hard sciences in its curriculum. However, the curriculum ignored social science subjects, thus failing to prepare the military to understand the society it sought to lead.

**Varoglu, Kadir and Adnan Bicaksiz. "Volunteering for Risk: The Culture of the Turkish Armed Forces," *Armed Forces and Society*, Vol. 31, No. 4 (Summer 2005): 583-98.**

This article traces the history of the Turkish military's role in state and society. This history is presented as a context in which the article analyzes the recent tendency to further professionalize the armed forces and do away with conscription. More specifically, it investigates the possible effect of casualty risks on future recruitment.