ETHNIC CONFLICT IN THE CAUCASUS
THEORIES OF ETHNIC CONFLICT

• Ancient Hatreds
• Symbolic Politics/hypernationalism
• Scapegoats
• Security dilemma
• Greed
• Grievance or perhaps plain old nationalism
THE ROLE OF THIRD PARTIES

• Responsibility to protect

• Moral Hazard

• Threats to newly independent states
CAUCASUS: THEORIES APPLIED

• “Extremism” of minorities or oppression of host states

• Scapegoating

• Security dilemma

• Opportunistic rebels

• Minorities as potential fifth columns
CAUCASUS: BASIC INFORMATION

- Main groups: Armenians, Azerbaijanis, Georgians, The Abkhaz, the Ossetians
- Republics: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia
- Autonomies: Abkhazia, South Ossetia, Nagorno-Karabag, Ajaria, Nakhijevan
The Caucasus
Federalism and Ethnicity
Federalism and Religion
CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS IN THE CAUCASUS

• 1985: Gorbachev comes to power and launches Peresroika.
• 1988: Mobilization in Karabagh and Armenia and countermobilization in Azerbaijan
• 1989: Mobilization in Abkhazia and South Ossetia and countermobilization in Georgia
• 1990: Communists lose power in Armenia and Georgia. Both republics declare their intention to seek independence.
• 1991: The war in South Ossetia begins in January.
• 1991: Coup d’état in August
• 1991: The Soviet Union collapses in December and the 15 republics become independent.
• 1992: The conflict in Abkhazia escalates to a full scale war in July-August.
• 1992: Cease-fire in South-Ossetia and the region becomes a de facto protectorate of Russia.
• 1993: The Abkhza rout the Georgian army and Abkhazia becomes de facto independent
• 1994: Cease-fire in Nagorno-Karabagh with the region becoming de facto a part of Armenia and Azerbaijan losing 6 districts outside of Karabagh to the Armenian forces.
• 1994-2008: 14 years of no war no peace.
• 2008: The second war of South Ossetia and the Russian Recognition of both South Ossetia and Abkhazia as de jure independent states.
WHY WARS IN ABKHAZIA AND SOUTH OSSETIA BUT NOT IN JAVAKHETI AND KVEMO KARTLI

• Variation in fears related to third party incentives.