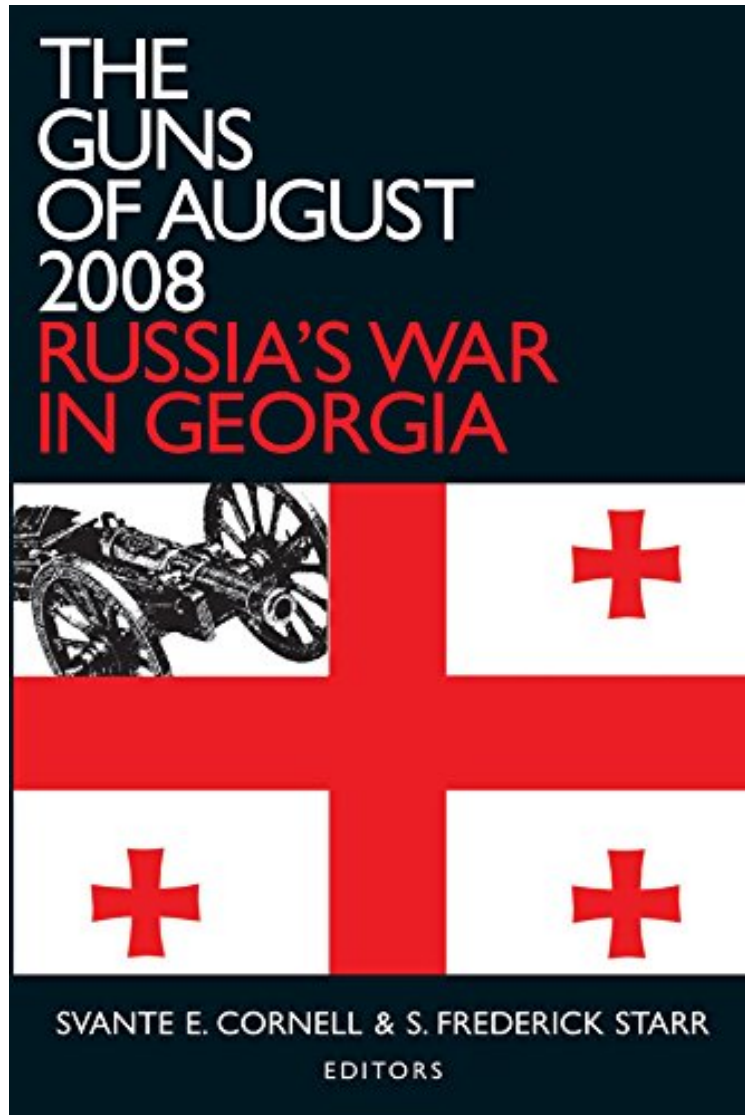


The Guns of August 2008: Russia's War in Georgia (Studies of Central Asia and the Caucasus)

Svante E. Cornell, S. Frederick Starr

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Svante E. Cornell, S. Frederick Starr : The Guns of August 2008: Russia's War in Georgia (Studies of Central Asia and the Caucasus) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Guns of August 2008: Russia's War in Georgia (Studies of Central Asia and the Caucasus):

1 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Informative, could've made a little more effort to be objective By L. T. Boydston I had to write a research paper on the Georgian/Russia conflict and this book came in quite handy. Generally speaking, there are not many books exclusively dealing with this subject available. For academic articles the

book read pretty easily. The book could have made more of an effort, in my opinion, to be more objective. No matter how one sided you think this conflict may or may not have been it would've still been nice to hear more information on both sides. Overall, good book. 22 of 27 people found the following review helpful. Excellent Historical Perspective on Russia/Georgia Relations By David Asatiani Brief AND well managed chapters, especially Chapter 1 for those who want to get the historical perspective in the nutshell...but super interesting facts on the Russia's premeditated decades long destabilization game in the caucasus throughout the tome. EA/NATO failed response equally important but a bit wordy, will likely lose a reader who is not personally interested in the topic. 9 of 15 people found the following review helpful. A definitive study By Michinio This is a very well researched and documented study. The arguments advanced in the book are supported by factual evidence which is mostly unknown to western media. For instance the chapter written by Andrei Illarionov (Putin's adviser until 2005) tackles important questions including the question whether or not the Russian government was premeditating the war long time before it actually broke out. Illarionov provides very convincing evidence, he documents numerous war preparation actions undertaken by Russian government such as appointing Russian citizens in the Military and Political leadership of South Ossetia between 2004-08 and sending group of exclusively Russian journalists (and not allowing foreign journalist) to Tskinali days before the war broke out, evacuating thousands of civilians from South Ossetia weeks before the war, deploying tanks and military hardware in the conflict zones, conducting military exercises in the region, Russian Air Force's sending out a nationwide call (in MAY 2008) to active duty of all former military helicopter pilots who had experience flying in mountainous areas and many more. Furthermore, Putin's former adviser enumerates 46 actions that are believed to be acts of aggression (by official UN definition) 45 of which were performed first by the Coalition (Russia, Abkhazia and South Ossetia) and only one by Georgia before the Coalition. Thus, strongly suggesting that the actual war was in fact started by the Russian government in conjunction with its marionette governments of S. Ossetia and Abkhazia. P.S. The two bad reviews given to this book on are clearly unsubstantiated and biased, they do not provide any clear evidence to support their arguments, and most probably their writers have never even read the book but just heard that among other things it very convincingly documents Russian preparation and perpetration of the war in Georgia.

In the summer of 2008, a conflict that appeared to have begun in the breakaway Georgian territory of South Ossetia rapidly escalated to become the most significant crisis in European security in a decade. The implications of the Russian-Georgian war will be understood differently depending on one's narrative of what transpired and perspective on the broader context. This book is designed to present the facts about the events of August 2008 along with comprehensive coverage of the background to those events. It brings together a wealth of expertise on the South Caucasus and Russian foreign policy, with contributions by Russian, Georgian, European, and American experts on the region.