

The Ad-Hoc: Topic A Primary Sources

The Situation in the Caucasus

Here are primary sources that your moderator or legal chair thought would be helpful in gaining an understanding of the topic. These are by no means all of the sources available, just sources we wanted to highlight.

Source #1: Corruption Perceptions Index 2022

This is a resource from Transparency International, an anti-corruption non-governmental organization, that ranks countries by their level of corruption. This source links to their ranking for 2022. Georgia, ranked 41st, has the lowest corruption ranking in the Caucasus region, with Armenia ranked 63rd, Russia 137th, and Azerbaijan 157th—the lower the ranking the lower levels of corruption there are within the country. You can click on each country on the map to read more about corruption in that country as well as see trends in corruption over the last decade. Corruption is a major issue in the region and an impediment to lasting and sustainable economic growth.

<https://www.transparency.org/en/cpi/2022>

Source #2: Freedom House Global Freedom Map

Similar to source 1, this source is from Freedom House, a global human rights non-governmental organization. This source is an interactive map where you can click on each country to read about how free and fair the country and its democracy are. In the Caucasus region, Georgia has a score of 58 of 100; Armenia a 54, Russia a 16, and Azerbaijan a 9—in this scale a higher rating means the country is freer and more democratic. Freedom House also calculates scores for South Ossetia (12), Abkhazia (39), and Nagorno-Karabakh (37). Azerbaijan, Russia, and South Ossetia are considered ‘not free’, while Georgia, Armenia, Nagorno-Karabakh and Abkhazia are considered ‘partly free’—meaning that they have some democratic features and other authoritarian ones.

<https://freedomhouse.org/explore-the-map?type=fiw&year=2023>

Source #3: Nagorno-Karabakh, UN News

This source contains articles on the UN News website related to Nagorno-Karabakh. It contains articles going back to 2001 that touch upon some aspect of the territorial dispute. The United Nations has been involved in a more limited extent in the Nagorno-Karabakh dispute, but it has featured on its agenda. The expectation is that the United Nations will play an important role in addressing the humanitarian consequences of Azerbaijan’s decision to invade and dissolve the Armenian-led government in Nagorno-Karabakh.

<https://news.un.org/en/search/Nagorno-Karabakh>

Source #4: 1993 UN Security Council Resolutions on Nagorno-Karabakh

This source is from the U.S. Department of State and it includes the text of UN Security Council resolutions passed on Nagorno-Karabakh during the early-1990s. The dispute over Nagorno-Karabakh began during the last decade of the Soviet Union. The population of Nagorno-Karabakh was majority Armenian, but it was included in Azerbaijan. These Security Council resolutions (822, 853, 874, and 884) were passed in an effort to compel the sides to negotiate and

abide by various ceasefires. This document demonstrates that there is a role for the international community in the territorial disputes in the Caucasus region.

<https://2001-2009.state.gov/p/eur/rls/or/13508.htm#884>

Source #5: 2022 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Russia

This is a country report from the U.S. Department of State that takes a comprehensive look at human rights in Russia. The report is divided into 7 different topic-sections including respecting for human rights; freedom to participate in the political process; and discrimination and societal abuses. While human rights abuses committed by Russia in Ukraine have been well documented, the situation within Russia is also dire. For example the report states, “significant human rights issues included credible reports of: extrajudicial killings, including of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and intersex persons in Chechnya by local government authorities; enforced disappearances by or on behalf of government authorities; pervasive torture by government law enforcement officers that sometimes resulted in death and occasionally involved sexual violence or punitive psychiatric incarceration; harsh and life-threatening conditions in prisons”. The human rights situation in Russia, including Chechnya, is bleak.

<https://www.state.gov/reports/2022-country-reports-on-human-rights-practices/russia/>

Source #6: How to Accelerate Economic Growth in the Caucasus and Central Asia

This is an article from the International Monetary Fund, an intergovernmental development agency, that looks at economic growth in the Caucasus and Central Asia. The article discusses how each country can better target its spending to jumpstart its economy and what policies, in general, they should be pursuing. Higher economic growth and investment could greatly help alleviate inequality and poverty in the region but it must be balanced against environmental preservation and sustainability.

<https://www.imf.org/en/News/Articles/2023/07/10/cf-how-to-accelerate-economic-growth-in-the-caucasus-and-central-asia>