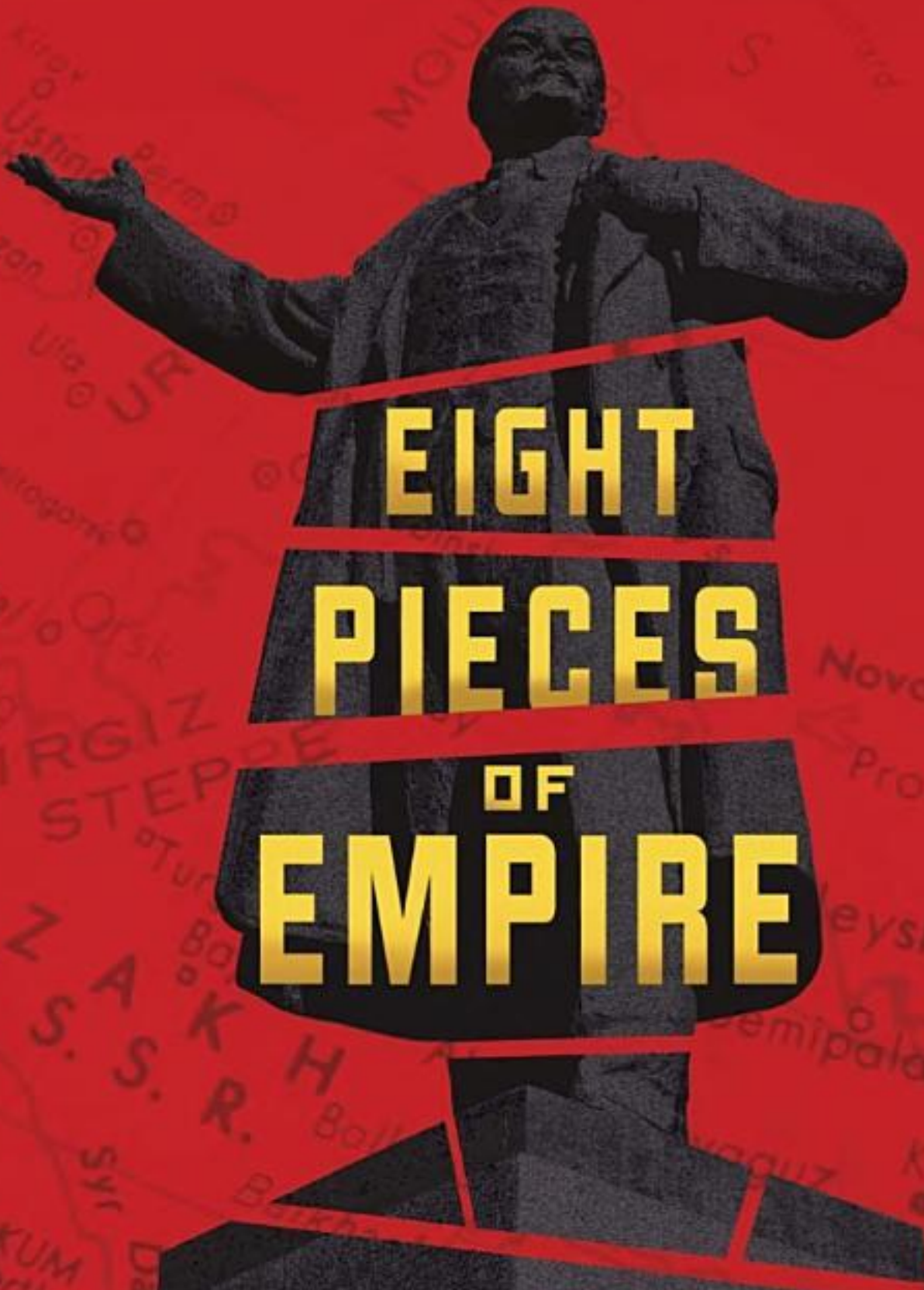


"[An] unforgettable memoir and travelogue." —*BOSTON GLOBE*



**EIGHT
PIECES
OF
EMPIRE**

**A 20-YEAR JOURNEY
THROUGH THE SOVIET COLLAPSE**

Eight Pieces of Empire: A 20-Year Journey Through the Soviet Collapse, Lawrence Scott Sheets, Random House LLC, 2012, 0307395839, 9780307395832, 318 pages. A two-decade journey, panoramic in scope yet intimate in detail, through the hopes, sorrows, and conflagrations of an unraveled empire and the people living in it. Not with a bang, but with a quiet, ten-minute address on Christmas Day 1991: this is how the Soviet Union met its end. Lawrence Scott Sheets, who was then living in Moscow as a young foreign correspondent, went to the center of the capital to witness the response. "In the streets around Red Square," he writes, "life went on as usual. One would not have known that 300 million people had just become citizens of other countries. But in the wake of that one deceptively calm moment, conflict and violence soon followed. Some of the emergent new countries began to shed totalitarianism, while others sought to revive their own dead empires or were led by barely or totally unreformed ex-Soviet leaders who built equally or even more repressive political machines. Since the late 1980s, Sheets lived and reported from the former USSR and saw firsthand the reverberations of the collapse of empire across Russia, Georgia, Uzbekistan, Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Ukraine, and Chechnya. Eight Pieces of Empire draws readers into the people, politics and day-to-day life in the region, painting a vivid portrait of a tumultuous time. On the 20th anniversary of the fall of the USSR, Sheets' stories about people living through these tectonic shifts of fortune—a trio of female saboteurs in Chechnya, the chaos of newly independent Georgia in the early 1990s, young hustlers eager to strike it rich in the post-Soviet economic vacuum—reveal the underreported and surprising ways in which the ghosts of empire still haunt these lands and the world. From the Hardcover edition..

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My First Ladies Twenty-Five Years as the White House Chief Floral Designer, Nancy Clarke, Nancy Clarke with Christie Matheson, Sep 14, 2011, , 256 pages. The author describes her life and her work as the chief floral designer at the White House..

Waiting for winter to end an extraordinary journey through Soviet Central Asia, Georgie Anne Geyer, 1994, Travel, 237 pages. The author recounts her experiences traveling in the Muslim provinces of Soviet Central Asia, including Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Tatarstan, and Azerbaijan.

Stories I Stole from Georgia , Wendell Steavenson, 2002, Travel, 277 pages. A memoir of life in Georgia after the fall of Communism introduces readers to the memorable, and sometimes insane, people who struggled to dominate the republics--and survive

The Soviet parliament first steps : conversations with the chairmen of the USSR Supreme Soviet's committees and commissions, , 1989, History, 79 pages. .

Living in Limbo The Rights of Ethnic Georgian Returnees to the Gali District of Abkhazia, Giorgi Gogia, 2011, , 71 pages. "Almost 18 years after a cease-fire ended the Georgian-Abkhaz war, the conflict over the breakaway region of Abkhazia remains as far from a political resolution as ever

Georgia Diary A Chronicle of War and Political Chaos in the Post-Soviet Caucasus, Thomas Goltz, Feb 19, 2009, Biography & Autobiography, . The author of the acclaimed Azerbaijan Diary and Chechnya Diary now recounts his experiences in the strife-ridden Republic of Georgia and his return to Georgia during the 2008

War and peace in the Caucasus ethnic conflict and the new geopolitics, Vicken Cheterian, 2008, History, 395 pages. Having spent decades reporting on conflicts in Georgia and Chechnya, Vicken Cheterian provides an authoritative account of ethno-nationalistic strife in the Caucasus since the

Russian voices , Tony Parker, 1991, , 481 pages. .

Chechnya Calamity in the Caucasus, Carlotta Gall, Thomas De Waal, Nov 1, 1999, History, 416 pages. The war in Chechnya left us with some of the most harrowing images in recent times: a modern European city bombed to ruins while its citizens cowered in bunkers; mass graves

Allah's Mountains The Battle for Chechnya, New Edition, Sebastian Smith, 2006, History, 288 pages. A mixture of travelogue, history and war journalism, Allah's Mountains tells the story of the conflict between this nation of mountain tribes and the might of the Russian army

Unofficial Age of Empires Strategies & Secrets, Jason R Rich, Oct 1, 1997, , 225 pages. Age of Empires, a history-based real-time strategy game, is likened to popular games such as Civilization and Command and Conquer. Comprehensive coverage in this unofficial

Crying Wolf The Return of War to Chechnya, Vanora Bennett, 2001, History, 589 pages. Written in passionate prose, this is the story of the one million Chechens who, following the collapse of the Soviet Union, found themselves cast as the enemy of the new

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