



PRESS RELEASE

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AAUP Publishes “Books for Understanding: Chechnya”
Scholarship Maps Homeland of Boston Marathon Bombers

NEW YORK (April 25, 2013) – The April bombing of the annual Boston Marathon was a bewildering and as-yet unexplained act of terrorism. While the motives of the suspects remain unclear, public interest has focused on the Tsarnaevs’ Chechen roots.

The latest Books for Understanding bibliography from the Association of American University Presses (AAUP) seeks to counterbalance speculation with critical understanding of the history and culture of the Caucasus region and on the recent Chechen wars.

<http://www.booksforunderstanding.org/chechnya/list.html>

Presenting 26 scholarly titles from 11 university presses, the “Books for Understanding: Chechnya” bibliography includes:

- *A Small Corner of Hell: Dispatches from Chechnya* by Anna Politkovskaya (University of Chicago Press, 2003);
- *The Geography of Ethnic Violence: Identity, Interests, and the Indivisibility of Territory* by Monica Duffy Toft (Princeton University Press, 2005);
- *The Captive and the Gift: Cultural Histories of Sovereignty in Russia and the Caucasus* by Bruce Grant (Cornell University Press, 2009).

Books for Understanding is a free public service of AAUP to help librarians, journalists, educators, and interested readers find the best books on current events. The program highlights one of the highest values of university presses: to publish top research and scholarship in all fields regardless of immediate commercial potential. Often the most complete and illuminating background research and knowledge for a breaking news story is only available in scholarly books from presses committed to the public interest.

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<http://www.booksforunderstanding.org>