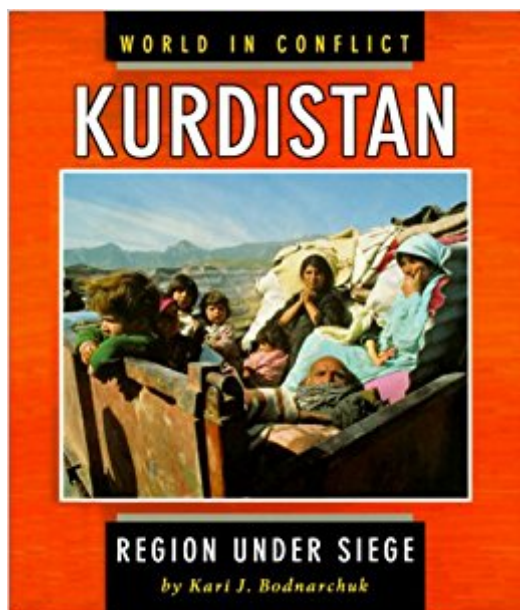


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Kurdistan: Region Under Siege (World In Conflict)



Book Information

Series: World in Conflict

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Customer Reviews

Grade 8 Up-This excellent series entry provides a brief background to the geography, peoples, and cultures of the region, then gives an overview of the ethnic conflict that has ensued and its major players. This introduction is followed by an in-depth, informative text covering the historical roots of the Kurds' struggle, and the situation as it is today. Bodnarchuk looks at the effect the continuing fighting has upon the nations most involved: Turkey, Syria, Iraq, and Iran. The presentation of the positions held by different governments, as well as the opposing Kurdish factions, is valuable. The final chapter discusses actions that have been and are being taken to find a solution to the conflict. The mostly full-color photos are appropriate if unexciting. Also, the statement in the introduction that "The Kurdish territory in Iraq includes an autonomous region, where Iraqi Kurds are free to celebrate their culture and practice a certain level of self-rule," seems to contradict the rest of the text. Overall, though, this is a clear, balanced, chronological history.-Carol Johnson Shedd, National Outreach Center for Middle Eastern Studies, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc.

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As the previous reviewer has already stated, this was the only book on the Kurdish situation in my local library. However he gives a great overview of the Kurdish situation as it pertains to Iran, Iraq,

Syria, and Turkey. What is the nationality that has a long desire for nationhood in the Middle East. It is not the Palestinians, but the Kurds. As the author states, the Kurd infighting has doomed their chances at autonomy or nation status many times. The author relates the status of the PKK, PUK, PDKI, and others as they fight their respective governments. Turkey's reaction to her Kurdish minorities is deplorable, especially since she is a Western ally and possible European Community member. This is a nice overview of the situation in Kurdistan. This is a summary read, so one will have to dig for other books on this people and their status in the community of nations.

The description lists this book as being for grades 8 and up. There is nothing that would really prohibit an 8th grader from reading this; the book is clearly written and free from unnecessary jargon. Still, the Kurdish situation is extremely complex, and this book doesn't ignore that. High schoolers, university students, or even adults shouldn't feel ashamed of picking this up if they are looking for a short and straightforward introduction to the situation in Kurdistan. I read this book as an adult (who happens to have an International Relations degree). It was the only book my local library had on Kurdistan, a region which, unfortunately, I don't know nearly enough about. I didn't expect a kids book to be a very good jumping-off point, but I was wrong. I have to admit, I did find this somewhat dry, but it does a good job of presenting two millennia of Kurdish history clearly, briefly, and, most importantly, neutrally. If my future reading discredits this book, I'll be sure to come back and edit this review. But for now, this is a good place to start, although younger readers may be somewhat overwhelmed.

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