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The Chechens may have withdrawn from Grozny, but they are going to be able to fight another day, writes Stephen Dalziel.

- **Challenge of urban warfare**  
Defence Correspondent Jonathan Marcus explains how the Chechen rebels held out for so long in Grozny.
- **Turkey shelters wounded Chechens**  
Events in Chechnya are being watched with concern in Turkey, where plenty of people trace their roots to the Caucasus.
- **How the rebels keep fighting**  
Regional analyst Stephen Mulvey looks at how Chechnya's fighters have been able to sustain the war.
- **How does Russia pay for the war?**  
Russia's war in Chechnya has a high cost.
- **Can Russia win?**  
Russia's strategy in Chechnya appears to be a recipe for stalemate.
- **Eyewitness: Feeling Russia's might**  
Andrew Harding with civilians on the Chechen border.
- **Media swings against the military**  
The Russian media's support for the Chechen operation has shown signs of cracking.
- **A Chechen view of the war**  
A Chechen representative explains why Russia has launched two wars against Chechnya.

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### Who's who in the Caucasus

A guide to the patchwork of nationalities that make up the region, where they are on the map and what they have in common.



(Click [here](#) for map and at-a-glance guide)

- **The first bloody battle for Grozny**  
Russia's 1994-95 assault on the Chechen capital Grozny was a military disaster as troops met with fierce resistance.
- **Battle for the Caucasus**  
Moscow Correspondent Rob Parsons reports on the challenge to Russia from the North Caucasus: Watch his report.
- **Chechnya's hard path to statehood**  
Chechnya has been running its own affairs since 1996, although Moscow still lists the Islamic republic as part of the Russian Federation.
- **Chechnya making regional waves**  
The conflict in Chechnya has sent a wave of concern throughout neighbouring states.

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## The challenge to Moscow

### Russia, bombs and elections

Although there is no hard evidence of a link between the bomb blasts in Russia and Chechen separatists, Russia's shocked citizens are demanding action, writes Malcolm Haslett.



- **Russia's demoralised army**  
The collapse of the Soviet Union saw the army, along

with many other areas of society, fall into a depressed and penniless state.

- **Who's to blame for the Russia blasts?**

The Russian authorities have openly blamed militants in Chechnya for the bombs, but there are still unanswered questions.

- **Russia's options**

Even if Russia's authorities manage to unite to combat the threat of more bombings, it presents a huge challenge.

- **Timeline: The blasts which shook Russia**

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## Dagestan flashpoint

### **The Dagestan connection**

Russian troops in Dagestan have been pitted against experienced guerrillas whose chosen mission in life is to fight the Russians. They are well-armed, well-funded and have enjoyed freedom of movement through most of Chechnya.



- **Islamic roots in Dagestan**

The mountainous republic of Dagestan is home to more than 32 ethnic groups - each one with its own language.

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## Profiles

### **Chechnya's quiet general**

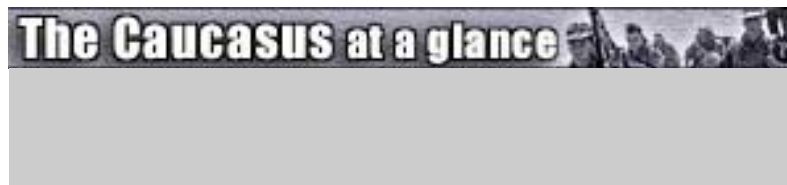
Aslan Maskhadov did more than any other fighter in Chechnya to win the 1994-1996 war against Russia. He also did more than any other negotiator to bring peace.



- **Shamil Basayev: Chechen warlord**

This feared warrior looks almost unassuming in the flesh. He is of medium height, with a bushy beard and high forehead worthy of a Moscow intellectual.

- **Khatab: Islamic revolutionary**  
Unlike many of his Chechen comrades-in-arms, the Arab fighter known as Khatab does not seek publicity.
  - **Vladimir Putin: Spy turned politician**  
Russia's prime minister is not renowned as a charismatic speaker, but he is a tough and resourceful man.
  - **The generals behind the war**  
The men running Russia's war in Chechnya are a close-knit group who, some say, bear a grudge.
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