

Frozen conflicts threaten to reignite

The people of the rebel Trans-Dniestr region have voted for independence from Moldova and union with Russia, according to secessionists. The 16-year dispute is one of several “frozen conflicts” among former Soviet states which left thousands dead in the 1990s and threaten to erupt again



Chechnya: Breakaway Russian republic has been in state of conflict since 1994, with violence sporadically spreading to neighbouring republics

SOUTH OSSETIA: Conflict in early 1990s drove out 100,000 people and growing nationalism could reignite violence. Independence referendum scheduled for Nov 12



TRANS-DNIESTR: Split from Moldova in 1990, fought war in 1992. 60% ethnic Russian or Ukrainian. Moldova's main industrial region



ABKHAZIA: Fought with Georgia in 1992-3, winning de facto independence. Close ties to Russia include passports and pensions

NAGORNO-KARABAKH Controlled by Armenian military since three-year war ended in 1994