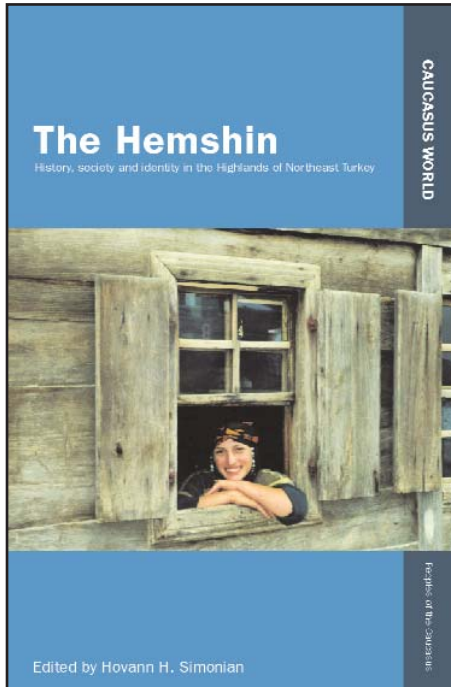


**Caucasus World:  
People of the Caucasus**

# The Hemshin

History, society and identity in the Highlands  
of Northeast Turkey

Edited by **Hovann H. Simonian**,  
University of Southern California, USA



The Hemshin are without doubt one of the most enigmatic peoples of Turkey and the Caucasus. As former Christians who converted to Islam centuries ago yet did not assimilate into the culture of the surrounding Muslim populations, as Turks who speak Armenian yet are often not aware of it, as Muslims who continue to celebrate feasts that are part of the calendar of the Armenian Church, and as descendants of Armenians who, for the most part, have chosen to deny their Armenian origins in favour of recently invented myths of Turkic ancestry, the Hemshin and the seemingly irreconcilable differences within their group identity have generated curiosity and often controversy.

*The Hemshin* is the first scholarly work to provide an in-depth study of these people living in the eastern Black Sea region of Turkey. This groundbreaking volume brings together chapters written by an international group of scholars that cover the history, language, economy, culture and identity of the Hemshin. It is further enriched with an unprecedented collection of maps, pictures and appendices of up-to-date statistics. *The Hemshin* forms part of the *Peoples of the Caucasus* series, an indispensable and yet accessible resource for all those with an interest in the Caucasus.

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**Hovann Simonian** is a Ph.D. candidate in the department of Political Science of the University of Southern California. He is Swiss of Armenian origin and is the co-author of *Troubled Waters: The Geopolitics of the Caspian Region*.

