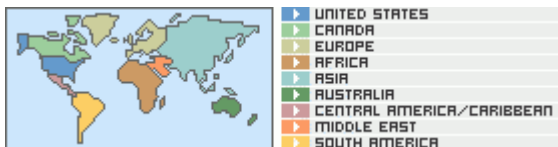


Thursday, May 17, 2007

Caucasian Weather: Asia or Europe?

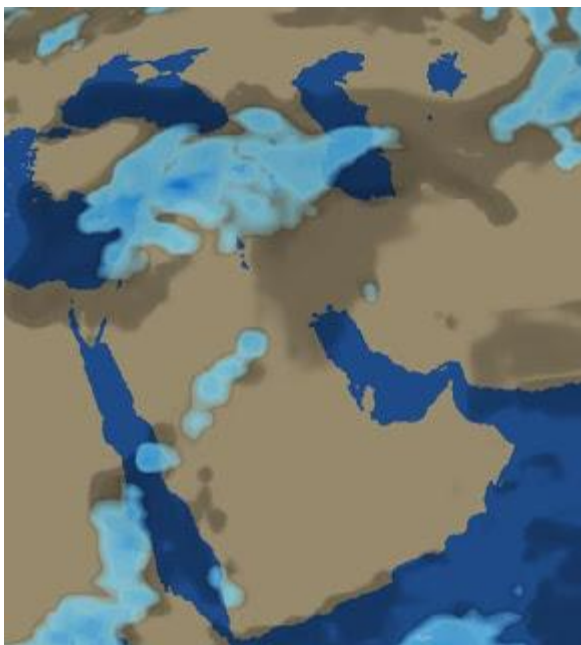
Is it Europe, or is it Asia? Quite literally, where is it on the map? On a rainy Saturday afternoon we took a look at online weather sites (we were looking for hope online), to check where the Caucasus ended up on alignments that cared little for political affiliations:



- [CNN Weather](#) (above) sees the Caucasus as part of Asia. [Al-Jazeera](#) (below) agrees, and uses a weather map that mirrors CNN's overall design.



- [Accuweather](#) also chooses Asia: in its drop-down menu, Georgia is listed between East Timor and India, while Armenia and Azerbaijan are framed by Afghanistan and Bangladesh. The same view is taken by a number of other sites, including [Wetter-Online](#).
- [Wetter.com](#), a German site, believes that Georgia is part of Europe, but lists Armenia and Azerbaijan as being Asian. Curiously, Georgia is on the Asian map, but in the European list.
- [Yahoo Weather](#), powered by the Weather Channel and Weather.com agrees that the [Caucasus is Asia](#), but bizarrely has Turkmenistan in its European listing. Probably an intern was in charge.



The [BBC Weather Site](#) (above) offers a new perspective: it joins the Caucasus nicely into the Middle East. Visually, at least, this makes a good unit. Black Sea, Caspian, Gulf, Arabic Sea, Red Sea, Mediterranean. Seafarers come to mind. Maybe the geographic unit can also be explained by the BBC's large audience in India and Pakistan -- Asia just needs to be disaggregated as an entity.

There is, of course, a different vision, provided by the [Russian weather service](#):



This world-view is unlikely to be very popular in the Caucasus. The site's forecast, however, is excellent.

- Google Directory listings, by contrast, keep their options open: the Caucasus is listed both [in Europe](#) and [in Asia](#). Listing side-steps the tough commitment of a map. This probably is the best compromise for a region in which categories run up against each other.

We also have compared forecasts. Sadly, on this, there was consensus: last weekend was rainy.