Thomas Goltz was born in Japan in 1954, raised in North Dakota, graduated from NYU with an MA in Middle East Studies and has worked in and around Turkey and the Caucasus region of the former USSR for the past 15 years. During that period he has become known mainly as a crisis correspondent due to coverage of the war between Azerbaijan and Armenia over Karabakh, the war of secession in Abkhazia from Georgia and the sustained nastiness in Chechnya. His documentary for Global Vision's Rights and Wrongs program became a finalist in the Rory Peck Award for excellence in TV journalism in 1996. His book on Azerbaijan has been declared 'essential reading for all post-Sovietologists.' He speaks German, Turkish, Arabic, Azeri and Russian, and now spends about half the year in the field and half in Montana, where he has a house and an orchard.