



CAOCL - Center for Advanced Operational Culture Learning

Regional, Culture, and Language Familiarization - RCLF



Suggested Readings

CENTRAL ASIA

History

Peter B. Golden, *Central Asia in World History* (New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 2011).

Peter Hopkirk, *The Great Game: The Struggle for Empire in Central Asia* (New York, NY: Kodansha America, Inc., 1992).

Scott Levi, "Turks and Tajiks in Central Asian History" in Jeff Sahadeo and Russell Zanca, eds., *Everyday Life in Central Asia: Past and Present* (Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 2007): 15-31.

Svat Soucek, *A History of Inner Asia* (New York, NY: Cambridge University Press, 2000).

Miscellaneous

Blank, Stephen J., ed. *Central Asian Security Trends: Views from Europe and Russia* (Carlisle, PA: Strategic Studies Institute, 2011). Available at <http://www.strategicstudiesinstitute.army.mil/pdf/files/pub1063.pdf>

This report includes two authors providing distinctly European and Russian views of security developments in Central Asia.

Boonstra, Jos, Erica Marat and Vera Axyonova. *Security Sector Reform in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan: What Role for Europe?* (Madrid, Spain: FRIDE, May 2013). Available at

http://www.fride.org/download/EUCAM_WP14_SSR_Kazakhstan_Kyrgyzstan_Tajikistan.pdf

This report provides an overview of the state of security sector in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan as well as the role of European institutions and NATO in attempts to reform them.

Botoeva, Aisalkyn. "Contentious Discourses Surrounding Supermarkets in Post-Soviet Bishkek," *Anthropology of East Europe Review*, Vol. 24. No. 2 (2006): 44-53. Available at <http://scholarworks.iu.edu/journals/index.php/aeer/article/view/232/309>

This article analyzes local perceptions of the place and role of new shopping malls in the capital of Kyrgyzstan as symbols of both modernization and social inequality.

Bugazov, Anvar. *Socio-Cultural Characteristics of Civil Society Formation in Kyrgyzstan* (Washington, DC: Central Asia-Caucasus Institute & Silk Road Studies Program, July 2013).



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This report provides a detailed look at the dramatic cultural, social, and political changes taking place in Kyrgyzstan after the country became independent in 1991. It points out the clash between modernization and tradition and the ways people navigate these clashes.

Burghart, Dan and Theresa Sabonis-Helf, eds. *In the Tracks of Tamerlane: Central Asia's Path to the 21st Century* (Washington, DC: National Defense University, 2004).

This book provides an overview of the political, security, economic, and social challenges facing the post-Soviet states of Central Asia.

De Danieli, Filippo. "Counter-narcotics Policies in Tajikistan and Their Impact on State Building," *Central Asian Survey*, Vol. 30, No. 1 (March 2011): 129-45.

This article analyzes the effects of international efforts to stem the flow of drugs through Tajikistan. It faults the current approach for focusing on border control, arguing that the reasons for the flourishing drug trade are due to the weaknesses of national institutions and corruption.

Donnelly, Ted. "Fergana as FATA? Central Asia After 2014 – Outcomes and Strategic Options," *Connections*, Vol. 11, No. 1 (2011): 11-27. Available at

<http://fmso.leavenworth.army.mil/Collaboration/FAO/Fergana-as-FATA.pdf>

This article analyzes the prospects for conflicts in the Fergana Valley in Central Asia in the context of the impending withdrawal of U.S. forces from Afghanistan. It also suggest possible U.S. policy toward the region after 2014.

Ham, Chris, ed. *Religion, Identity, Postsocialism* (Hale, Germany: Max Planck Institute for Social Anthoroplogy, 2010), 1-52. Available at

http://www.eth.mpg.de/cms/en/publications/reports/pdf/religion_report_2010.pdf

The first part of this book is a collection of essays on religion in the post-Soviet states of Central Asia written by anthropologists and based on their field work in the region. Rather than providing a "big picture" view, the essays describe and analyze the everyday life and religious experience and attitudes of people in communities throughout Central Asia.

Hartog, Merijn, ed. *Security Sector Reform in Central Asia: Exploring Needs and Possibilities* (Groningen, The Netherlands: Centre of European Security Studies 2010).

Available at <http://www.cess.org/doc.php?id=31>

This collection of essays provide a broad view of the state of the security sector in the post-Soviet states in Central Asia and the European and NATO's attempts to assist in security and defense reforms.

Ives, Mike. *Kok-Boru, the Horse Game You Won't See at the Olympics* (Washington, DC: Smithsonian, August, 9, 2012). Available at www.smithsonianmag.com

The article provides a look at Kyrgyzstan's horse games which offer a glimpse into the country's nomadic culture.

Kucera, Joshua. *U.S. Military Aid to Central Asia: Who Benefits?* (Open Society Foundation, Central Asia Project, September 2012). Available at

<https://www.opensocietyfoundations.org/reports/us-military-aid-central-asia-who-benefits>



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This working paper analyzes the purposes and effects of U.S. military aid to states in Central Asia in the context of American operations in Afghanistan.

Liu, Morgan Y. "Central Asia in the Post-Cold War World," *Annual Review of Anthropology*, Vol. 40, No. 1 (2011): 115-31. Available at www.anthro.annualreviews.org

This article surveys the anthropological literature on the post-Soviet states of Central Asia. This is a useful guide to anthropological studies of various themes including everyday life during economic transition and upheaval, the revival of interest in pre-Soviet traditions, nationalism, Islam, the nature of state authority, etc.

Marat, Erica. "Soviet Military Legacy and Regional Security Cooperation in Central Asia," *China and Eurasia Forum Quarterly*, Vol. 5, No. 1 (2007): 83-114.

This article analyzes the effect of Soviet military legacy on security relations among states in Central Asia. It finds that the distribution of military infrastructure and weaponry during the Soviet rule has real consequences for the current defense and security policies of the newly independent states, including interstate relations.

Marat, Erica. *The Military and the State in Central Asia: From Red Army to Independence* (New York, NY: Routledge, 2010).

This book analyzes the attempts of the states of Central Asia to develop their armed forces after the disintegration of the Soviet Union. The book takes a historical approach, presenting the role of the armed forces – first during the expansion of the Russian Empire in the region and later during the Soviet dominance – in maintaining Moscow's authority and in nation-building. The author points out that although the armed forces of the states in the region are of varying quality, all of them maintain previously established structures, cultures, and functions.

McDermott, Roger N. *Kazakhstan's 2011 Military Doctrine: Reassessing Regional and International Security* (Fort Leavenworth, KS: Foreign Military Studies Office, 2012).

Available at

<http://fmsso.leavenworth.army.mil/Collaboration/international/McDermott/Kazakhstan-2011-military.pdf>

This article analyzes Kazakhstan's military doctrine. Central Asian governments still rarely make public national security documents and the publication of the Kazakhstan's military doctrine provides a rare window into official thinking about regional security context and national policies to achieve security in a changing security environment.

McDowell, Christopher. "Death to Sarts': History, Injustice and a Complex Insults in Central Asia," *Anthropology Today*, Vol. 28, No. 6 (December 2012).

This article analyzes the use of symbols and memories of perceived past injustices as tools to mobilize ethnic groups to action.

Mendee, Jargalsaikhan. "Asymmetrical Military Socialization: Mongolia as a Case Study," *Armed Forces and Society*, Vol. 39, No. 2 (2012): 305-330.

This article analyzes the Mongolian military's changing culture. After almost 70 years of being heavily influenced by Soviet doctrine, strategy, and outlook, Mongolia's military is



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diversifying its interactions, to include Chinese and American counterparts, while developing a new institutional culture.

Olcott, Martha Brill. *The 'Stans' at 20 (Madrid, Spain: The Central Asia Observatory, December 2011)*. Available at http://www.realinstitutoelcano.org/wps/portal/rielcano_eng

This is an overview of developments in the states of Central Asia in the first twenty years of their independence, including nationality and state formation, political and economic structure, and international relations.

Peshkova, Svetlana. "Muslim Women Leaders in Post-Soviet Ferghana Valley: Whose Leadership is it Anyway?" *Anthropology of East Europe Review*, Vol. 28, No. 1 (Spring 2010): 302-31. Available at

<http://scholarworks.iu.edu/journals/index.php/aeer/article/view/664/757>

This article points out the mistaken assumption that women in Central Asia neither aspire to, nor hold leadership position in society. Instead it argues that leadership has many forms and women in the Islamic societies of Central Asia hold prominent, although not necessarily highly visible, positions of authority.

Rashid, Ahmed. "Why, and What, You Should Know About Central Asia," *The New York Review of Books* (15 August 2013).

<http://www.nybooks.com/articles/archives/2013/aug/15/why-and-what-you-should-know-about-central-asia/>

This essay traces the brief history of independence of the states of Central Asia after the disintegration of the Soviet Union in the early 1990s. It also reviews five newly published books on the politics in the region, discussing the dominance of authoritarian political systems, and the interests and policies of outside power in the region.

Reeves, Madeleine. "Unstable Objects: Corpses, Checkpoints and 'Chessboard Borders' in the Ferghana Valley," *Anthropology of East Europe Review*, Vol. 25, No. 1 (2007): 72-84.

Available at <http://scholarworks.iu.edu/journals/index.php/aeer/issue/view/19>

This article, based on field work in the Ferghana Valley, analyzes how the everyday life of people is changing after the disintegration of the Soviet Union and the establishment of new national borders. The new borders disrupt long established patterns of human interaction, while forcing people to overcome newly erected barriers and thus create new patterns of interaction.

Sanderson, Thomas M., Daniel Kimmage and David A. Gordon. *From the Ferghana Valley to South Waziristan* (Washington, DC: Center for Strategic and International Studies, March 2010). Available at

http://csis.org/files/publication/100324_Sanderson_FerghanaValley_WEB_0.pdf

This report analyzes the threat posed by Central Asian Islamic militants in the context of developments in Afghanistan and Pakistan. It also recommends specific U.S. policies to address this threat.

Stein, Matthew. *Assessing the Capabilities of Tajikistan's Military and Security Forces: The 2010-11 Rasht Valley Operations* (Fort Leavenworth, KS: Foreign Military Studies Office,



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July 2012). Available at <http://fmso.leavenworth.army.mil/documents/Gauging-Tajikistan%27s-Forces.pdf>

This report assesses Tajikistan's military and security forces' capabilities and effectiveness by analyzing military operations against domestic opponents of the government.

Tadjbakhsh, Shahrbanou. *Central Asia and Afghanistan: Insulation on the Silk Road, Between Eurasia and the Heart of Asia* (Oslo, Norway: Peace Research Institute Oslo, 2012). Available at

http://file.prio.no/Publication_files/Prio/Tadjbakhsh,%20S%20%282012%29%20Central%20Asia%20and%20Afghanistan%20%28PRIO%20Paper%29.pdf

This report analyzes the security dynamics in Central Asia, including the interlocking relationships among states inside and outside the region.

Tuncer-Kilavuz, Idil. "Political and Social Networks in Tajikistan and Uzbekistan: 'Clan,' Region and Beyond," *Central Asian Survey*, Vol. 28, No. 3 (September 2009): 324-34.

This article analyzes the foundation of social and political networks in Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. It finds that along with regional and clan ties, networks tend to also be based on self-interest, client-patron dependency, and personal and social ties.

Werner, Cynthia. "Gifts, Bribes, and Development in Post-Soviet Kazakhstan," *Human Organization*, Vol. 59, No. 1 (Spring 2000): 11-22.

This article points to the difficulty of using Western norms to understand and combat corrupt practices in Kazakhstan. What Westerners see as corruption in Kazakhstan is often an essential element of an exchange system, which is seen as acceptable and moral social interaction.

Werner, Cynthia. "Consuming Modernity, Imagining Tradition: Globalization, Nationalism and Wedding Feasts in Post-Colonial Kazakhstan," *Anthropology of East Europe Review*, Vol. 18, No. 2 (Autumn 2000): 125-34. Available at

<http://scholarworks.iu.edu/journals/index.php/aeer/article/view/506/613>

This article analyzes Kazakh people's struggle to reconcile their new embrace of Western consumerism with their attempts to rediscover and adopt pre-Soviet traditions and norms. It reveals people in a process of redefining their identity since for the first time in a long time they are relatively free from external control and oppression. The article also includes revealing observations about the use of wedding ceremonies and traditions as ways to establish and reinforce social standing in the community.



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