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Chapter 1 : Academics | Central Asian Studies Center (CASC)

It looks at the ways that Christians have interacted with Central Asian Muslims in the past, and discusses what might need to be done to improve Muslim-Christian relations in the region in the present and future.

A partial list of resources for the study of religion in Central Asia Glossary Notes Bibliography Index Preface Ever since the collapse of the Soviet Union the attention of scholars has remained steadily focused on Russia, with a plethora of exemplary works dealing with political, economic, and geostrategic developments in that country. The perception for good reasons was, and to some degree this perception is still with us, that the most strategically important country in the whole of the enormous Eurasian landmass is Russia and the processes unfolding there invariably resonate in its near abroad, the political sphere in its most immediate neighborhood, and one better study Russia if one is to understand Central Asia. Although true to some degree, this line of thinking has had unforgivable adverse effects on the field of scholarship dealing with the political and historical developments in such regions as the Southern Caucasus and Central Asia, especially Central Asia. It appears that beside the usual interest by Western intelligence services, the US State Department, and occasional travelers, there is not much interest to be found anywhere else. Even when vast human rights abuses transpire in any or all of these republics such as the mass killing of protesters in Andijon, Uzbekistan, journalists usually good at painting a general picture, albeit sometimes with the broadest of strokes, are at a loss to explain to their readers the historical and political background of the developments in the region, and the reader is left to wonder whether these processes are born out of a vacuum or perhaps on some level they are a result of the new Great Game. The terrorist attacks of September 11 occasioned a change, but change has been slow in coming. The deployment of US military personnel to bases in Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan of the former Soviet Union to support the war effort in Afghanistan was one sign of the x Preface changing mood. Another was the changing political context in the region that seeks to blast out of the orbit of traditional Russian influence. Things have gone downhill since. By any account, the region has now become a field of intense religious, political, and economic competition that needs systematic scholarly treatment in the hopes of understanding the region and avoiding the tragic fate that befell their neighbors to the south. The field is amass with equally determined competitors bent on commanding the support of their either coreligionists, ethnic kin, or political sympathizers for advancing a political agenda favorable to them. Central Asia and the people who inhabit there comprise a vast mosaic of multicultural, multiethnic, and multireligious influences. Trends unfolding in one place, be they cultural or political, inevitably influence trends unfolding elsewhere in the region. It is a beautiful crisscrossing of multiple cultures and religions and customs that seems to have gone wholly unnoticed only if by people who have had the good fortune to travel there. He has put all of us in his debt by writing a highly relevant introduction to the region and its post-Soviet realities. Tonoyan Baylor University Acknowledgments If a gem falls into dirt it is still valuable; if dust ascends to Heaven it remains valueless. Saadi of Shiraz On the day of battle it is the slender horse, not the lumbering ox that will be of use. The April morning, before a long series of flights to Tashkent, began with the fresh scent of spring wildflowers and a recent rain. Tomorrow, the miracle of air travel will transport us into another world of splashing colors, the sounds of laughter and bartering, and pungent and fragrant smellsâ€”an Uzbek market filled with flowers, fruits, vegetables, and meat swarming with flies. Today, the gentle shadows of morning are taking their time moving across the kitchen. Time with the Bishop reminds me of a Japanese proverb: I must begin with D. At Routledge, I am grateful for the patient encouragement provided xii Acknowledgments by Ms. I have also benefited from the helpful suggestions provided by three anonymous readers. For any and all errors I am completely responsible. I have benefited from the editorial assistance of colleagues Artyom Tonoyan, Jonathan Warner, Muhammad Barhumdun, and my mentor in the study of the interrelationships between Muslim and Christians, my beloved Doktor Vader, A. Mathias Zahniser to whom I owe a debt of gratitude beyond measure. As this book is completed, another angel is joining our family, baby Tatijana Erika

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Ezeife. These five people are the joy of my life, and this book was begun in the same year that Brendan came into this world in Donaghadee by the Sea. Thanks to my sister Gretchen for her assistance and to my friend Gregory Edward Webb for his help in this project, which is close to his heart. He is a fellow warrior, and pilgrim in pain and hope. Words fail to express the appreciation for the support I have received from my beloved wife Vivian Ezeife van Gorder and to our parents in Lagos, Papa Stanley and Mama Charity, for all their prayers throughout this project. My namesake Andrew Curtis Van Gorder passed away this past year as this book was being finished. I learned that my father had cancer as I was finishing this book. Dad studied at the University of Pittsburgh and loved his hometown. Being a father is the greatest blessing of my life and it is my hope to continue to learn from the lessons of the past, positive and negative, from my own father. I hope each of them can forgive me as they will surely need one day to be forgiven by their children. The history and modern legacies of Central Asia are marked by centuries of wearying challenges as well as magnificent flashes of blinding brilliance. This book will take the multivalent threads of history, contemporary social and political concerns, and the religious and cultural dynamics between Muslims and Christians, and weave together an introduction to the story of Central Asia. There are countless scholars more adept in both Muslim and Christian relations and in Central Asian studies than myself, but I felt obligated to write this book because this story needed to be told in fresh articulation. I beg the patience of learned colleagues far more capable than me as I offer this contribution to the study of the various religions and cultures of the Central Asian steppe. My own point of orientation is that of a North American professor interested in the past and present interactions between Muslims and Christians in Central Asia and throughout our world. I hope that this book will not only advance intercultural and interreligious respect, but will also prove helpful for those from other faith communities or those without any particular religious affiliation. Central Asia is not a particularly specific geographic term. It evokes a host of varying, exotic images and is a designation that was not used outside 2 The steppe is cruel and heaven is far of the region until it appeared in travel narratives during the first half of the nineteenth century. Central Asia is a contestable term for a number of reasons, not the least of which is that it assumes there is also an outer Asia. Contemporary scholars are just now beginning to reflect on the ways such appellations are historically rooted within the framework of misleading orientalist assumptions. My principal concern about using the term Central Asia is that readers might fall into the quicksand of thinking of the various cultures and nations of the area in overly generalized ways. Because you are reading an introduction to the region, I am hopeful that you will keep this fact in mind as you work to draw your own conclusions and continue your own research. It is my intention, however, that this introduction can point you toward the direction you hope to pursue. It is also true that, in spite of the breadth of the region, the term is workable because the five Central Asian republics that are the focus of this book share many common denominators, including prospects both for positive growth and negative developments. Legacies of the Soviet era include these republics being governed by autocratic elites, inheriting a crumbling infrastructure, a high rate of literacy, and many of the same problems in questions of economic and political development. Importantly, for my perspective, these five Central Asian nations share a common story in their relation to intercultural and interfaith interactions. Terminology also becomes a problem when it comes to the question of the transliteration of non-English terms. This book will refer to Russian, Arabic, Turkic, Persian, Kazakh, Uzbek, Tajik, Chinese, and a host of other terms, which all have variant spellings through time and geography. When these variants are significant, I have tried to provide both consistency and some notation to alert the reader. In all decisions of transliteration, I have sought to keep things as simple as possible. A number of early literary, historical, and religious sources present a host of blanket assertions. Numbers are often conflated and must be looked at with suspicion. Many of the chronicles, of women or cultural minorities for example, remain unwritten. In addition, each of these cultures and religions tend to describe themselves in the most glowing of The steppe is cruel and heaven is far 3 terms imaginable while castigating others who are different than themselves in an ungenerous light. Another dimension of this context is how fluid the cultural changes, religious beliefs, and political powers are in Central Asian history and how much interplay there existed

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between the various traditions. In the area of religions for example, Christianity or Islam in thirteenth-century Central Asia look very different as traditions than when they are expressed in the modern milieu. This book is confined to the geographic parameters of the five former Central Asian Soviet Republics of Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Kazakhstan. Central Asia encompasses a vast area about the size of Continental Europe west of Russia. I have had to be selective when questions have arisen, which flow across those political boundaries. In the area of Muslim and Christian relations, it is regrettable that I am not able to describe the fascinating interplay among the various people groups of Xinjiang in western China. This is also true of the political and social cauldron that is modern-day Afghanistan. The geographic centrality of Central Asia means that it must constantly deal with issues originating beyond the confines of its own political boundaries. This was of even greater consequence in the past when cultural or religious identities were much more cherished than any specific sense of national identity. The nomadic citizens of these ancient cultures moved freely across political frontiers without any recognition of their importance. A major objective of this book is to explore a number of different reasons that contribute to intercultural and interreligious tensions in Central Asia. The area faces a host of social justice issues as governments try to steer their nations through this time of transition. Questions will be asked about the ways that Central Asian ethnic and religious communities can remain faithful to their specific distinctiveness in the midst of dramatic social transformation and cultural instability. While much of this focus will be on Muslims and Christians, these same inquiries can be asked of those Jews, Buddhists, and people of other religions who remain in Central Asia. There is much progress that needs to take place, and those from various faith traditions who live outside the region must work to positively contribute to the strengthening of social networks that promote social justice and intercultural harmony. Religion has played a major role throughout the history of Central Asia. This region was probably, at one time, the most religiously diverse place on the planet. There have been centuries when Zoroastrianism, Manichaeism, Mongolian shamanism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam all sent missionaries into the region and had large faith communities existing in constant interaction with the other religious communities of the region. In the modern setting, where Islam predominates but there is still a very small but significant Christian representation among the population, these questions continue to merit consideration. Their examination may also hold the promise for helping Muslims and Christians in other parts of the world learn to interact with each other in more constructive ways. The social justice, human rights, and environmental justice issues of Central Asia are not only problems for the individuals within that region but for all of us who share space in this increasingly shrinking world. The area has the potential to explode along a number of intercultural and interreligious fault lines and the recent events of this last century remind us all too well that what happens in one corner of the world affects everyone everywhere. The two major religious communities, Muslims and a shrinking number of native Christians, often receive input into their development in both positive and negative ways from the outside world. As Central Asia navigates uncharted waters, extraversionary influences should contribute to solutions instead of compounding difficulties. This conviction explains why two chapters in this book are dedicated to the work of Muslim and Christian missionaries and external religious funding and influence in Central Asia. The forces of modernization and political developments can develop in dangerous ways without the rest of the world paying close attention and making a helpful contribution. Many Europeans and North Americans seem to regard Central Asia as a quaint cultural backwater meandering throughout history as though it were one vast and lazy camel caravan route. For centuries, Central Asia was only a place of otherness and difference. Few of these embroidered perceptions have much in common with the dusty, stark reality of present-day life in modern Central Asia. Another consideration is that, for The steppe is cruel and heaven is far 5 reasons we will detail later, Central Asia is often evaluated from a decidedly Russian point of reference. While Russianâ€™Central Asian relations are intriguing, they form only one piece of the larger puzzle. This book seeks to introduce the region and also provide the reader with a better understanding of the ways that different cultures and religions have interacted with each other. Particular attention will be given to the ways that Muslims and Christians have encountered

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each other and how they are progressing in their present interactions. A number of important interfaith questions will be considered: What are the issues emerging in Muslim and Christian interactions in Central Asia, and what background information will be helpful for making these projects as beneficial as possible? A great sea of land When I see the poor dervish without food, my own food is pain and poison to me. Deep in the sea are riches beyond compare. But if you seek safety, it is on the shore.

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Chapter 2 : Islam in Central Asia - Islamic Studies - Oxford Bibliographies

It will appeal to readers interested in Muslim-Christian interaction, and for researchers in the field of world religions, Central Asian studies, and intercultural studies. A. Christian van Gorder is Associate Professor of Religion at Baylor University in Waco, Texas.

The influx of immigrants mostly Russians and Ukrainians , but also some forcibly resettled ethnic minorities, such as the Volga Germans and the Chechens skewed the ethnic mixture and enabled non- Kazakhs to outnumber natives. The influx also deprived the Kazakhs of much pasture land, making it increasingly difficult to sustain the nomadic way of life. Industry, and especially mining, developed. Russian and European culture began to influence Kazakh society. Almaty is the largest city in Kazakhstan , with a population of 1,, as of 1 August The city was put under siege during the Russian Civil War. It has a population of , It is the capital of the West Kazakhstan Province. Today it is the independent state of Kyrgyzstan in Central Asia. Frunze was both the capital and the largest city of Kyrgyzstan and the Kirghiz ASSR, with a population of approximately , in In , the Russian Empire destroyed the local fort and began to settle the area with Russian migrants. Over the years many fertile black soil farms were developed by the Tsarists and, later, the process carried on by the USSR. In Tajikistan was detached from Uzbekistan and given full status as a Soviet socialist republic. The city of Dushanbe would become an important regional hub on the border with Afghanistan. Tajikistan has 3 exclaves , all of them located in the Fergana Valley region where Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan meet. Another exclave in Kyrgyzstan is a small settlement near the Kyrgyz railway station of Kairagach. There are no foreign enclaves within Tajikistan. The Soviets transformed the area into a centre for cotton and silk production, and relocated tens of thousands of people to the city from around the Soviet Union. The population also increased with thousands of ethnic Tajiks migrating to Tajikistan following the transfer of Bukhara and Samarkand to the Uzbek SSR. Dushanbe later became the home to a university and the Tajik Academy of Sciences. Dushanbe also had a relatively high military population during the war with Afghanistan. Today it is the independent state of Turkmenistan in Central Asia. From it was led by Mr Saparmurat Niyazov , who in renamed the party to the Democratic Party of Turkmenistan , which is no longer a communist party. The current Communist Party of Turkmenistan is illegal. The principal industries are cotton textiles and metal working. It has interesting Regional Museum and lies near the remains of the ancient city of Merv, which in corrupted form gives its name to the modern town. Carpets from the region of Merv are sometimes considered superior to the Persian ones. The city of Tashkent began to industrialize in the s and s, but industry increased tremendously during World War II , with the relocation of factories from western Russia to preserve the Soviet industrial capacity from the hostile invading Nazis. The Russian population increased dramatically as well, with evacuees from the war zones increasing the population to well over a million. The Russian community would eventually comprise more than half of the total residents of Tashkent by the s. On April 26, , Tashkent was destroyed by an earthquake and over , were left homeless. At the time of the collapse of the Soviet Union in , Tashkent was the fourth largest Soviet city and a major center of learning in the fields of science and engineering. The city has been the target of several terrorist acts since gaining independence. These have been attributed by the Uzbek the government to Islamic insurgents aided by the Afghan Taliban. Samarkand is one of the oldest inhabited cities in the world, prospering from its location on the trade route between China and Europe Silk Road. In , Timur the Lame, or Tamerlane , decided to make Samarkand the capital of his empire, which extended from India to Turkey. The city a became rich trading center as a major capital of the Silk Road between China and the West. It has a population of , bu It is at an altitude of meters. Kokand is on the crossroads of the ancient trade routes, at the junction of two main routes into the Fergana Valley, one leading northwest over the mountains to Tashkent, and the other west through Khujand. As a result, Kokand is the main transportation junction in the Fergana Valley. Russian imperial forces under Mikhail Skobelev captured the city in which then became part of Russian Turkistan. With the fall

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of the Russian Empire , a provisional government attempted to maintain control in Tashkent. It was quickly overthrown and local Muslim opposition crushed. The Alash Autonomy[edit] Main article: It was declared in and was dissolved in The Alash Autonomy Kazakh: , Alashskaya avtonomiya was a state that existed between December 13, and August 26, , located roughly on the territory of present-day Republic of Kazakhstan. The capital city was Semey referred to at the time as Alash-qala. The Alash Orda Kazakh: The Alash Party proclaimed the autonomy of the Kazakh people in December Membership consists from 25 members 10 positions reserved for non-Kazakhs and 15 member candidates. They formed special educational commission and established militia regimentsas their armed forces. The borders of the Russian imperial territories of Kiva , Bukhara and Kokand in the time period of “ Basmachi Revolt In , the railway reached Tashkent , and finally in a direct rail link with European Russia was opened across the steppe from Orenburg to Tashkent. This led to much larger numbers of Slavic settlers flowing into Turkestan than had hitherto been the case, and their settlement was overseen by a specially created Migration Department in St. This caused considerable discontent amongst the local population, Kyrgyz , Kazakhs and Sarts , as these settlers took scarce land and water resources away from them. In discontent boiled over in the Basmachi Revolt , sparked by a decree conscripting the natives into Labour battalions they had previously been exempt from military service. Thousands of settlers were killed, and this was matched by Russian reprisals, particularly against the nomadic population. The competition for land and water which ensued between the Kazakhs and the newcomers caused great resentment against colonial rule during the final years of Tsarist Russia, with the most serious uprising, the Central Asian Revolt , occurring in The Kazakhs attacked Russian and Cossack villages, killing indiscriminately. A military force drove , Kazakhs to flee into the mountains or to China. When approximately 80, of them returned the next year, many of them were slaughtered by Tsarist forces. Order had not really been restored by the time the February Revolution took place in Kengir uprising During the rule of Joseph Stalin, a prison labour camp of the Steplag division of the Gulag was set up adjacent to the village of Kengir , near the River Kengir in central Kazakhstan. The location of the camp was near the city of Dzhezkazgan. There was a prison revolt in , by political prisoners , criminals , and other inmates. Bukhari and Turkistani were labels for all the Uzbeks in general while specific names for Uzbeks from different places were Farghani, Marghilani, Namangani, and Kokandi. That attracted a lot of mountaineers into the area. Oil was found in Uzbekistan and both oil and gas were found in Turkmenistan. These fuel supplies would prove invaluable to the region over the coming years. Some of the sediments are marine carbonates and clays. The faults are upthrusts and overthrusts. Anticlines associated with these faults form traps for petroleum and natural gas , which has been discovered in 52 small fields. It is a major oil - and gas-producing region. Over the years a large influx of Russian and Ukrainian oil and chemical workers arrived. Engineers discovered large amounts of crude oil and petroleum in the area in the days of the Soviet Union , and when drilling commenced, much of the area was built up around the industry. From to Aktau, which had become a city, bore the name "Shevchenko" in honour of the Ukrainian poet Taras Shevchenko “ , who had been assigned to the area on military[citation needed] work. Aktau had a population of , as of [update]. Soviet infrastructure in Central Asia Much of the road and railway infrastructure that exists across Central Asia was developed when the areas was in the Soviet Union. As a result, it often disregards existing national borders. After the dissolution of the Soviet Union, this infrastructure has faced decline and degradation. Vanadium and cobalt were, and still are also mined in the south of the country. Uranium was also first produced in Uzbekistan in the s. The city of Zhezkazgan was created in in connection with the exploitation of the rich local copper deposits. In a large mining and metallurgical complex was constructed to the southeast to smelt the copper that until then had been sent elsewhere for processing. Other metal ores mined and processed locally are manganese , iron and gold. It is on a reservoir of the Kara-Kengir River and has a population of 90, census. Its urban area includes the neighbouring mining town of Satpayev , total population , Dzhezkazgan has an extreme continental climate. Cement[edit] Cement was a major product in both the cities of Shymkent and Dushanbe in the south of the region. Hydro-electricity[edit] By the early s, the Soviets had started to build some of their hydroelectric

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power stations in Eastern Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tadjikistan as part of an overall development strategy. The waters of the Ili River and of Lake Balkhash are considered to be of a vital economic importance to Kazakhstan. The Ili river is dammed for hydroelectric power at Kaptchagayskoye , and the river waters are heavily diverted for agricultural irrigation and for industrial purposes. Cotton[edit] The Soviets began to grow cotton in Uzbekistan after the Virgin Lands project and the mass use of the isolated and now shrinking Aral Sea for desert irrigation in the early s. A massive expansion of irrigation canals during the Soviet period, to irrigate cotton fields, wrought ecological carnage to the area, with the river drying up long before reaching the Aral Sea which, as a result, has shrunk to a small remnant of its former size. The Baikonur Cosmodrome[edit] The Baikonur Cosmodrome was founded in Kazakhstan on June 2, , during the Cold War , as one of many long-range nuclear missile bases in the region, but diverged into space travel. Culture, religion and ethnicity[edit] The Ethnic and linguistic patchwork of Soviet Central Asia Following a series of migrations, mostly predating Soviet rule, that displaced the autochthonous Iranian peoples , most of the inhabitants of Soviet Central Asia were speakers of either Kipchak languages such as Kazakhs or Uyghuric languages Uzbeks. Those populations were nomadic and settled, respectively.

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Chapter 3 : China Central Asia Relations and opportunities for Pakistan | Umbreen Javaid - blog.quintoapp

Muslim-Christian Relations in Central Asia (Central Asian Studies) [Christian van Gorder] on blog.quintoapp.com
**FREE* shipping on qualifying offers. This book explores issues of cultural tension that affect Muslim and Christian interaction within the Central Asian context.*

The ultimate aim is to emulate the Asian Tigers by becoming the local equivalent, Central Asian snow leopards. However, reform has been deliberately gradual and selective, as governments strive to limit the social cost and ameliorate living standards. All five countries are implementing structural reforms to improve competitiveness. In particular, they have been modernizing the industrial sector and fostering the development of service industries through business-friendly fiscal policies and other measures, to reduce the share of agriculture in GDP. Between and , the share of agriculture dropped in all but Tajikistan, where it progressed to the detriment of industry. The fastest growth in industry was observed in Turkmenistan, whereas the services sector progressed most in the other four countries. This includes maintaining a trade balance, minimizing public debt and accumulating national reserves. They cannot totally insulate themselves from negative exterior forces, however, such as the persistently weak recovery of global industrial production and international trade since . Notwithstanding this, they have emerged relatively unscathed from the global financial crisis of “Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan are major cotton exporters themselves, ranking fifth and ninth respectively worldwide for volume in . Kyrgyzstan has the added disadvantage of being considered resource poor, although it does have ample water. Most of its electricity is generated by hydropower. In April , President Kurmanbek Bakiyev was deposed by a popular uprising, with former minister of foreign affairs Roza Otunbayeva assuring the interim presidency until the election of Almazbek Atambayev in November . According to the World Bank, Science and technology in Kazakhstan , Science and technology in Kyrgyzstan , Science and technology in Tajikistan , Science and technology in Turkmenistan , and Science and technology in Uzbekistan Modernization of research infrastructure[edit] Bolstered by strong economic growth in all but Kyrgyzstan , national development strategies are fostering new high-tech industries, pooling resources and orienting the economy towards export markets. Many national research institutions established during the Soviet era have since become obsolete with the development of new technologies and changing national priorities. This has led countries to reduce the number of national research institutions since by grouping existing institutions to create research hubs. In Uzbekistan , more than 10 institutions of the Academy of Sciences have been reorganized, following the issuance of a decree by the Cabinet of Ministers in February . The aim is to orient academic research towards problem-solving and ensure continuity between basic and applied research. For example, the Mathematics and Information Technology Research Institute has been subsumed under the National University of Uzbekistan and the Institute for Comprehensive Research on Regional Problems of Samarkand has been transformed into a problem-solving laboratory on environmental issues within Samarkand State University. Other research institutions have remained attached to the Uzbek Academy of Sciences , such as the Centre of Genomics and Bioinformatics. In , construction began of a technopark in the village of Bikrova near Ashgabat, the Turkmen capital. It will combine research, education, industrial facilities, business incubators and exhibition centres. The technopark will house research on alternative energy sources sun, wind and the assimilation of nanotechnologies. Between and , technological parks were set up in the east, south and north Kazakhstan oblasts administrative units and in the capital, Astana. The centre supports research projects in technology marketing, intellectual property protection, technology licensing contracts and start-ups. The centre plans to conduct a technology audit in Kazakhstan and to review the legal framework regulating the commercialization of research results and technology. In March , two research institutes were created by presidential decree to foster the development of alternative energy sources in Uzbekistan, with funding from the Asian Development Bank and other institutions: Three universities have been set up since to foster competence in strategic economic areas: Nazarbayev University in Kazakhstan first

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intake in , an international research university, Inha University in Uzbekistan first intake in , specializing in information and communication technologies, and the International Oil and Gas University in Turkmenistan founded in Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan are both generalizing the teaching of foreign languages at school, in order to facilitate international ties. In , Kazakhstan became the only Central Asian member of the Bologna Process , which seeks to harmonize higher education systems in order to create a European Higher Education Area. Uzbekistan broke with this trend in by raising its own research intensity to 0. Moreover, few industrial enterprises conduct research in Kazakhstan. Only one in eight Enterprises prefer to purchase technological solutions that are already embodied in imported machinery and equipment. Nevertheless, there appears to be a growing demand for the products of research, since enterprises spent 4. The number of researchers per million population is close to the world average 1, in in Kazakhstan 1, and higher than the world average in Uzbekistan 1, Uzbekistan is in a particularly vulnerable position, with its heavy reliance on higher education: Almost all holders of a Candidate of Science, Doctor of Science or PhD are more than 40 years old and half are aged over 60; more than one in three researchers

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Chapter 4 : Central Asian Studies - Routledge

Muslim-Christian relations in Central Asia, by A. Christian van Gorder, London and New York, Routledge, , + xii pp., \$90, ISBN Muslim-Christian relations have received increasing attention since 11 September , but little has been written about the topic in Central Asia, a fact this book attempts to remedy.

One view holds that it is eponymously named after Oghuz Khagan , also known as Oghuz Beg, became the word Uzbek. There is another theory which holds that the pronunciation of Uz comes from one of the Oghuz Turks variously known as Uz or Uguz united with the word Bey or Bek to form uguz-bey, meaning "leader of an oguz ". It was part of the Achaemenid Empire and later part of Sasanian Empire. Turkic and Chinese migration into central Asia occurred during the Chinese Tang Dynasty , and Chinese armies commanded by Turkic generals stationed in large parts of central Asia. But Chinese influence ended with the An Lushan rebellion. From the 9th century on, Transoxania was under the rule of Turkic Kara-Khanid Khanate , their arrival in Transoxania signalled a definitive shift from Iranian to Turkic predominance in Central Asia. It is generally believed that these ancient Indo-European-speaking peoples were linguistically assimilated by smaller but dominant Turkic-speaking groups while the sedentary population finally adopted the Persian language , the traditional lingua franca of the eastern Islamic lands. The modern Uzbek language is largely derived from the Chagatai language which gained prominence in the Timurid Empire. The position of Chagatai and later Uzbek was further strengthened after the fall of the Timurids and the rise of the Shaybanid Uzbek Khaqanate that finally shaped the Turkic language and identity of modern Uzbeks, while the unique grammatical [21] and phonetical features of the Uzbek language as well as the modern Uzbek culture reflect the more ancient Iranian roots of the Uzbek people. Once populated by Iranian tribes and other Indo-European people , Central Asia experienced numerous invasions emanating out of Mongolia that would drastically affect the region. According to recent genetic genealogy testing from a University of Oxford study, the genetic admixture of the Uzbeks clusters somewhere between the Iranian peoples and the Mongols. From the 3d century B. High levels of haplogroup 10 [C-M] and its derivative, haplogroup 36 [C-M], are found in most of the Altaic-speaking populations and are a good indicator of the genetic impact of these nomadic groups. The expanding waves of Altaic-speaking nomads involved not only eastern Central Asia where their genetic contribution is strong, [In these western regions, however, the genetic contribution is low or undetectable The difference could be due to the population density of the different geographical areas. Eastern regions of Central Asia must have had a low population density at the time, so an external contribution could have had a great genetic impact. In contrast, the western regions were more densely inhabited, and it is likely that the existing populations were more numerous than the conquering nomads, therefore leading to only a small genetic impact. Thus, the admixture estimate from North-East Asia is high in the east, but is barely detectable west of Uzbekistan. Chlorite and limestone, Bactria , beginning of the 2nd millennium BC The heart of Central Asian history goes back to the earliest Bronze Age colonists of the Tarim Basin were people of Caucasoid physical type who entered probably from the north and west, who may have spoken languages ancestral to the Indo-European Tocharian languages documented later in the Tarim Basin. These early settlers occupied the northern and eastern parts of the Tarim Basin, where their graves have yielded mummies dated about BC. They participated in a cultural world centered on the eastern steppes of central Eurasia, including modern northeastern Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan. Alexander at the Battle of Issus. The first people known to have inhabited Central Asia were Iranian nomads who arrived from the northern grasslands of what is now Uzbekistan sometime in the first millennium BC. These nomads, who spoke Iranian dialects, settled in Central Asia and began to build an extensive irrigation system along the rivers of the region. At this time, cities such as Bukhoro Bukhara and Samarqand Samarkand began to appear as centers of government and culture. As China began to develop its silk trade with the West, Iranian cities took advantage of this commerce by becoming centers of trade. Because of this trade on what became known as the Silk Route , Bukhoro and

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Samarqand eventually became extremely wealthy cities, and at times Mawarannahr Transoxiana was one of the most influential and powerful Persian provinces of antiquity. For many centuries the region of Uzbekistan was ruled by Persian empires, including the Parthian and Sassanid Empires. Early Islamic period The conquest of Central Asia by Muslim Arabs , which was completed in the 8th century AD, brought to the region a new religion that continues to be dominant. The Arabs first invaded Mawarannahr in the middle of the 7th century through sporadic raids during their conquest of Persia. Available sources on the Arab conquest suggest that the Soghdians and other Iranian peoples of Central Asia were unable to defend their land against the Arabs because of internal divisions and the lack of strong indigenous leadership. The Arabs, on the other hand, were led by a brilliant general, Qutaybah ibn Muslim , and were also highly motivated by the desire to spread their new faith the official beginning of which was in AD Because of these factors, the population of Mawarannahr was easily subdued. The new religion brought by the Arabs spread gradually into the region. The native religious identities, which in some respects were already being displaced by Persian influences before the Arabs arrived, were further displaced in the ensuing centuries. Nevertheless, the destiny of Central Asia as an Islamic region was firmly established by the Arab victory over the Chinese armies in a battle at the Talas River. Mawarannahr continued to be an important political player in regional affairs, as it had been under various Persian dynasties. In fact, the Abbasid Caliphate , which ruled the Arab world for five centuries beginning in , was established thanks in great part to assistance from Central Asian supporters in their struggle against the then-ruling Umayyad Caliphate. Bukhoro became one of the leading centers of learning, culture, and art in the Muslim world, its magnificence rivaling contemporaneous cultural centers such as Baghdad , Cairo , and Cordoba. Some of the greatest historians, scientists, and geographers in the history of Islamic culture were natives of the region. The rulers of the eastern section of Iran and of Mawarannahr were Persians. Under the Samanids and the Buyids , the rich Perso-Islamic culture of Mawarannahr continued to flourish. According to the letter, the caliph stated that he prayed for Ismail who the caliph considered as the rightful ruler of Khorasan. The two sides fought in Balkh , northern Afghanistan during the spring of Despite fierce fighting, Amr was captured as some of his troops switched sides and joined Ismail. The Samanid army defeated the Zaydid ruler and the Samanids gained control of the region. Turkification of Transoxiana Clothing of Uzbek men, Khiva In the 9th century, the continued influx of nomads from the northern steppes brought a new group of people into Central Asia. These people were the Turks who lived in the great grasslands stretching from Mongolia to the Caspian Sea. Introduced mainly as slave soldiers to the Samanid Dynasty, these Turks served in the armies of all the states of the region, including the Abbasid army. In the late 10th century, as the Samanids began to lose control of Transoxiana Mawarannahr and northeastern Iran, some of these soldiers came to positions of power in the government of the region, and eventually established their own states, albeit highly Persianized. With the emergence of a Turkic ruling group in the region, other Turkic tribes began to migrate to Transoxiana. The Ghaznavid state, which captured Samanid domains south of the Amu Darya , was able to conquer large areas of Iran, Afghanistan , and northern India apart from Central Asia, during the reign of Sultan Mahmud. The Ghaznavids were closely followed by the Turkic Qarakhanids , who took the Samanid capital Bukhara in AD, and ruled Transoxiana for the next two centuries. Samarkand was made the capital of the Western Qarakhanid state. Instead they made the Qarakhanids a vassal state. The Seljuk Empire then split into states ruled by various local Turkic and Iranian rulers. The culture and intellectual life of the region continued unaffected by such political changes, however. Turkic tribes from the north continued to migrate into the region during this period. In the late 12th century, a Turkic leader of Khorazm, which is the region south of the Aral Sea, united Khorazm, Transoxiana, and Iran under his rule. However, a new incursion of nomads from the north soon changed this situation. This time the invader was Genghis Khan with his Mongol armies. The Mongols had such a lasting impact because they established the tradition that the legitimate ruler of any Central Asian state could only be a blood descendant of Genghis Khan. As these armies settled in Mawarannahr, they intermixed with the local populations which did not flee. Another effect of the Mongol conquest was the large-scale damage the soldiers inflicted on cities such as

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Bukhoro and on regions such as Khorazm. As the leading province of a wealthy state, Khorazm was treated especially severely. The irrigation networks in the region suffered extensive damage that was not repaired for several generations. Rule of Mongols and Timurids Timur feasts in Samarkand Following the death of Genghis Khan in , his empire was divided among his four sons and his family members. Despite the potential for serious fragmentation, Mongol law of the Mongol Empire maintained orderly succession for several more generations, and control of most of Mawarannahr stayed in the hands of direct descendants of Chaghatai , the second son of Genghis. Orderly succession, prosperity, and internal peace prevailed in the Chaghatai lands, and the Mongol Empire as a whole remained strong and united. One tribal chieftain, Timur Tamerlane , emerged from these struggles in the s as the dominant force in Mawarannahr. Although he was not a descendant of Genghis, Timur became the de facto ruler of Mawarannahr and proceeded to conquer all of western Central Asia, Iran, the Caucasus , Asia Minor, and the southern steppe region north of the Aral Sea. He also invaded Russia before dying during an invasion of China in By supporting such people, Timur imbued his empire with a very rich Perso-Islamic culture. It was during the Timurid dynasty that Turkic, in the form of the Chaghatai dialect , became a literary language in its own right in Mawarannahr, although the Timurids were Persianate in nature. The chronic internal fighting of the Timurids attracted the attention of the Uzbek nomadic tribes living to the north of the Aral Sea. In the Uzbeks began a wholesale invasion of Mawarannahr. Uzbek period A lithograph of two Uzbek Khans from Afghanistan in By the Uzbeks had completed their conquest of Central Asia[citation needed], including the territory of the present-day Uzbekistan. Of the states they established, the most powerful, the Khanate of Bukhoro , centered on the city of Bukhoro. The khanate controlled Mawarannahr, especially the region of Tashkent , the Fergana Valley in the east, and northern Afghanistan. The Shaybanids initially competed against Iran for a few years, which was led by the Safavid Dynasty , for the rich far-eastern territory of present-day Iran. At the beginning of the 17th century, the Shaybanid Dynasty was replaced by the Janid Dynasty. This change had begun in the previous century when ocean trade routes were established from Europe to India and China, circumventing the Silk Route. As European-dominated ocean transport expanded and some trading centers were destroyed, cities such as Bukhoro, Merv , and Samarqand in the Khanate of Bukhoro and Khiva and Urganch Urgench in Khorazm began to steadily decline. In addition to these problems, the struggle with the nomads from the northern steppe continued. In the 17th and 18th centuries, Kazakh nomads and Mongols continually raided the Uzbek khanates, causing widespread damage and disruption. In the beginning of the 18th century, the Khanate of Bukhoro lost the fertile Fergana region, and a new Uzbek khanate was formed in Quqon. Three major population centers of the khanatesâ€”Tashkent, Bukhoro, and Samarqandâ€”were captured in , , and , respectively. Khiva became a Russian protectorate in , and the Quqon Khanate finally was incorporated into the Russian Empire, also as a protectorate, in In the second half of the 19th century, the Russian population of Uzbekistan grew and some industrialization occurred. To escape Russians slaughtering them in , Uzbeks escaped to China. In response, many Central Asians, including Uzbeks or Samarqandites , were sent to fight the Germans in the area of Smolensk. However, a number of them, including Hatam Kadirov and Zair Muratov , were captured, transported to the Netherlands , abused and killed. Their bodies were buried in Rusthof cemetery near Amersfoort. For some time, these victims were not identified, apart from the fact that they were Soviets, until an investigation by journalist Remco Reiding. In the mids, Moscow attempted to regain control by again purging the entire Uzbek party leadership. However, this move increased Uzbek nationalism , which had long resented Soviet policies such as the imposition of cotton monoculture and the suppression of Islamic traditions. In the late s, the liberalized atmosphere of the Soviet Union under Mikhail S.

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Chapter 5 : Soviet Central Asia - Wikipedia

Explores issues of cultural tension that affect Muslim and Christian interaction within the Central Asian context. This book looks at the ways that Christians have interacted with Central Asian Muslims in the past, and discusses what might need to be done to improve Muslim-Christian relations in the region.

Objectives of the Study: To investigate the strategic depth of China Central Asian relations in the changing paradigm of regional and international politics. This research has been carried out using various techniques; documents based on content analysis, and case studies. Historical, descriptive, comparative and analytical method have been taken into practice on all Qualitative and Quantitative data sources which includes Govt. Research Limitation-This research enshrines only three major areas of cooperation among the triangular relations of Pakistan, China, and Central Asia. These three areas are Energy, Economy and Extremism. The regional and international challenges have also been taken into account. Theoretical Framework A theoretical framework in social science not only enhances credibility of research but also provides the substructure to the research by interpreting the relevant theories related to research objectives. According to the realist school of thought global political system is anarchic one and states are the main actors in this system. Every state peruses her national self-interest based on rationality and there is no any supranational authority to govern the states. Every state has desire of acquiring South Asian Studies 31 2 more and more power to ensure its self-preservation. Power is perpetual as well rational concept. It does not exist in vacuum but in relations with other state. China is expanding herself in terms of economic advancement and affluence not only in the region but as well on world scenario. China is very much engaged in Central Asia to magnify its strategic and economic power to preserve its interest. Regionalism is the process of integration, geographical relationship, formation of interstate coalition mutual interdependence of the states on the basis of regions. The key ingredients of regionalism are unilateralism, multilateralism and international trading system. The main idea of regionalism is to economically and politically integrate states on regional identification. Eurasia has abundant energy resources. The exploitation and transportation of these energy resources to the rest of the world has become major challenge due to the deteriorating security situation and unrest of the region. SCO is a powerful regional mechanism which can play significant role in improving security of the region. Regionalism theoretical interpretations can be glimpsed on Central Asia, East Asia and South Asia in terms of economic, energy and security integration. The determinants of sea power are economy, population, political will of government and number of coastline and harbors available for sea trade traffic. The ongoing development project of Gwadr by China has proclivity to cater not only Chinese trade through CPEC but also have capacity to provide landlocked Central Asia access to hot water port for energy exports. This paper is an original research work. The analysis provided is based on facts from various national and international publications. It is challenging not only for the regional players like Japan, Korea, India and Russia but also global powers of United States and European Union as well. China being a most densely populated country of the world having adjoining borders with 14 countries and Pacific Ocean on East. China shares common borders with three central Asian states which are Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. The September quarter of reveals that the economy of China is expanding as annual growth rate of 6. The soaring and burgeoning economy of China has created opportunities for regional economic cooperation for Central Asian neighboring states as well as the Asia Pacific region in general. During the last two decades the Chinese engagement and rise as a global economic and political power is substantive. The estimated population of Central Asia is about In Geopolitical terms this region is considered as the core region of continent Asia. Almost all the Central Asian states have significant energy resources but landlocked in nature. The strategic location of Central Asia and its proximity with great powers like Russia and China is making this region vulnerable as a part of great game. Soon after the independence of Central Asia, China promptly recognized their independence and established diplomatic relations in December in in spite of certain reservations over the

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signed of unequal treaties with tsarist and European empires in the 19th century on border disputes. The relations between China and Soviet communist parties were lasted tense for many decades on the settlement of borders disputes and were bequeathed to newly formed Central Asian Republics. The depth of China and Central Asian relations and interests of China in central Asia are manifold in nature. It can be structured into following four phases. First phase of China and Central Asian relations from to During the first phase of China and Central Asian relations the main emphasize of China was to resolve border disputes with Central Asia. China had agreed in to diminish their territorial claim on violent suppression in Tiananmen to only 34, km. China signed with Kazakhstan a border demarcation treaty to demilitarize the borders in The motive behind signing this treaty was also to curtail the muscularity of Uyghur separatist movement. Second phase of China and Central Asian relations from to This period of China Central Asian states relations is considered as the confidence building period. The collective security measures were taken during this period based on mutual understanding attenuating the political tensions. The border disputed areas were settled with Kyrgyzstan in Although the cession of disputed territories was smaller than stipulated in its original claims. China started to move vigorously to the Central Asian markets for economic cooperation. In order to resolve long time outstanding disputes and to yield the economic cooperation the Shanghai five was established in Third phase of China and Central Asian relations from to In China signed another demarcation treaty with Tajikistan to settle its border disputes, getting access to the mountain passes, rivers, suboil resources and for the accession of economic strategic viability. These demarcation treaties were criticized and condemned by some segments of population from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan declaring that their governments have capitulated the China which could claim additional territory in future. The establishment of US military bases in Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan for the purpose of war against terror. China viewed the US military presence in the region as the US containment strategy and offensive intention against China. Russia and China both presume threats for their strategic, economic and energy interest in Central Asia due to the proximity of US presence in the region. Although SCO has defused a huge number of disputes and conflicts mostly related to borders of its members, but could not form as a military defense alliance like NATO Peyrouse, Economic, Trade and investment relations of China with Central Asia China is developing its political and economic influence in Central Asia not only to protect its strategic importance, trade investments but also to compete major powers regarding struggle for resources. The Russia and US both have their own interests in Central Asia on pipelines and over military bases. China has become crucial trading partner of Central Asia and principal sources of investment and loans provider for Central Asian region. Chinese government, entrepreneur and corporation are investing in development of infrastructure, transportation, productions, roads, railways hydrocarbon sectors and energy pipelines. Xinjiang is serving as economic and transportation hub for china to connect with Central Asia. The presence of Islamic extremist in Xinjiang, Central Asia is becoming a major challenge for trade and investments of China. After the economic liberalization china has intentionally planned to develop good relations with Central Asia as a source of energy to cope with its increasing requirements. Prior to this China heavily depends upon coal power generation due to domestic abundant coal resources. The coal production capacity of China increased annually South Asian Studies 31 2 million tons during the period from to Now China is decreasing its vulnerability on coal power generation due to efficiency, cost and environmental concerns Khan, The domestic oil and gas natural resources of China are unable to quench its demands. For increasing transportation fuel requirements the import bill of China has been increased significantly. Therefore China is much focused to promptly improve its energy relations with Central Asia, heavily depending of fossil fuel to meet its energy needs. Presently Kazakhstan China oil pipeline is carrying 11 million tons of oil daily from Caspian to Xinjiang and expected to increase its volume up to 20 million tons daily at the end of Another gas pipeline is expected to be completed in to transport western territory Gas of Kazakhstan to Industrial area of South to reduce imports of gas from Uzbekistan. China has also provided loans worth of 5 billion and 1. China is also cooperating with others Central Asian countries as well in the energy sector. China had made an agreement with Turkmenistan in for 30 years.

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According to this agreement China will ship 30 billion cubic feet gas through a 7, km gas pipeline every year, starting from Wishnick, China has imported 50 billion cubic meter gas since and committed to sign new import deal of gas with Turkmenistan Rejepova, Turkmenistan is exporting 25 billion cubic meter of gas from Gas reserves of Galkynsh to China every year after an agreement between the presidents of two countries. This agreement will be ended in During the past two decades the Central Asia and China are aggressively engaged in energy cooperation through investment on various projects like Kazakhstan China oil pipeline and Central Asia China gas pipeline etc. The growing energy cooperation between China and Central Asia has created a strategic competition among Europe, Russia and China. China is very much worried about the unrest of Kyrgyzstan because it has about km long border and Fergana valley with China. The great security concern of China in Xinjiang is to fight three evils which are terrorism, religious extremism and separatism. Asia Centre, There are long listed security threats to China from Central Asian region which are owing ethnic conflicts, domestic grievances, beneath stability and unrest of Afghanistan. The major concern is Islamic insurgency of Xinjiang which gets technically, financially and training support from Afghanistan. Mariani, Although China is engaged in Central Asia to develop people to people contact but it is seen in the prism of state to state relations. China has not yet deployed its military in Central Asia in spite of the threats to their investments and citizens. China is only utilizing the SCO to address its security threats and issues from Central Asian region. In order to cope with security concerns China is establishing a collective discourse with Central Asian for terrorism, nontraditional security threats, natural disasters and transnational crimes. SCO during its summit in signed Shanghai Convention combating extremism, separatism and terrorism. The other important security cooperation agreements signed on the platform of SCO are anti- drugs Cooperation, SCO Convention against terrorism and joint fight against crimes agreement. The security manifesto of SCO has been expanded in other broader areas which include defense, strategic security, information security, law enforcement and fight with transnational crimes. The headquarter of regional anti- terrorist structure is in Uzbekistan and permanent secretariat is at Beijing. The bilateral and multilateral exercises for countering terrorism are carried out on the SCO podium on regular basis. Chinese leadership is fully aware of the fact that multilateral security cooperation through SCO level is still rudimentary. They have suggested SCO to develop a full-fledged system for security cooperation. China is strictly following its principle of non-interference in Central Asian region in spite of security threats to its economic engagements in the region. Presently china is proactively affianced in Central Asia and utilizing its economic, trade and investments for the peace and prosperity of the region. Pakistan and Strategic vision of Foreign Policy Pakistan is located between Pakistan is the sixth largest country of the world in terms of population, thirty sixth largest countries in terms territory and twenty sixth largest countries in terms of purchasing power parity.

Chapter 6 : Uzbeks - Wikipedia

Muslim-Christian relations in Central Asia () 'Muslim-Christian relations in Central Asia', Central Asian Survey, 3, â€” studies of herder communities at three locations in the.

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Chapter 8 : Cultural Heritage and Humanities Unit - University of Central Asia

It looks at the ways that Christians have interacted with Central Asian Muslims in the past, and discusses what might

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need to be done to improve Muslim-Christian relations in Paperback -

Chapter 9 : Central Asia - Wikipedia

Central Asia is an extremely large region of varied geography, including high passes and mountains (), vast deserts (Kyzyl Kum, Taklamakan), and especially treeless, grassy steppes.