

CENTRAL ASIA AND THE WORLD

*Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan,
Kyrgyzstan, and Turkmenistan*

Edited by
Michael Mandelbaum



COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS PRESS
NEW YORK

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Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Central Asia and the world : Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan / edited by Michael Mandelbaum.

p. cm.

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 0-87609-167-2 : \$16.95

1. Asia, Central—Foreign relations—1991— 2. Asia, Central—Politics and government—1991— I. Mandelbaum, Michael.

DK859.5.C456 1994

958'4086—dc20

94-7846

CIP

95 96 97 EB 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2

Cover Design: Kuan Chang

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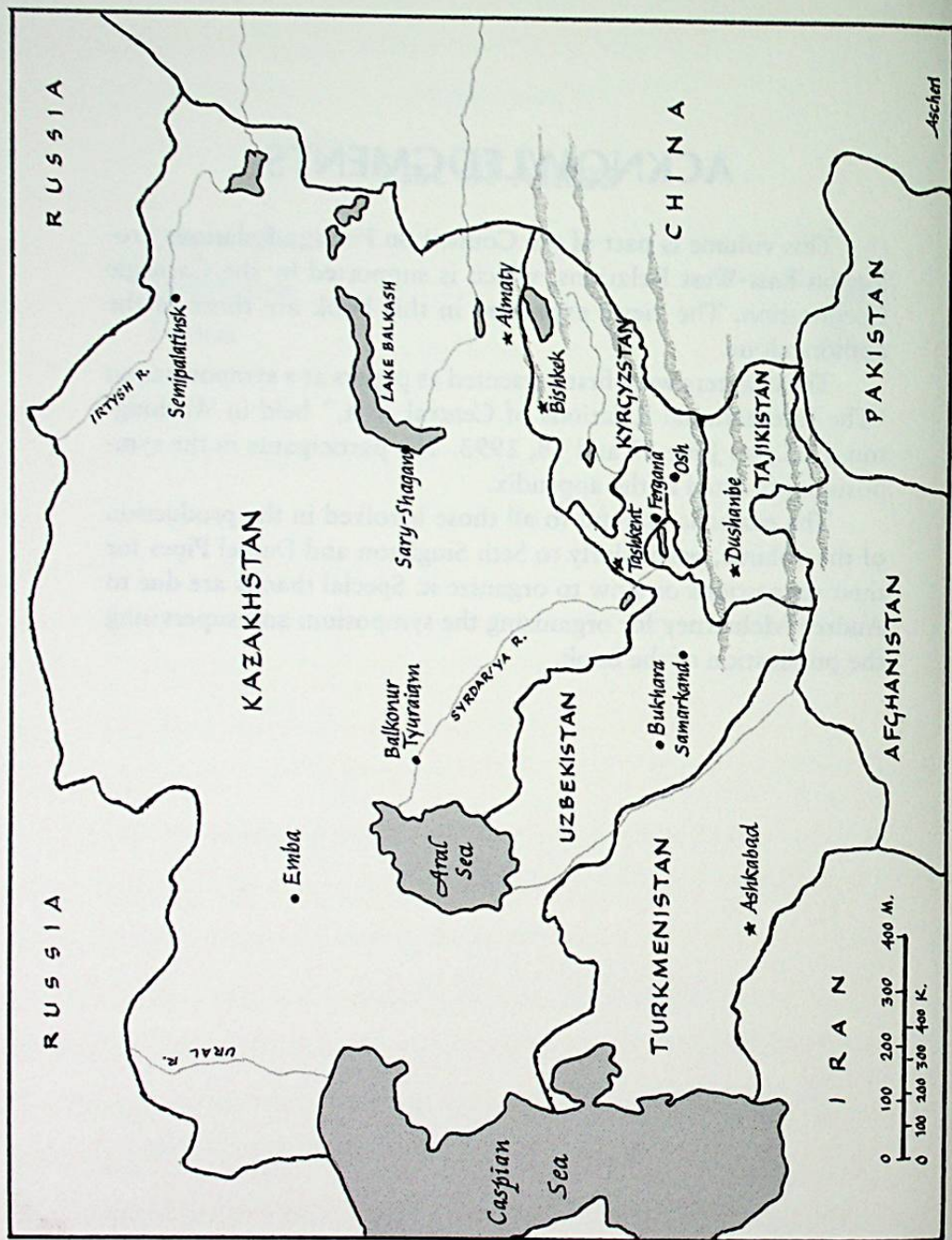
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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This volume is part of the Council on Foreign Relations Project on East-West Relations, which is supported by the Carnegie Corporation. The views expressed in this book are those of the authors alone.

The chapters were first presented as papers at a symposium on "The International Relations of Central Asia," held in Washington, D.C., on June 17 and 18, 1993. The participants in the symposium are listed in the appendix.

The editor is grateful to all those involved in the production of the volume, particularly to Seth Singleton and Daniel Pipes for their suggestions on how to organize it. Special thanks are due to Audrey McInerney for organizing the symposium and supervising the publication of the book.



CENTRAL ASIA AND THE WORLD

With the demise of the Soviet Union in 1991, its fifteen constituent republics suddenly found themselves sovereign states. Among the new countries are the five republics of Central Asia—Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Turkmenistan—that comprise the region to the south of the great Russian heartland. Each of these countries now faces the task of creating its own foreign policy: with one another, with its former imperial ruler to the north, with the Islamic countries to the south, and with the West. In *Central Asia and the World*, eight experts on the region address the historic power struggles between east and west and north and south that have shaped the region and the prognosis for success in overcoming a turbulent past and an uncertain, divided present. In addition to its continuing strong ties to Russia, Central Asia's links with its southern neighbors and the potential role of Islam are also examined. The authors advance the case that these countries are critical to the West insofar as they affect Western interests in Russia and the Middle East. The ongoing civil war in Tajikistan and Central Asia's relationship with China are also addressed.

The first book to examine the complex issues facing the region, *Central Asia and the World* provides a comprehensive overview of the developing foreign policies of these five new countries, including a look at the internal political, economic, and military issues confronting each country.

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0-87609-167-2 / \$16.95
Cover design: Kuan Chang