CULTURAL HISTORIES OF CENTRAL ASIA

Edited by Rashmi Doraiswamy



ACADEMY OF THIRD WORLD STUDIES

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Central Asia, the 'heart' of the Eurasian landmass, has through the centuries been the hub of diverse and varied cultures. These cultures have encompassed pre-Islamic religions and Islam, sedentary and nomadic lifestyles and lived through rapid transitions from feudal, capitalist and socialist economies, from Tsarist to Soviet and post-Soviet formations. The essays in this volume examine the cultural exchanges and encounters that have occurred in the region through a vast timeline that extends from the premedieval to the medieval and modern periods. The writers are academics, as well as art practitioners and independent researchers who belong to a wide spectrum of disciplines: Central Asian and Russian Studies, Architecture, Ethno-Musicology, History, Painting, Film Studies, Art History, Textiles, Literature and International Relations. The volume presents a colourful mosaic of views on the many cultural histories of Central Asia.

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Dr Rashmi Doraiswamy is author of *The Post-Soviet Condition: Chingiz Aitmatov in the '90s* (Aakar, 2005) and *Guru Dutt: Through Light and Shade* (Wisdom Tree, 2008). She is co-editor of the book *Being and Becoming: The Cinemas of Asia* (Macmillan, 2002). Her entry on 'Film and Literature (India)' has appeared in the *Encyclopedia of Postcolonial Literatures in English* (Routledge, 2005). Her entries on Indian and foreign cinemas have appeared in *The Little Black Book: Movies* (Cassell Illustrated, London, 2007).

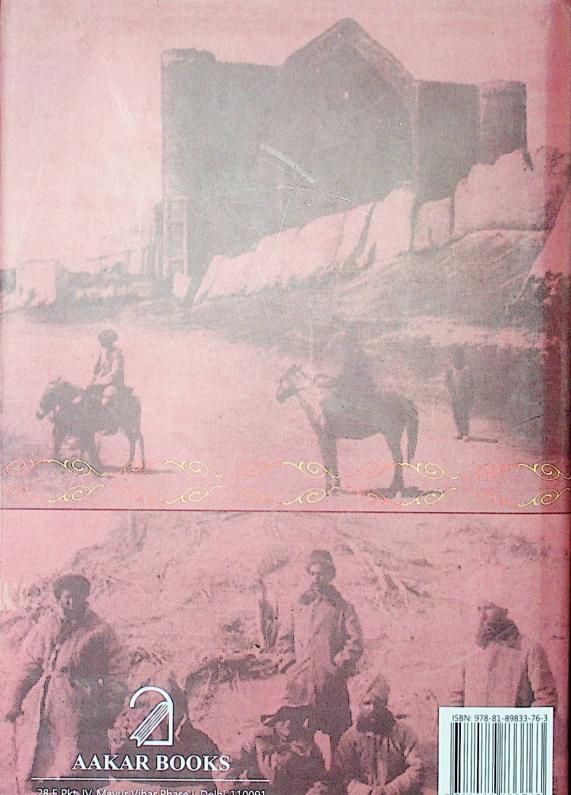
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