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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.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS FOR PHOTOGRAPHS:
Front cover photograph of M A Stein courtesy of the Library of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences
Front cover photograph of S. Aini courtesy of OrexA.com
Back cover photograph of M A Stein courtesy of the British Library
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