

A HISTORY OF INNER ASIA

SVAT SOUCEK

Princeton University



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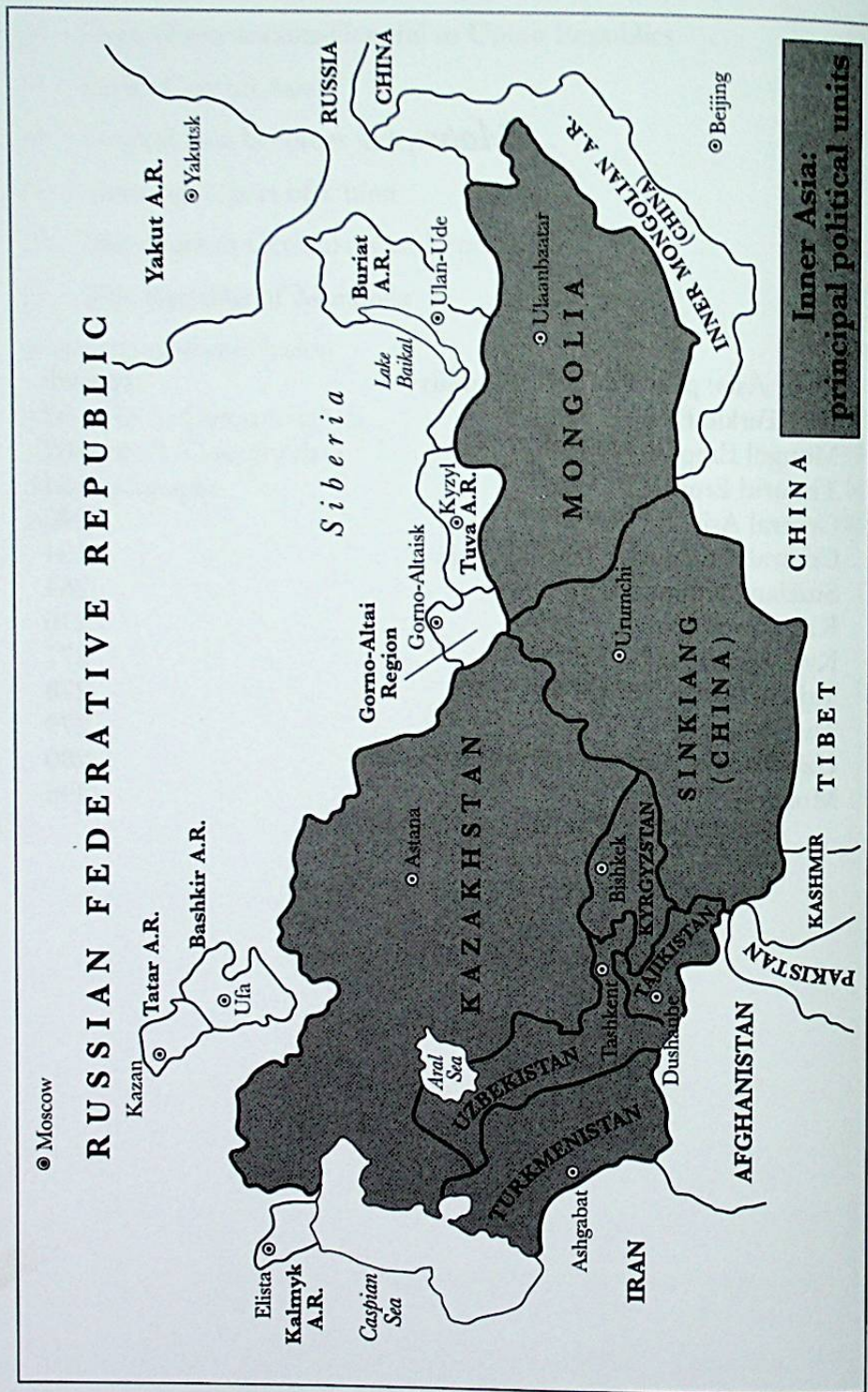
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Map 1 Inner Asia: principal political units

A HISTORY OF INNER ASIA

Geographically and historically Inner Asia is a confusing area which is much in need of interpretation. Svat Soucek's book offers a short and accessible introduction to the history of the region. The narrative, which begins with the arrival of Islam, proceeds chronologically, charting the rise and fall of the changing dynasties, the Russian conquest of Central Asia and the fall of the Soviet Union. Dynastic tables and maps augment and elucidate the text. The contemporary focus rests on the seven countries which make up the core of present-day Eurasia, that is Uzbekistan, Kazakstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Sinkiang, and Mongolia. Since 1991, there has been renewed interest in these countries which has prompted considerable political, cultural, economic, and religious debate. While a vast and divergent literature has evolved in consequence, no short survey of the region has been attempted. Soucek's history of Inner Asia promises to fill this gap and to become an indispensable source of information for anyone studying or visiting the area.

SVAT SOUCEK is a bibliographer at Princeton University Library. He has worked as Central Asia bibliographer at Columbia University, New York Public Library, and at the University of Michigan, and has published numerous related articles in *The Journal of Turkish Studies*, *The Encyclopedia of Islam*, and *The Dictionary of the Middle Ages*.

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Dr Soucek is a bibliographer of Central Asian Studies, in the Oriental Division, New York Public Library. He is the author of the book *Piri Reis and Turkish Mapmaking after Columbus* (1996) as well as of numerous articles in scholarly journals and encyclopaedias.

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