

Islam after Communism

Religion and Politics in Central Asia

Adeeb Khalid



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Adeeb Khalid combines insights from the study of both Islam and Soviet history in this sophisticated analysis of the ways in which Soviet presence in Central Asia transformed Muslim societies in the region. Arguing that the utopian Bolshevik project of remaking the world featured a sustained assault on Islam that destroyed patterns of Islamic learning and thoroughly de-Islamized public life, Khalid demonstrates that Islam became synonymous with tradition and was subordinated to powerful ethnonational identities that crystallized during the Soviet period. He shows how this legacy endures today and how, for the vast majority of the population, a return to Islam means the recovery of traditions destroyed under Communism.

"I know of no competing work that comes close to covering this material. Khalid's nuanced and sophisticated analysis offers superior treatment of the diversity of Muslim societies and the history of Islamic thought in Central Asia. America is heavily involved in this region, and this book is a powerful reminder of the possible costs of unthinking U.S. support of current regimes. It should be required reading for American politicians and concerned citizens." —CARL ERNST, author of *Following Muhammad: Rethinking Islam in the Contemporary World*

ADEEB KHALID is Associate Professor of History at Carleton College. He is the author of *The Politics of Muslim Cultural Reform: Jadidism in Central Asia* (UC Press).

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