

# Muslims

IN CENTRAL ASIA

*Expressions of Identity*

*and Change*

*Edited by Jo-Ann Gross*

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Central Asia is distinctive in its role as a frontier region in which a unique diversity of cultural, religious, and political traditions exist. This collection of essays by expert scholars in a range of disciplines focuses on the formation of ethnic, religious, and national identities in Muslim societies of Central Asia, thus furthering our general understanding of the history and culture of this significant region.

This study includes several geopolitical regions—Chinese Central Asia, Soviet Central Asia, Afghanistan, Transoxiana, and Khurasan—and covers historical periods from the fifteenth century to the present. Drawing on scholarship in anthropology, religion, history, literature, and language, *Muslims in Central Asia* argues for an interdisciplinary, interregional dialogue in the development of new approaches to understanding the Muslim societies in Central Asia. The authors creatively examine the social construction of identities as expressed through literature, Islamic discourse, historical texts, ethnic labels, and genealogies, and explore how such identities are formed, changed, and adopted through time.

In its interdisciplinary method and its focus on the role of Islam in Central Asia, this volume offers new directions in Central Asian studies and will be of interest to students and scholars alike.

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