

Khelyam Khudaiberdiyev

**My People,  
the  
Soviet Uighurs**

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## CONTENTS

The Uighurs: Who Are They?	5
An Orphan Becomes a Scientist	34
The Fate of a Woman	45
Collective-Farm Chairman	54
Abdirim Sings Mukams	65
A Collective-Farm Wedding	74
A Big Family	83

## The Uighurs: Who Are They?

I should like to acquaint the reader with the Soviet Uighurs, a small people who are equal among equals in the fraternal multinational family of Soviet peoples.

But first a few words about the history of this people whose past and present life is unknown to many.

The Uighurs are an ancient people of Central Asia whose language belongs to the Turkic group. Their history goes back many thousands of years. There are many monuments of their ancient culture, which testify to their glorious historical past and their valuable contribution to human civilization from the earliest times. They now live in the USSR and the People's Republic of China, where over six million live in the Sinkiang-Uighur Autonomous Region, as well as in Turkey, Afghanistan, Pakistan and several other countries. In the Soviet Union



# Khelyam Khudaiberdiyev



## My People, the Soviet Uighurs

Khelyam KHUDAIBERDIYEV was born in 1918 in a small Uighur village whose entire population was illiterate until Soviet rule was established. He served as an officer in the Soviet army during the Great Patriotic War of 1941-1945. On his discharge from the army he received a higher education and went to work for Radio Tashkent.

He has been a member of the Union of Soviet Journalists for over 30 years. He has translated several books into Uighur, including Leo Tolstol's classic novel "Anna Karenina", "On Literature" by Maxim Gorky, Vera Panova's novel "The Bright Shore", "Chinese Literature" by Nikolai Fedorenko and Alexei Tolstol's children's story "Burafino" (Pinocchio).

Khudaiberdiyev worked in Sinkiang for three years where he was also an adviser on political publications in the Uighur language. He is now deputy chairman of the State Committee for Television and Radio Uzbekistan, in charge of foreign broadcasts. For his great contribution to the development of Soviet culture he has the title of Honoured Cultural Worker of the Uzbek SSR.

His wife is a graduate teacher. His daughter, an engineer, is taking a postgraduate course and his son, a graduate of the Oriental department of Tashkent state university, is a postgraduate student of Arabic at the Moscow Institute of Oriental Studies. His son-in-law is an assistant professor of Arabic.