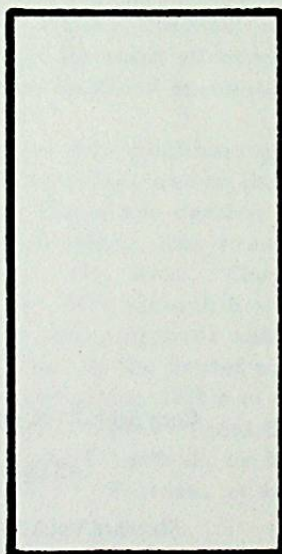
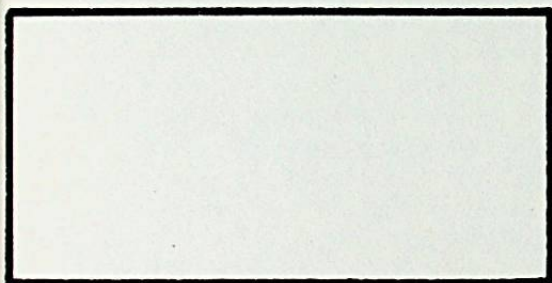
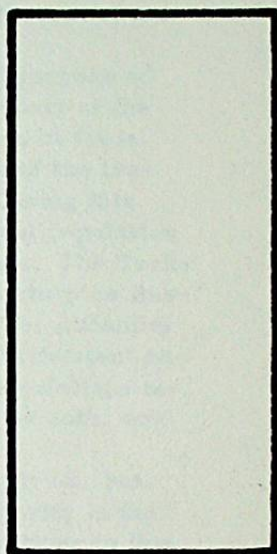
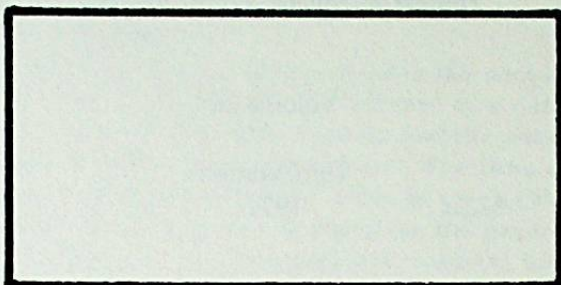
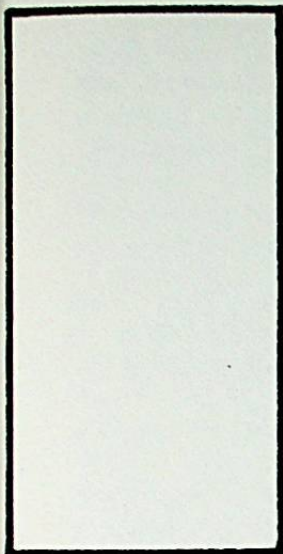


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**peoples
of
central
asia**

by Lawrence Krader

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PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION

The present book is now offered in a second edition. The critical response in the professional journals has been generally favorable, and at times more so than its modest claims can have afforded. The offer to reprint by the editors of the series has provided the opportunity to correct a few of the more obvious typographical errors, some of which had, indeed, substantive significance. Thus, for example, it is not at all clear that Turkmen small canals were traditionally owned in private; at most it can be said that they were maintained on an individual basis, or that of the smallest land-holding unit (p. 95). There is no evidence that traditional Turkmen society had developed a concept of private property in land or canals.

A difficulty encountered in the reviews concerns the scope and purpose of the book. This is a survey of the traditional cultures of a definite part of the world, one which corresponds to a culture area, and the adaptation of these cultures to the conditions of life in the Soviet era. The time depth of the tradition is approximately the last 500 years, down to circa 1960. During this period, but before the present era, the Turks were the predominant population in numbers, political and economic strength, and cultural influence. The Turks gave their name to the area, which was known in the nineteenth century as Russian Turkestan, bordering upon Chinese and Afghan Turkestan. The difficulty in this usage is that it is a misapplication of both 'Russian' and 'Turkestan' as concepts, for while Turks and Russians are the most numerous populations today, the Iranian peoples were the indigenous settlers encountered by both, and are a strong minority still within it today.

Some of the peoples of the area spill over into neighboring countries, but, where they do, they form a minority, whereas they are in the majority in the political unities which they form at home. There are certain exceptions to this rule, such as Kazakhs, discussed in the following. Our area under discussion is Central Asia, not Inner, or Interior, etc. Asia. The geographic features of this unity are also discussed below. The inclusion of Afghanistan into this region is debatable; my own idea is to group Afghans and Afghanistan with the peoples and countries of the Middle East. In the Soviet usage, Kazakhstan forms an economic region apart from the remaining SSR's of Central Asia. Ethnographically it is combined, for instance, in the recent Soviet volume, Narody Sredney Azii i Kazakhstana (Peoples of Central, or Middle, Asia and Kazakhstan), 2 v., Moscow, 1962-1963, S. P. Tolstov, et al, ed. These matters are discussed below.

The view here espoused is one of sympathy for the problems of social and cultural development of the peoples. In my travels to the region in 1956 and 1960, I came to know and respect them, count many of them my friends, and hope that this is in some way reciprocated. If through this book, which is the work of a period now lying in the past and background, some understanding and thereby sympathy is communicated to the reader, so much to the good.

Lawrence Krader
May, 1966

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1. Political
2. Ethnic

*Both maps are located in a pocket at the end of the book.

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