
Return to Kashgar

Central Asian Memoirs in the Present

Gunnar Jarring

Translated from the Swedish by Eva Claeson

Duke University Press

Durham 1986

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Printed in the United States of America
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This book is a translation of Gunnar Jarring's
Åter till Kashgar (Stockholm: Bonniers, 1979),
plus a postscript subsequently added
by the author.

Library of Congress Cataloguing in Publication
Data appear on the last printed page of this book.

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Central Asia Book Series

This inaugural volume in the Central Asia Book Series is a travel memoir by the distinguished scholar and diplomat, Dr. Gunnar Jarring. His account of two extended visits to Sinkiang (Eastern Turkistan) separated by a half-century interval gives this work an extraordinary perspective. Especially informative and interesting are Dr. Jarring's unusual and innumerable observations and insights based on his deep knowledge of the area he visited, of the language, and of the people—the Central Asian Uighurs.

Dr. Jarring's many writings about Eastern Turkistan and its principal Turkic language and literature include *An Eastern Turki-English Dialect Dictionary* (1964), *A Tall Tale from Central Asia* (1973), *Literary Texts from Kashgar*, edited and translated with Notes and Glossary (1980), *Some Notes on Eastern Turki (New Uighur) Munazara Literature* (1981), *The Moen Collection of Eastern Turki (New Uighur) Proverbs and Popular Sayings*, edited with Translation, Notes, and Glossary (1985), as well as his important study, *On the Distribution of Turk Tribes in Afghanistan* (1939).

In his diplomatic work, Ambassador Jarring has served Sweden as minister to India, 1948–51; to Sri Lanka, 1950–51; and to Iran, Iraq, and Pakistan, 1951–52. From 1956 to 1958 he was

Sweden's delegate and ambassador to the United Nations, and from 1958 to 1964 served in Washington, D.C., as ambassador to the United States. Immediately thereafter began ten years of diplomatic service, first in Moscow, and then, in 1967, as special envoy to the United Nations for the Middle East.

Gunnar Jarring's valued contribution of his personal memoirs to the Central Asia Book Series initiates a publishing endeavor that will offer original research and analysis, reference books, eyewitness accounts, original and translated documents, and related categories of scholarship. Emphasis will be placed on publishing studies of contemporary developments in Central Asia's society, culture, and politics, using indigenous language sources. Historical documents and scholarship concerning events before the twentieth century may also be issued when these provide special insights into present affairs. Authors with manuscripts about Central Asia may write to Edward Allworth, Series Editor, 618 Kent Hall, Columbia University, New York, New York, U.S.A. 10027.

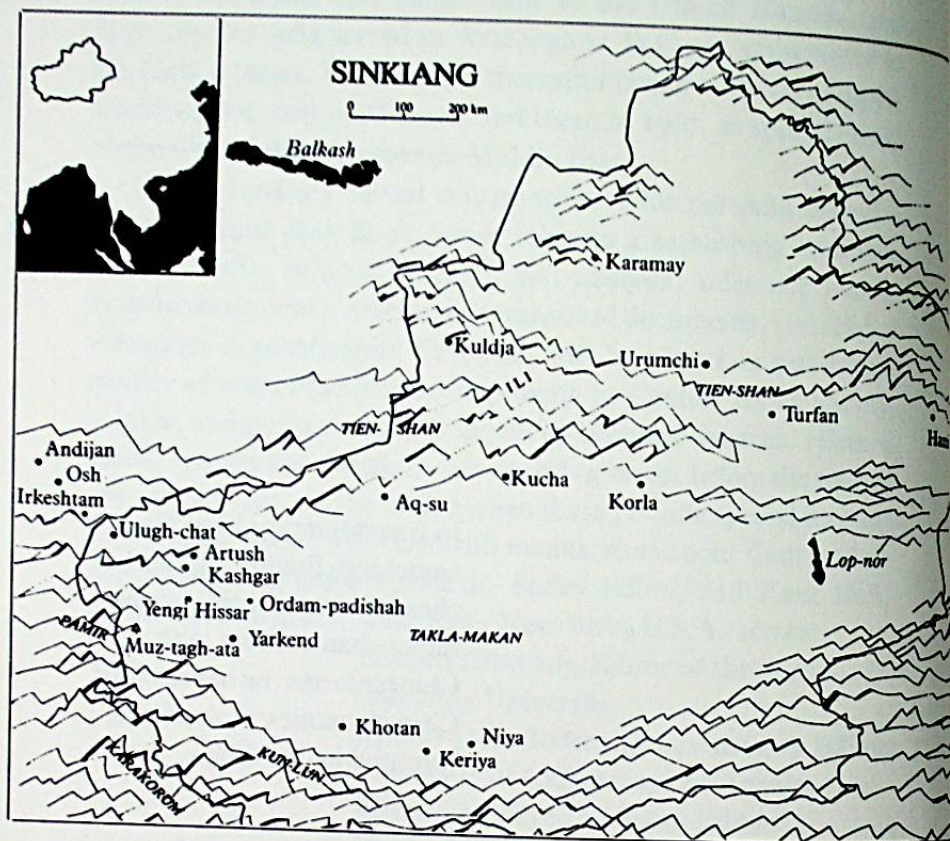
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Editor's Note

In transliterating local place names into English, the author chose to retain Turkic forms rather than convert to the Chinese forms; he has retained Chinese names in standard (pre-pinyin) spellings.



Return to Kashgar

This travel memoir by the distinguished Swedish scholar and diplomat, Gunnar Jarring, recounts two extended visits that he made to Sinkiang (Eastern Turkistan) during the years 1929 and 1978. The half-century interval between visits gives this work an extraordinary perspective.

In 1929, while a student at the University of Lund, Sweden, Jarring visited Kashgar and found a medieval community virtually untouched by Western influences. Fifty years later he returned, invited by the Chinese Academy of Sciences and Letters. This book compares the Kashgar of his youth with the one he encountered on his return. Ambassador Jarring's unique observations and insights are based on his extensive knowledge of the area and the Central Asian Uighurs and their language.

Gunnar Jarring has served his country as a diplomat, several times at the ambassadorial level, in posts in India, Sri Lanka, Iran, Iraq, Pakistan, the Soviet Union, the United States, and the United Nations.

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ISBN 0-8223-0664-6

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Jacket photographs: front panel, the author
in 1930; back panel, Kashgar in 1978.

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6697 College Station
Durham, North Carolina 27708

