
Soviet Central Asia
The Failed Transformation

EDITED BY

William Fierman

WITH A FOREWORD BY

Teresa Rakowska-Harmstone

Westview Press

BOULDER • SAN FRANCISCO • OXFORD

This Westview softcover edition is printed on acid-free paper and bound in library-quality, coated covers that carry the highest rating of the National Association of State Textbook Administrators, in consultation with the Association of American Publishers and the Book Manufacturers' Institute.

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopy, recording, or any information storage and retrieval system, without permission in writing from the publisher.

Copyright © 1991 by Westview Press, Inc.

Published in 1991 in the United States of America by Westview Press, Inc., 5500 Central Avenue, Boulder, Colorado 80301, and in the United Kingdom by Westview Press, 36 Lonsdale Road, Summertown, Oxford OX2 7EW

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data
Soviet Central Asia : the failed transformation / edited by William
Fierman : with a foreword by Teresa Rakowska-Harmstone.

p. cm.

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 0-8133-7907-5

1. Soviet Central Asia—Politics and government.
2. Russification—Soviet Central Asia. 3. Soviet Central Asia—
Social conditions—1917— I. Fierman, William.

DK859.S68 1991

958'.408—dc20

91-13398
CIP

Printed and bound in the United States of America



The paper used in this publication meets the requirements
of the American National Standard for Permanence of Paper
for Printed Library Materials Z39.48-1984.

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2

Contents

<i>Foreword, Teresa Rakowska-Harmstone</i>	ix
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	xvii
<i>Note on Spelling and Transliteration</i>	xix
Introduction, <i>William Fierman</i>	1
PART ONE: The Setting	
1 The Soviet "Transformation" of Central Asia, <i>William Fierman</i>	11
2 Implications of Ethnic and Demographic Trends, <i>Nancy Lubin</i>	36
3 Central Asia's Cotton Economy and Its Costs, <i>Boris Z. Rumer</i>	62
PART TWO: Politics	
4 Power and Politics in Soviet Uzbekistan: From Stalin to Gorbachev, <i>Donald S. Carlisle</i>	93
5 Prelude to "Independence": How the Uzbek Party Apparatus Broke Moscow's Grip on Elite Recruitment, <i>James Critchlow</i>	131
PART THREE: Identity and Religion	
6 Ethnic Attitudes and Relations in Modern Uzbek Cities, <i>Ronald Wixman</i>	159
7 Islam and Atheism: Dynamic Tension in Soviet Central Asia, <i>Azade-Ayşe Rorlich</i>	186

- 8 Forging a Soviet People: Ethnolinguistics in
Central Asia, *Isabelle Kreindler* 219

PART FOUR: Socioeconomic Issues

- 9 Women and Society in Central Asia,
Martha Brill Olcott 235
- 10 Central Asian Youth and Migration,
William Fierman 255
- Conclusion, *William Fierman* 290
- Glossary 309
- About the Editor and Contributors 311
- Index 313

Praise for *Soviet Central Asia*

"An excellent collection by outstanding Western commentators on Soviet Central Asia."

—Murray Feshbach
Georgetown University

By the late 1980s, events in the USSR had clearly demonstrated the limits of the central government's ability to transform the country's non-Russian peoples into assimilated, "internationalist" Soviet citizens or even to maintain the desired level of control over them. Those limits have been particularly visible in the Central Asian republics, where ethnic and religious differences, combined with the region's deteriorating economy and despoiled natural environment, have created an explosive tension. Conflicts exist not only between the center and the outlying republics but also among the indigenous peoples and those—mostly ethnic Russians—who have migrated to Central Asia from other areas of the USSR.

This volume is designed to provide the background necessary to understand Central Asia's current situation. The contributing authors examine Soviet policy toward the region over the past several decades, analyzing the mechanisms through which the Communist Party has sought to achieve its aims and assessing the results of those efforts within the region's social, political, economic, demographic, and cultural contexts. Taking a long view of the issues underlying the desire of Central Asians for local autonomy, the contributors show how the historical salience of these issues is now being reinforced by the central government's co-optation of local resources and insensitivity to local needs.

The contributors describe how, in the changing political environment of the Gorbachev era, Moscow has begun openly to acknowledge the costs of its attempt to transform Central Asian society and to admit its lack of success; this admission, in turn, is facilitating a reformulation of policies concerning Central Asia and even a devolution of decisionmaking powers. However, in view of the recent exacerbation of longstanding rivalries and territorial disputes among various ethnic groups, as well as the ongoing tension between traditional Islamic values and those of Soviet secular life, the contributors hold out little hope for regional stabilization in the coming decade.

William Fierman is associate professor in the Department of Uralic and Altaic Studies at Indiana University at Bloomington.

For order and other information, please write to:

WESTVIEW PRESS, 5500 Central Avenue, Boulder, Colorado 80301

ISBN 0-8133-7907-5