

THE CENTRAL ASIAN NEWSLETTER

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FROM THE EDITORS

While the name of this organization remains subject to approval by the British authorities and possibly to change, its basic objectives are firmly fixed: to serve as a centre for initiating and co-ordinating research by specialists of the Central Asian region, as a repository for research materials, and a publisher of scholarly studies; and to act through its various activities and publications to enhance public awareness of Central Asia in its many aspects. Steps have been taken to incorporate as a company limited by guarantee, a process which we hope will be completed by the beginning of 1982.

The Institute will be directed by Mr. Enders Wimbush, who will be assisted by a small staff. Mr. Wimbush and his staff intend to publish several media by which research and general information about Central Asia will be disseminated to subscribers. The principal medium will be the journal Central Asian Affairs, which is scheduled to appear in early summer 1982. Central Asian Affairs will present articles dealing with all aspects of Central Asian life but with an emphasis on the history, politics, and culture of the region.

The Central Asian Newsletter, for which Mrs. Marie Bennigsen Broxup will have primary responsibility, will concentrate on current news of the profession. We anticipate that the Newsletter will appear monthly or every six weeks, depending on the volume of material received. Once incorporation has been accomplished, a small fee will be charged for a subscription. All subscribers to the now defunct MASA Communique will receive the Newsletter and information about its subscription conditions, as well as about the conditions for Central Asian Affairs, automatically.

In our view, the new organization should be defined broadly enough to include within its range of interests populations and regions that share ethnic, political, historical, cultural, and religious developments and processes. Thus, the Institute will encourage and publish research dealing with Soviet Central Asia and Kazakhstan as well as those ethnically related regions of China (mainly Xinjiang province), Afghanistan and Iran. Moreover, our work shall encompass the Central Volga-Ural region of the USSR, the Muslim North Caucasus, and Azerbaidzhan, which share many problems with Central Asia

proper and are linked to it by history and culture.

The Director and his staff are currently gathering scholarly articles and book reviews for Central Asian Affairs and information for the Newsletter. We wish to encourage all interested parties to send manuscripts and other materials to:

S. E. Wimbush,
P.O. Box 131,
Oxford OX1 2NJ,
United Kingdom.

Visitors are welcome to our small office at 33A Beaumont Street (which is in fact directly opposite #2 St. John's Street), Oxford, but we would request that visitors telephone first to Oxford (0865) 50049.

NEW RESEARCH MATERIALS

ARIN (Afghan Refugee Information Network) 85 Marylebone High Street, London W1, United Kingdom. Telephone 01-487-4583) This newsletter gives updated information about Afghan refugee life in Pakistan and Iran and current reports of important political and military events surrounding the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, such as recent Russian attempts to quell the Afghan resistance.

CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

(The Editors request individuals who wish to share their conference and workshop papers with interested parties to write to the Newsletter with information concerning how these papers can be obtained.)

o American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies, 13th National Convention, 20-23 September 1981. The following papers were among those prepared for the convention:

"The Afghan Resistance"
Richard Newell (University of North Iowa)

"Afghanistan's Economic Resources"
Ted Shabad (Editor, Soviet Geography)

"The Implications of the Soviet Invasion of Afghanistan for the Persian Gulf"
Francis Fukuyama (U.S. Department of State)

"Afghanistan and the Soviet Muslims"
S. Enders Wimbush (Editor, Central Asian Newsletter)

"Islam, Communism and Pastoralism: the 'New Kazakh Man' "
Martha Brill Olcott (Colgate University)

"The Changing Image of Nomads in the USSR"
Paul Goble (Foreign Broadcast Information Service)

"Cultural Adaptation of Nomads under Communism"
Ronald Wixman (University of Oregon)

"Kirghiz Pastoral Nomadic 'Communalism in the Pamirs'"
M. Nazif Shahrani (University of California at Los Angeles)

"The Soviets in Central Asia and Afghanistan"
Alexandre Bennigsen
(University of Chicago)

"The USSR and the Middle East"
Chantal Lemercier-Quelquejay
(University of Paris)

o The Turcophone Peoples of Soviet Central Asia: Economic and Social Developments
Centre for Middle Eastern Studies, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London. The following papers were prepared for the symposium:

"Geographical Constraints on the Development of Soviet Central Asia"
J.C. Dewdney (University of Durham)

"Fraternal Assistance or Colonial Control: Reflections on Economic Development in Soviet Central Asia"
Alastair McAuley (Essex University)

"The Water Supply Problem and Possible Solutions"
E. Hollis (University College, London)

"Demographic Policy, Modernisation and Social Development"
J. Peers (University of Birmingham)

VISITING PROFESSORS

Professor Li Youyi of the Institute of Nationality Studies, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Beijing, PRC, currently is the Luce Visiting Professor,

Department of Anthropology, University of Southern California, University Park, Los Angeles, California 90007. Professor Li is a specialist of nationality development in China, a prominent expert of Tibet, and the Director of the Section of World Nationality Study of his Institute.

Professor Geng Shimin of the Central Institute for Nationalities, Beijing, PRC, currently is conducting research at the Religionswissenschaftliches Seminar, University of Bonn (53 Bonn, Seminargebaude Am Hof 34, West Germany). Professor Geng is one of China's leading Turkologists, specializing in ancient and modern Turkic languages of Central Asia.

Professor Ma Yong, Secretary General of the Chinese Society for Central Asian Studies, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, will join the Department of History of Yale University in January 1982, where he will lecture on the Chinese northwest.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Alexandre Bennigsen and Chantal Lemercier-Quelquejay, Les Musulmans Oublies: L'Islam en URSS aujourd'hui, Paris, Maspero, 1981

Michael Rywkin, Moscow's Muslim Challenge: Soviet Central Asia Today, New York, Sharpe Inc., 1981.

"Panturkism in Russia and the USSR"
Edward Lazzarini (University of New Orleans)

"The Soviet Dilemma: The Turkic Renaissance in Central Asia"
Daniel Matuszewski
(International Research and Exchange Board, New York)

"Perceptions of Class and Ethnic Identity"
Zvi Gitelman (University of Michigan)

"Uzbekistan in the 1980s: Religion, Demography, Identity"
Michael Rywkin (City College, City University of New York)

"Economic Costs of Linguistically Alternative Communication Systems in Soviet Central Asia"
Toussaint Hocevar (University of New Orleans)

"Ethnic Identity and Policy-Making in Soviet Central Asia"
Terese Zimmer (University of Chicago)

"Uzbek Ethnic Attitudes as Expressed in Contemporary Literature"
William Fierman (University of Tennessee)

"Career Patterns in the Uzbek Literary Community"
David Montgomery (Brigham Young University)

"Stalin as Narkomnats, 1917-1924"
Stephen Blank (University of Texas, San Antonio)

"Stalin and the Purge in Uzbekistan"
Donald S. Carlisle
(Boston College)

X o A Colloquium on China's Minorities Today
Convened by the University of Southern California East Asian Studies Centre and the Southern California China Colloquium, 1 October 1981. The participants in this colloquium were:

Professor Li Youyi
(Institute of Nationality Studies, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Beijing, China.
Luce Visiting Professor, Department of Anthropology, U.S.C.)

Mr. Herman Wong,
presenting a report and photographic slides on Yunnan and Sichuan minorities today.

Mr. John Soper
(University of California at Los Angeles), with a report on Xinjiang minorities today.

Professor Azade-Ayse Rorlich (U.S.C.)

o The World of Islam: Past, Present, Future
I. Tradition and Change in the Islamic World.
II. The Middle-Eastern Cauldron. St. Mary's College of Maryland, U.S.A. 7-8 November 1981. Among others the following papers were presented:

Guy Imart, "Le Kirghiz. Description d'une Langue de litterisation recente avec une Etude sur le Dialecte Kirghiz du Pamir Afghan par Remy Dor'," 1981.

By subscription until 15 January 1982 to: Services de Publications, Universite de Provence, France; then from Editors Jeanne Lafitte, Marseille, France.

Edward Allworth, Ethnic Russia in the USSR: The Dilemmas of Dominance, New York, Pergamon Press, 1980.

Peter Hopkirk, Foreign Devils on the Silk Road, London, John Murray, 1980.

Elisabeth E. Bacon, Central Asians Under Russian Rule: A Study in Cultural Change, 2nd edition, Ithaca, N.Y., Cornell University Press, 1980.

Philip L. Kohl, The Bronze Age Civilization of Central Asia: Recent Soviet Discoveries New York, Sharpe Inc., 1981.

Rocky L. Rockett, Ethnic Nationalities in the Soviet Union, New York, Praeger, 1981.

Marie Broxup, "Islam and Atheism in the North Caucasus", Religion in Communist Lands, Volume 9, Numbers 1-2, Spring 1981.

Kemal H. Karpat, "The Status of the Muslims under European Rule; the Eviction and Settlement of the Cherkes", Muslim Minority Affairs, Volume II, Numbers 1-2, 1979-1980.

Martha Brill Olcott, "The Collectivization Drive in Kazakhstan", The Russian Review, Number 4, 1981.

✕ Alain Jacob, "China's Islamic Enclave", The Muslim World League, Volume 8, Number 10, 1981.

Jonathan Steele, a series of four articles on recent events in Afghanistan for The Guardian, 9-12 November 1981:

"Russians are fighting on the outskirts of Kabul"

"Bloodshed waits just a bus ride out of Kabul"

"Soviets shoulder the white man's burden"

"Stalemate with a long future"

During this period, The Guardian also featured articles by Edward Girardet on the Afghan resistance in the Panjshir valley.

✕ Denis A. Smith, "Communist China Reassesses Impact of Islam", The Muslim World League, Volume 7, Number 11, 1980.

David Rees, "Afghanistan's Role in Soviet Strategy," Conflict Studies, Number 118, 1980. in

The Soviet Empire: Pressures and Strains, London, Institute for the Study of Conflict, January, 1980.

Brian Pearce, "The 26 Commissars" and "On the Fate of the 26 Commisars", followed by documents from the India Office Archives relating to the case of the 26 Commisars, Sbornik, Numbers 6-7, 1981, Department of Russian Studies, University of Leeds, United Kingdom.

NEW ORGANIZATIONS

Afghan Support Committee.

Launched in July 1981.

Chairman: Peter Temple-Morris,
M.P. Director: Peers Caster,
C.M.G. 18 Charing Cross Road,
London WC2. Tel: 01-351-2183.
The Committee states as its
aims:

1. To campaign for the right of the Afghan people to individual freedom and national self-determination.
2. To raise money for Afghan refugees.
3. To promote knowledge of Afghanistan.
4. To liaise nationally and internationally with all bodies working with similar objectives.

NEWS IN BRIEF

o Unofficial Soviet sources report ethnic fighting in Ordzhonikidze in the North Ossetian Autonomous Republic between Ossetians and Ingush. The fighting is reported to have forced the authorities to call in security forces and to impose a curfew during early November. The area has apparently returned to normal and the curfew has been lifted.

o Seven KGB generals and three high-ranking officials, including the Prime Minister of the Kirghiz SSR are reported to have been assassinated in less than a year in the USSR.

o First Secretary of the Uzbek SSR and Politburo member Rashidov has been defending Uzbek interests in a recent interview in Literaturnaia Gazeta. Rashidov's main points are as follows:

Uzbeks have played an important role in the Soviet Union during the war and since as a friend of Russia.

Uzbek culture can play a positive role in the development of Soviet society. Even believers "accept the new life" and should not be persecuted.

Uzbeks may be willing to migrate to new, non-Central Asians areas, but this migration must not be compulsory.

Soviet authorities "cannot ignore the (Central Asian) way of life, which has evolved over centuries."

o A recent article in Krasnaia Zvezda (9 October 1981) gives new evidence about the increasing proportion of Asian recruits in the Soviet armed forces and of the tensions this influx is causing between different nationalities. The author is concerned about discriminatory practices towards national minorities. Noting that demographic factors now "are making themselves felt", the author argues that the eradication of national tensions within the armed forces is a matter of "decisive importance".

HOW TO SUBSCRIBE TO THE NEWSLETTER

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