

# **The Subtlest Battle**

**Islam in Soviet Tajikistan**

**Muriel Atkin**

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## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Muriel Atkin is an Associate Professor in the Department of History at George Washington University. She is the author of *Russia and Iran, 1780-1828*, and numerous articles on Islam in the Soviet Union.

## ABOUT THE BOOK

In *The Subtlest Battle*, Muriel Atkin reports on Islamic life in the Soviet republic of Tajikistan, and particularly on the efforts of Muslims to maintain their religion against the pressures of an avowedly atheistic state. Looking beyond official institutions and religious figures, she shows how a flourishing "unofficial Islam" has come to serve the religious needs of many Tajiks. And she inquires into the possibility, now much debated in the West, that the Soviet Muslim republics might provide the foundations for a political challenge to the Soviet state.

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