

TURKISTAN

*Notes of a Journey
in Russian Turkistan,
Kokand, Bukhara and Kuldja*

by
EUGENE SCHUYLER

Edited with an Introduction by
GEOFFREY WHEELER

Abridged by
K. E. WEST



Routledge and Kegan Paul

LONDON

*This edition published 1966
by Routledge & Kegan Paul Limited
Broadway House, 68-74 Carter Lane
London, E.C.4*

*Printed in Great Britain
by Western Printing Services Ltd.
Bristol*

© Geoffrey Wheeler 1966

*No part of this book may be reproduced
in any form without permission from
the publisher, except for the quotation
of brief passages in criticism*

Contents

<i>Editor's Preface</i>	page ix
<i>Introduction</i>	xi
<i>Author's Preface</i>	xxxv
I. <i>The Steppe</i>	3
II. <i>The Syr Darya</i>	26
III. <i>Tashkent</i>	39
IV. <i>Mussulman Life in Tashkent</i>	57
V. <i>The Bazaars and Trade</i>	97
VI. <i>Samarkand</i>	118
VII. <i>The Zarafshan Valley</i>	141
VIII. <i>Hodjent and Kuram</i>	157
IX. <i>Khokand</i>	169
X. <i>Bukhara</i>	206
XI. <i>Issyk Kul and Semiretch</i>	253
XII. <i>Kuldja</i>	268
<i>Conclusion</i>	283
<i>Appendix</i>	285
<i>Bibliography</i>	287
<i>Index</i>	293

Illustrations

Kirghiz Horsemen	<i>page</i> 3
Kirghiz changing Camp	19
A typical Kirghiz	24
The Mosque Hazret at Turkistan	26
A Kirghiz Tomb	31
A View on the Syr Darya	34
Baba Bek and Jura Bek	46
Tashkent. Looking over the roofs of the Bazaar to the Medresse of Beklar-Bek	49
A Boy of Tashkent	57
Street in Tashkent with Mosque	68
Dervishes	92
A Bazaar Cook	97
A Hindoo Merchant of Tashkent	106
Medresse Shir-Dar at Samarkand	118
The Tomb of Timur	131
Seid Mohammed Khudayar, Khan of Khokand	170
Pulat the Arbakesh	206
Jews in Samarkand	212
Mozaffar-Eddin, Amir of Bukara	224
A Wayside Tomb	249
Dungan Women	268
Ruins of Ili	273
Tarantchi Aksakal at Kuldja and his Attendants	278

Maps

Central Asia, showing Schuyler's journey in 1873	<i>-facing page 1</i>
Central Asian Khanates in mid-nineteenth century	<i>page 289</i>
The Russian Conquest of Central Asia	290-1
The Soviet Socialist Republics of Kazakhstan, Kirgiziya, Tadzhikistan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan	292

Editor's Preface

IN PREPARING the present abridged edition of Schuyler's *Turkistan* I have concentrated mainly on that part of the work concerned with the author's impressions of the country and the people. At least a quarter of the book consists of chapters on the Russian administration, Russian foreign policy in Asia, the Khivan campaign and its consequences, and some long appendices. These except for Schuyler's interesting 'Conclusion' have necessarily been omitted.

In the Introduction I have tried to consider some aspects of the significance of the Russian presence in Central Asia in the light of previous history and also of subsequent developments.

In Schuyler's time consistent systems had not yet been worked out for the transliteration of Russian and other languages into Latin script. His rendering of geographical and personal names is phonetic and often differs widely from modern spellings. To avoid impairing the flavour of his book, however, they have been retained. Where his spelling is so different as to defy recognition, the modern spelling has been included in the Index. Entirely new names such as Leninabad for Hodjent have also been added.

As Schuyler's book was virtually the first to deal comprehensively with 'Turkistan' I have added a brief bibliography of subsequent books including some written during and about the Soviet period. I have also appended a note on the past and present uses of the term 'Turkistan'.

Eugene Schuyler (1840-90) was born at Ithaca, N.Y., the son of George Washington Schuyler, a well-known state official and author. After graduating at Yale he studied law, was admitted to the bar and in 1863 began to practise in New York. But his interest in languages

led him to apply for a diplomatic post and in 1867 he was appointed American consul in Moscow. He served in various capacities in Russia and it was while holding his last post there as consul-general in St. Petersburg that he carried out his memorable journey in Turkistan.

In 1876 Schuyler was consul-general in Constantinople and after an extensive and hazardous tour of Bulgaria he wrote a report which was later made public in J. A. MacGahan's *The Turkish Atrocities in Bulgaria* (London 1876). The report had a wide effect on liberal opinion in Europe and America but it gave rise to an unofficial Turkish protest. At the same time Schuyler was suspected of being under Russian influence, since he had cooperated with the Russian embassy in Constantinople in drawing up a plan for an independent Bulgaria; he was therefore recalled from Turkey. He was later appointed to Rome and in 1880 became the first American diplomatic representative in Rumania, then a principality.

In 1882 he was appointed minister resident and consul-general to Greece, Rumania and Serbia.

In 1884, Schuyler temporarily left the American foreign service and after teaching for two years at Johns Hopkins and Cornell universities he settled in Italy at Alassio. In 1889 he accepted an appointment as assistant Secretary of State; but his nomination was withdrawn owing to opposition in the Senate committee on foreign relations. In the same year he was appointed consul-general in Cairo but died a few weeks later.

Schuyler was a gifted linguist and an outspoken writer. His considerable literary output included a *History of Peter the Great*, a number of translations from Russian and *American Diplomacy and the Furtherance of Commerce*. It was probably the frankness of this last work which produced senate opposition to his appointment as assistant secretary of state. Schuyler was outwardly of gentle and retiring disposition. But he was a man of strong personal convictions and he had great personal courage, as can be seen by his having penetrated the Khanate of Kokand before it came under Russian rule and at a time when the appearance of a white man was apt to excite fanatical hatred.

G.W.

Eight years after the Russian capture of Tashkent in 1865, Eugene Schuyler, then American consul in St. Petersburg, set out to tour Russia's newly acquired dominions. His purpose was to acquaint himself with the way of life and environment of the Muslim peoples inhabiting the region and to see how they were faring under Russian rule.

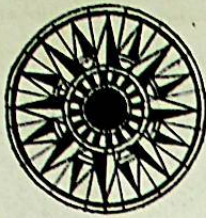
Travelling entirely by road, often in the most primitive conditions, Schuyler managed in the space of eighteen months to traverse the Steppe Region, spend a considerable time observing urban life in Tashkent, Samarkand, Bukhara, and several smaller towns in the oases, visit the still independent Khanate of Kokand, and even to tour the Kuldja district of Chinese Sinkiang then under Russian military occupation. As an American, Schuyler was able to view the phenomenon of Russian rule over peoples of different race and culture with objectivity and detachment. The great Russian oriental historian, V. V. Barthold, regarded Schuyler as a leading authority on Russian Central Asia in the 1870s; study of Schuyler's book is still essential for anyone wishing to understand the basic characteristics of the Muslims of Central Asia and how they reacted to the Russian presence there.

In his introduction, Geoffrey Wheeler traces the connexion between the Tsarist and Soviet regimes in Central Asia with that of the British in India, particularly with respect to the attitudes of the two imperial powers towards Islam.

THE EDITOR :

Geoffrey Wheeler served in the Indian Army and Political Service for thirty years, fifteen of which he spent in the Middle East and North East Persia. He was a Counsellor in the British Embassy, Tehran from 1946 to 1950. Since 1953 he has been Director of the Central Asian Research Centre, London.

The Listener described the start of the series as 'An excellent idea. Mr. Hallett has got away to a good start with this judiciously abridged edition of the little-known journals of the Landers, two young Cornishmen whose discovery of the mouth of the Niger in 1830 was one of the crucial achievements of African exploration.'



TRAVELLERS AND EXPLORERS

General Editor Robin Hallett

In every century from the time of Herodotus onwards, works of travel have shown themselves a form of literature possessing a remarkably wide-ranging appeal. Today, however, it is difficult to procure many of the great travel books of the past, some of which have become rare collectors' items, while others have not been reprinted for more than half a century. The aim of this new series of *Travellers and Explorers* is to make available new editions of some of the great works of the past at a reasonable price and in a form acceptable both to the general reader and to the scholar. The series is intended as a successor to the *Broadway Travellers*, the last of whose twenty-six volumes appeared in 1937.

Already published

THE NIGER JOURNAL
of Richard and John Lander
Edited by Robin Hallett

A MISSION TO GELELE, KING OF DAHOME
by Richard F. Burton (1864)
Edited by C. W. Newbury

FIRST FOOTSTEPS IN EAST AFRICA
by Richard F. Burton (1856)
Edited by Gordon Waterfield

TURKISTAN
by Eugene Schuyler (1876)
Edited by Geoffrey Wheeler
Director, Central Asian Research Centre

Coming soon

NINEVEH AND ITS REMAINS
by A. H. Layard (1848)
Edited by H. W. F. Saggs

A MISSION TO BOKHARA
by Joseph Wolff (1848)
Edited by Guy Wint