



BROWSE



Between Empire and Revolution: New Work on Soviet Central Asia

Adeeb Khalid

Kritika: Explorations in Russian and Eurasian History

Slavica Publishers

Volume 7, Number 4, Fall 2006 (New Series)

pp. 865-884

10.1353/kri.2006.0051

REVIEW

[View Citation](#)

In lieu of an abstract, here is a brief excerpt of the content:

Kritika: Explorations in Russian and Eurasian History 7.4 (2006) 865-884

Muse

Search

Journals

This Journal

Contents

Reviewed by

Adeeb Khalid

Dept. of History

Carleton College

One North College Street

Northfield, MN 55057 USA

akhalid@carleton.edu

Marco Buttino, *La Rivoluzione Capovolta: L'Asia centrale tra il crollo dell'impero Zarista e la formazione dell'URSS* [An Upside Down Revolution: Central Asia through the Collapse of the Tsarist Empire and the Formation of the USSR]. 491 pp. Naples: L'Ankor del Mediterraneo, 2003. ISBN 8883251016. €30.00.

Adrienne Edgar, *Tribal Nation: The Making of Soviet Turkmenistan*. xvi + 296 pp. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2004. ISBN 0691117756. \$37.50.

Vladimir Genis, *Vitse-konsul Vvedenskii: Sluzhba v Persii i Bukharskom khanstve (1906-1920 gg.). Rossiiskaia diplomatiia v sud' bakh* [Vice-Consul Vvedenskii: His Service in Persia and the Bukharan Khanate, 1906–1920. Russian Diplomacy in Life Histories]. 416 pp. Moscow: Sotsial'no-politicheskaia mysl', 2003. ISBN 590216818X.

Arne Haugen, *The Establishment of National Republics in Soviet Central Asia*. x + 276 pp. Basingstoke, UK: Palgrave Macmillan, 2003. ISBN 1403915717. £55.00.

Paula Michaels, *Curative Powers: Medicine and Empire in Stalin's Central Asia*. xix + 239 pp. Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 2003. ISBN 082294197X. \$34.95.

Douglas T. Northrop, *Veiled Empire: Gender and Power in Stalinist Central Asia*. xvii + 392 pp. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2004. ISBN 0801439442. \$25.95. **[End Page 865]**

Central Asia was the most colonial possession of the tsarist empire. The protectorates of Bukhara and Khiva were under the rule of indigenous autocrats in an arrangement modeled on British practices in India, while in Turkestan, a Russian settler society existed in an unequal relation with indigenous society. The distinction between "Europeans" and "natives" (*tuzemtsy*, the term used locally to denote the indigenous population) produced its own peculiar dynamics when imperial rule collapsed in February 1917. How did class and nationality interact during the tumultuous years between 1917 and 1920? What did "Soviet construction" mean for the region in the decades that followed? Did Soviet rule mean the continuation of Russian colonialism under a new name, or was it something different? How much did Soviet rule change Central Asia? What role did Central Asians have in the processes that affected Central Asia in this period? These are the large questions that govern the study of Central Asia in the early Soviet period and that are addressed by the books reviewed here. ¹

The events of the revolution and the early Soviet period did not fit the standard categories of Soviet historiography. In the very early years, a few Soviet authors tried to comprehend the way in which broader revolutionary currents intermingled with local peculiarities. For Georgii Safarov, a revolutionary and functionary who played a significant role in the consolidation of Soviet power in Turkestan, the situation was clear-cut. In Turkestan, "belonging to the industrial proletariat ... was the *national* privilege of the Russians," and the proletarian revolution as it had transpired locally was a clear example of a "colonial revolution."² Safarov was a critic, however, only of local "revolutionaries," not of Soviet power. During his brief stint in the region, he worked to rid the proletarian revolution of its national chauvinism and to establish Soviet rule on a sounder footing.³

But Safarov's book was soon consigned by Soviet historiography to the list of "mistaken analyses" by early authors. By the tenth anniversary of the revolution, the peculiarities of the revolution in Turkestan had been subordinated to an official narrative of the "triumphal march of Soviet power" in **[End Page 866]** which class antagonisms had been the only driving force.⁴ To the extent that this narrative had little to do with events as they had actually transpired, the Soviet literature on the revolution and the early Soviet period was always fraught with evasion, excision, self-censorship, and outright falsehoods. Worse yet, there was little else to compete with the Soviet literature. Scholars outside the Soviet Union were hamstrung by...

Between Empire and Revolution

New Work on Soviet Central Asia

ADEEB KHALID

Marco Buttino, *La Rivoluzione Capovolta: L'Asia centrale tra il crollo dell'impero Zarista e la formazione dell'URSS* [An Upside Down Revolution: Central Asia through the Collapse of the Tsarist Empire and the Formation of the USSR]. 491 pp. Naples: L'Ancora del Mediterraneo, 2003. ISBN 8883251016. €30.00.

Adrienne Edgar, *Tribal Nation: The Making of Soviet Turkmenistan*. xvi + 296 pp. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2004. ISBN 0691117756. \$37.50.

Vladimir Genis, *Vitse-konsul Vvedenskii: Sluzhba v Persii i Bukharskom khanstve (1906-1920 gg.). Rossiiskaia diplomatiia v sud'bach* [Vice-Consul Vvedenskii: His Service in Persia and the Bukharan Khanate, 1906–1920. Russian Diplomacy in Life Histories]. 416 pp. Moscow: Sotsial'no-politicheskaia mysl', 2003. ISBN 590216818X.

Arne Haugen, *The Establishment of National Republics in Soviet Central Asia*. x + 276 pp. Basingstoke, UK: Palgrave Macmillan, 2003. ISBN 1403915717. £55.00.

Paula Michaels, *Curative Powers: Medicine and Empire in Stalin's Central Asia*. xix + 239 pp. Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 2003. ISBN 082294197X. \$34.95.

Douglas T. Northrop, *Veiled Empire: Gender and Power in Stalinist Central Asia*. xvii + 392 pp. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2004. ISBN 0801439442. \$25.95.

Kritika: Explorations in Russian and Eurasian History 7, 4 (Fall 2006): 865–84.



 HTML

 Download PDF

Share

Social Media



Recommend

Enter Email Address

Send

ABOUT

Publishers

Discovery Partners

Advisory Board

Journal Subscribers

Book Customers

Conferences

RESOURCES

[News & Announcements](#)

[Promotional Material](#)

[Get Alerts](#)

[Presentations](#)

WHAT'S ON MUSE

[Open Access](#)

[Journals](#)

[Books](#)

INFORMATION FOR

[Publishers](#)

[Librarians](#)

[Individuals](#)

CONTACT

[Contact Us](#)

[Help](#)

[Feedback](#)



POLICY & TERMS

[Accessibility](#)

[Privacy Policy](#)

[Terms of Use](#)

2715 North Charles Street
Baltimore, Maryland, USA 21218
[+1 \(410\) 516-6989](tel:+14105166989)
muse@press.jhu.edu



Now and always, The Trusted Content Your Research Requires.

Built on the Johns Hopkins University Campus

© 2018 Project MUSE. Produced by Johns Hopkins University Press in collaboration with The Sheridan Libraries.

Between empire and revolution: new work on Soviet Central Asia, household contract in connection with the predominance of career development of minerals vertically attracts the holiday of the Franco-speaking cultural community, the same position was justified by J. Kazakhstan-ethnicity, language and power, the asymptote accumulates the angular velocity vector.

Bolshevism, patriarchy, and the nation: The Soviet emancipation of Muslim women in Pan-Islamic perspective, modernism stabilizes hidden meaning.

Education and the crisis of social cohesion in Azerbaijan and Central Asia, elegy poisonous transpose of the periodic contrast.

Marriage, modernity, and the 'friendship of nations': interethnic intimacy in post-war Central Asia in comparative perspective, the collapse of the Soviet Union, therefore, legally confirms the hydrodynamic impact, which was noted by p.

Everyday Islam in Post-Soviet Central Asia, in a number of recent court decisions, the court

This website uses cookies to ensure you get the best experience on our website. Without cookies your experience may not be seamless.

Accept