Eurasian Politics

Everyday Life in Central Asia



[Uzbek miniatures](https://www.advantour.com/uzbekistan/culture.htm) make a comeback

Why this book?

Learn about Central Asia from the ground up

\*A radical proposition, esp in POLS that tends to study POLITICAL ELITES

INSTITUTIONS

Anthropology, Political Anthropology

Ethnography

Culture, esp everyday life shows us the foundations of the region

\*\*esp a region we are unfamiliar with

From the Background section of book:

“**Events and memories of the distant past continue to weigh heavily on the peoples of Central Asia. Issues of origins, heritage, and lineage pervade everyday life, as several articles in this volume will show.”**



The [Kazakh horse](http://www.horsebreedspictures.com/kazakh-horse.asp)

Why? Why might these issues be relatively MORE important in Central Asia than in other regions?

Heritage of great rulers and warriors

[Chinggis Khan](https://www.history.com/topics/china/genghis-khan)

Archeology discovers [ruins](https://www.history.com/news/archaeologists-reveal-city-ruled-by-genghis-khans-heirs) in Russia

Volga River valley

Destroyed by:

Amir [Timur](https://www.britannica.com/biography/Timur) (Tamerlane)

[Babur](https://www.britannica.com/biography/Babur)

[](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fYcJ8u3SzzY)

FACTORS that have profoundly shaped the region over time

[NOMADISM](https://www.britannica.com/topic/nomadism)

Varieties of

Hunter-gatherers

[Pastoralists](https://typesoffarming.wordpress.com/2016/01/23/gh/)

Herders

Ltd agriculture – seasonal

[](https://www.mongolia-trips.com/travel-tips/nomadic-life-traditions/nomadism-mongolia/)

Region often defined by interactions between these pastoralists AND

More sedentary farmers of the south oases



SYMBIOSIS between pastoralists (animals) and farmers (grains)

Traders

Warriors

Relos (wha?)

MIGRATION

DIVERSITY – symbiotic but tenuous

Relations among groups

Trade, economic interdependence

But also INVASION, resource extraction,

Political domination

SYCRETIC process – a two-way street

Conquerers also adapted to societies and cultures they conquered

Turks🡪Kazaks, Kyrgyz, Turkmen, Uzbeks

Tajiks 🡪 Tajiks

Chpt 1 Turks and Tajiks



Turkmen women carrying on the tradition of weaving some of the finest [wool rugs](https://madderlane.com/category/turkmenistan/) in the world.

Original inhabitants of C Asia?

People from RUSSIA who moved southward

Around 2000 BCE

[Eurasian nomads](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eurasian_nomads)

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[Kyrgyz people](http://www.horsebreedspictures.com/kazakh-horse.asp)



[BBC story](https://www.bbc.com/news/blogs-news-from-elsewhere-32394760) on banning sale of black clothes for women in Dushanbe