

Suggestions for Further Research On Islam and Central Asia

VIDEO

**Habiba: A Sufi Saint from Uzbekistan*. 30 minutes. Chronicles a Sufi Muslim healer who works in Uzbekistan.

INTERNET RESOURCES

<http://www.peacecorps.gov/countries/kyrgyzrep/culture.html>

Short overview about Kyrgyzstan's culture, heavily influenced by Muslim practice.

<http://www.nixoncenter.org/publications/Program%20Briefs/vol6no24Islam.htm>

A summary of a panel devoted to the topic of Islam in Central Asia and its potential for threat.

<http://www.indiana.edu/~iaunrc/caweb.html> Central Asia Regional Information.

This page contains convenient starting points for exploring web sites related to Central Asia. To make this page easier to load and use, we generally have limited the list to those sites which contain substantial collections of links to information on these subjects.

<http://www.eurasianet.org> A news and information site with current articles and analyses on the impact of recent events on Central Asia, including Afghanistan. Sign up to get weekly news updates from the site. This is where I've been getting most of my information.

<http://www.fas.harvard.edu/~nrc>. The NRC web site, chock full of resources for teaching about the Former Soviet Union, including Central Asian countries. Updated continually, you may search by subject, region or time period. Coming soon: Summaries of roundtable discussions at Harvard: "The War on Terror: Implications for Central Asia" and materials on Afghanistan.

General Resources about Central Asia, available at NRC Library.

Videos

14. *Portrait of the Soviet Union*

C: The Caucasus

D: Central Asia

27. *Families of the World: Soviet Union*

The life of an Uzbek girl and her family in Tashkent. Created to teach about Soviet Central Asia. Includes handout.

53. *Realms of the Russian Bear: The Red Deserts*

This program takes a close look at the surprising abundance of wildlife in the deserts of Central Asia, which cover an area larger than the whole of Western Europe. In the far south lies a nature reserve that is barren and waterless for most of the year, but which becomes ablaze with color in the springtime, when melting snows bring poppy fields and pistachio groves to life.

74. *Central Asia and Kazakhstan*

The history of the ancient Silk Road is reviewed in this program, as well as the new ideas for trade that began with the end of communism. Viewers visit several families in Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan, and learn about the nomadic way of life of the Central Asian gypsy. Division among the nationalities due to Central Asian nationalism is discussed, and the various educational systems are reviewed.

84. *Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan*

Right in the heart of Central Asia are the former Soviet republics of Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan, an area of vast inaccessible wilderness, surrounded by harsh deserts and high mountains. It was once the site of the ancient caravan routes and its towns were oases on the Great Silk Road of the east. Join in the evening entertainments which include ram butting and wrestling, meet an eagle trainer, hitch a ride on an old Red Army helicopter, go on a horse trek, meet nomadic shepherds and share a meal eating a sheep's eye.

88. *The Generous Manas*

This video tells the story of the Kyrgyz people through their ancient hero Manas. It was filmed in the mountainous land of Kyrgyzstan in Central Asia by the well-known Kyrgyz company, Epos. It captures their ancient culture and customs and the beautiful country in which they live. They are a semi-nomadic people who love horses. Of all the former Soviet Republics Kyrgyzstan is perhaps the most democratic and they are anxious for people in the West to become acquainted with them. And you will see why Kyrgyzstan is known as the Switzerland of Central Asia.

89. *Waiting for Uighurstan*

This video chronicles the experience of three Uighurs who live in the Republic of Kazakhstan. In the 1950s and 60s, during the turmoil following Mao's revolution, they fled their homeland in China's Xinjiang province for a new life in the USSR. Cut off from their homeland for over 20 years, they only reestablished ties with their family and friends in Xinjiang in the mid 1980s. Since the fall of the Soviet Union, they have survived by working in the tenuous trade between Kazakhstan and their homeland in China. Caught between the politics of the Soviet Union, the Republic of Kazakhstan, and China, they dream of the establishment of a Uighur state in their homeland which will allow them to determine their own fate.

109. *Beshkempir: The Adopted Son*

Beshkempir is an exquisitely composed and photographed child-to-man tale of a Kyrgyz villager. Beshkempir is just like any other kid - playing in mud, getting into trouble, experiencing the first pangs of sexuality - until a fight with his best friend leads to the revelation that he was adopted. What sounds like a cliché takes on striking resonance here in a mostly pre-industrial society where the daily rituals are so earth-based that Beshkempir's request for money to see a movie comes across as an anachronism. Shot in gorgeous black and white, the film explodes into occasional bursts of color.

112. *We Are All Neighbors: Bosnia*

In a Muslim/catholic village near Sarajevo, rumors fly and suspicions spread. When Catholic Croats assert control, Muslim businesses are attacked, villagers arrested and harassed, and homes threatened. Three weeks later, neighbors who had been close friends for 50 years no longer speak to each other, and the peaceful coexistence between Croats and Muslims disintegrates into mutual distrust and fear.

159 (E). *From the "Comrades" series: Master of Samarkand*
(We haven't reviewed this one yet.)

BOOKS

Shirin Akiner, *Islamic Peoples of the Soviet Union*, 1986. This is a unique and pioneering reference book on the Islamic peoples of the Soviet Union, and is a good starting point for those wishing to gain some background into the Muslim nationalities of the Soviet Union.

Richard Upjohn, *Internet Resources for Eurasia*

The comprehensive guide to most popular web sites and electronic servers that deal with Russia, Central Asia, and the republics of the former Soviet Union. Topics include: business, education, environment, media, religion, health, entertainment, and many more.

Calum Mcleod, *Uzbekistan: The Golden Road to Samarkand*

“From the blue-tiled splendor of Tamerlane's Samarkand to the holy city of Bukhara, boasting a mosque for each day of the year, and beyond, the desert-girdled khanate of Khiva, Uzbekistan lays claim to a breathtaking architectural legacy. Bound by sand and snow, fed by meltwater from the Roof of the World, these fertile oases attracted the greatest travelers and conquerors in history along the fragile threads of the Silk Road. This guide is the first to focus on the wealth of sites and colorful legends at the heart of Central Asia.”

Boris Rumer, *Central Asia: The Challenges of Independence*

Chingiz Aitmatov, (Folklore/Memoirist) *The Day Lasts More Than a Hundred Years*. Contemporary Literature.

Elizabeth Bacon, *Central Asia under Russian Rule: A Study in Cultural Change*

Traces Central Asian cultures and civilizations from nomadic cultures to life under Russian Imperial rule and Soviet Rule.

Peter Hopkirk, *The Great Game: The Struggle for Empire in Central Asia*. A Spellbinding account of the great imperial struggle for supremacy in Central Asia.

SLIDE SETS with accompanying text

7. Samarkand and Bukhara (Brumfeld) and

33. The Wealth of Tamerlane