

PREFACE

The geographical and historical meaning of the term “Central Asia” is not as obvious as that of “Asia” or the “Indian subcontinent”, and it requires a definition. Such a definition was given in the introduction to my *Bibliography of Islamic Central Asia*,¹ and, since nothing new has been offered in scholarly literature since then, I will repeat it here in a slightly modified form. In geographical terms, Central Asia extends from the Caspian Sea and the Ural river basin in the west to the Altay mountains and the Turfan oasis in the east, and from the limits of the steppe belt (where it borders the West Siberian forest, the taiga) in the north to the Hindukush and the Kopet-Dagh mountains in the south. But physical geography by itself (even less the contemporary political map of Asia) can hardly define this region, which should instead be approached as a distinct cultural and historical entity. From this standpoint, Central Asia can be defined as the western, Turko-Iranian, part of the Inner Asian heartland; its indigenous population consisted of various Iranian peoples, who have been mostly Turkicized by now, while its growing Turkic population has assimilated its indigenous Iranian culture to various degrees. Beginning with the 8th century A.D., Central Asia was gradually incorporated into the Islamic world (a process that now distinguishes it from the eastern part of the Inner Asian heartland, Mongolia and Tibet). As part of the Islamic world, it shares many cultural features with its Islamic neighbors to the south and to the west, but it combines them in a unique blend with the features it shares with the world of the Inner Asian nomads. It belongs to both of these worlds, being a border area for each of them.

The existing Western literature, both scholarly and non-scholarly, does not satisfy the need for historical maps of Central Asia, and it makes difficult a proper acquaintance with Central Asian history, to say nothing of its scholarly study. Various maps occasionally found in Western publications on Central Asian history usually deal with a specific limited area or period and in most cases are unsatisfactory. Maps accompanying some Russian publications of the 1940s through the 1970s are often better,² but they also do not show Central Asia (as defined above) as a whole, and cover only certain periods. It happens quite often that works on Central Asian history abounding in geographical names that are not found on modern maps, and even works on the historical geography of this region, fail to include any maps whatsoever.

An Historical Atlas of Islam, published in 1981,³ includes just two partial maps of Central Asia.⁴ A new, revised, edition of this atlas, published in 2002,⁵ contains more Central Asian material: in addition to the two maps reprinted from the 1981 edition,⁶ it has two maps for later periods, “Transoxania under the Timurids and Özbeks circa 905/1500” and “Transoxania in the 13th/19th century” (pp. 42a-42b), and two city maps.⁷ *An Historical Atlas of China* by Albert Herrmann includes Central Asia, or parts of it, on a number of maps,⁸ but these maps are somewhat sinocentric and already outdated.⁹ The most recent new collection of historical maps of Central Asia was published in Tashkent, in Özbek, under the title *Ўzbekiston tarixi atlası* (“Historical atlas of Uzbekistan” [sic!], Tashkent, 1999; paperback). It contains 21 maps, of which 17 are historical maps of Central Asia compiled by E.V.Rtveladze and N.H.Hakimov.

When I began teaching graduate courses in Central Asian history at Indiana University in 1981, in the absence of any usable English maps, I had to prepare my own maps, which I showed as transparencies in class. In 1999 two of my graduate students, Ryan Gliha and John McKane, converted my hand-drawn originals into computer files, which were then published (in color printed form) in 2000.¹⁰ This publication included 11 maps; the maps were not very elaborate, but they generated considerable interest, and from the feedback I received from readers I realized that both specialists and the general public needed much more detailed maps that would cover the entire history of Central Asia. Consequently, work on the atlas began in 2000, and was finished in February 2003.

The sources for the maps are too numerous to be listed here. They include all reliable general surveys of Central Asian history, and scholarly works on specific historical topics that contain significant historico-geographical information, with or without maps. Most of the cartographic sources are mentioned in the bibliographical notes to the individual maps below. The same notes also contain references to other works (mostly general surveys) in which the reader can find additional information on the period in question. More detailed bibliographical data concerning the Islamic period (8th century A.D. to 1917) can be found in the above mentioned *Bibliography of Islamic Central Asia*.

The transcription of geographical and personal Arabic and Persian names is simplified, for the benefit of non-specialists. It follows the system of the *Encyclopaedia of Islam* as far as consonants are concerned, but without the diacritical marks and with the replacement of Ḳ with Q and Dj with J. The only special transcription signs used are ʿ for ‘ayn and ʾ (rarely) for hamza. The transcription of vowels, for various reasons, is sometimes less consistent (but probably closer to their pronunciation), so that A is rendered as either A or E, I as either I or E, U is either U or O, and AY as either AY or EY. In the transcription of Turkic names, the letters Ä, İ, Ö, and Ü are utilized. In the transcription of Russian names, the system of the Library of Congress is used, with the following changes: ДЖ is rendered as J (instead of DZH); Ы is rendered as Y (instead of İ); Ъ is rendered as Ĭ (instead of Y); Э is rendered as È (instead of È); Ю is rendered as IU after consonants, but YU after vowels; Я is rendered as IA after consonants, but YA after vowels. On the maps of 19th-20th century Central Asia under Russian rule, the official Russian transcription of geographical names is reflected: thus, Kokand instead of Qoqand, Askhabad instead of Ashqabad, Kizil-Arvat instead of Qizil-Arvat, etc. (but Samarqand, not Samarkand); the official spelling of the names of cities (but not rivers) is also reflected on the map 47. For Chinese names, the Pinyin romanization is used throughout; in several cases the old Wade-Giles transcription (which is often more familiar to students of Central Asia) is given in parentheses.

The terms “Türk,” “Türks” are used for the steppe empires of the 6th-8th centuries (called Qaghanates in the scholarly literature) and the dominant groups of their population; for all other ethnic groups who belong to the same linguistic family the terms “Turks,” “Turkic” are used.

As the geographical basis for most maps was used a map of Central Asia found in an atlas of the Soviet Union published in Moscow in 1962

¹ Pt. I, Bloomington, Indiana: Research Institute for Inner Asian Studies, 1995, pp. VII-VIII.

² Especially noted should be the maps attached to the multi-volume *Ocherki istorii SSSR*, Moscow, 1953-1956, and, in particular, maps accompanying the collected works (*Sochineniya*) by V. V. Bartol'd (in a separate envelope attached to vol. IX, Moscow, 1977; prepared by O. G. Bol'shakov).

³ Ed. by William C. Brice, Leiden: Brill.

⁴ “Transoxiana in the 10th & 11th centuries” (p. 24a) and “The Kḥarazm Shahs and Ghurids” (p. 24b); in addition, two general maps of the Middle East, in the mid-18th and in the 19th and early 20th centuries (pp. 26-27) include a part of Central Asia.

⁵ *An Historical Atlas of Islam*, ed. by Hugh Kennedy, Brill: Leiden-Boston-Köln.

⁶ See pp. 41a and 41b.

⁷ “Marv (Marw)” (p. 43a) and “Harat circa 850/1447” (p. 43b).

⁸ New edition, Chicago: Aldine Publishing Co., 1966 (the first edition published in 1935 under the title *Historical and Commercial Atlas of China*), includes Central Asia, or parts of it, on a number of maps: pp. 10-11 (“The Hsiung-nu or Huns in Central Asia, 176 B.C.” and “128-36 B.C.”; p. 16 (“China in Central Asia, 114 B.C.—127 A.D.”); pp. 18-19 (“Asia, ca. 100 A.D.”); p. 23 (“Eastern, Central and Southern Asia, ca. 440 A.D.”); pp. 26-27 (“Asia, ca. 610 A.D.”); pp. 30-31 (“Asia, ca. 750 A.D.”); p. 32 (“China in Central Asia, 660 A.D.”); pp. 38-39 (“Eastern, Central and Southern Asia, 1141 A.D.”); p. 40 (“Beginnings of the Mongol Empire—boundaries of 1234 A.D.”); pp. 42-43 (“Asia under the Mongols, 1290 A.D.”); pp. 46-47 (“Asia during the Ming dynasty—boundaries of 1415 A.D.”); pp. 48-49 (“Eastern, Central and Southern Asia, 1760 A.D.”); p. 50 (“Chinese Turkistan, 1820 A.D.”); p. 51 (“The Manchu Empire and the European powers, 1644-1912 A.D.”).

⁹ Cf. the critical discussion by Paul Wheatley in the new edition, pp. vi-xxix.

¹⁰ *Historical maps of Central Asia: 9th-19th centuries A.D.*, ed. by Yu. Bregel, Bloomington, Indiana: Research Institute for Inner Asian Studies, 2000 (Papers on Inner Asia, Special Supplement).

(*Atlas SSSR*, map on pp. 22-23). For the maps that use other base maps, the source is indicated in the bibliographical notes below. The geographical grid (parallels and meridians) could not be indicated for technical reasons; the grid shown on the maps is used for indexing only.

The maps show some basic elements of the political and ethnic history of Central Asia: sedentary states (for which either the names of these states or of their ruling dynasties are given); nomadic polities and the most important tribes, with their migrations; the routes of military campaigns and the sites of important battles; major rebellions; and the borders. The last category requires some explanation. There exists the opinion that in Islamic history political boundaries often changed rapidly, that dynasties and polities tended to appear and disappear quickly and that, therefore, showing these boundaries on a map with clear lines would be either misleading or confusing. This is, however, not always so, at least as far as Central Asia is concerned. It is true that “fixed” borders described in binational agreements and marked by proper boundary posts appeared in this region only at the end of the 19th century. But already many centuries before, various Central Asian states used to sign such agreements and knew how to protect their borders, usually by means of border patrols (such mobile patrols existed even in the Central Asian steppes). The problem is not that the borders were rapidly changing, but that we often do not know exactly where they were drawn. In the absence of precise information (which is mostly, but not always, the case), the borders of individual polities can be determined on the basis of information about the historical provinces that these polities included, because the borders of the provinces were usually well known and described in the sources, and they often coincided with natural boundaries such as rivers and mountain ranges. In any event, it should be kept in mind that the political borders indicated on the pre-19th century maps in this atlas are always approximate and often hypothetical, even though they are shown by solid lines.

The ethnic history of Central Asia is reflected in almost all the maps, and specifically on maps 36-39, showing the distribution of Özbek, Turkmen, Qazaq, and Qırghız tribes at the end of the 19th and in the first half of the 20th century. It was my intention to also include a general ethnic map of Central Asia (which could be based on two Soviet ethnic maps published in 1960-1962), but I came to the conclusion that these maps do not give an idea of the ethnic composition of the sedentary population of Central Asia before 1917 and are also unreliable in showing the present distribution of the sedentary population.

Each map is accompanied by an explanatory text on the facing page containing the most important facts of the political and ethnic history illustrated by the map. These texts are not intended to form a general survey of Central Asian history, because certain important aspects of this history (such as religion) could not be adequately reflected by the maps. The main purpose of the texts is to provide the general reader with some basic information on the major political events and processes that took place during each period covered by the maps; cultural history is only rarely referred to in the texts.

All the maps were originally hand-drawn by me, and the originals were then scanned and converted to computer files by the graphic designers of the Graphic Services group of the Instructional Support Services of Indiana University, Bloomington.

I would like to express my gratitude to all those who helped me in the preparation of this atlas: Bhuvu Narayan, who assisted me in planning this publication; Professor Elena Davidovich (Institute of Oriental Studies, Moscow), who gave her advice about the general approach to the maps, as well as some specific problems of pre-Mongol history; Professor Boris Litvinskiy (Institute of Oriental Studies, Moscow) and Dr. Aleksander Naymark (Hofstra University) for their numerous suggestions concerning the maps dealing with archeology, pre-Islamic and early Islamic history; Professor Clifford E. Bosworth (University of Manchester) for sharing with me his opinion concerning the status of some mountain regions of Central Asia in the 10th-12th centuries; Professor Elliot Sperling (Indiana University), for his advice on the transcription of all Chinese names on the maps and in the texts; Professor William Fierman (Indiana University) for providing me information on the maps of the gas and oil pipelines used for map 47; Dr. Roman Zlotin (Indiana University) for supplying me copies of the Soviet maps of Central Asia from 1923-1926 used for map 46; Professor Devin DeWeese (Indiana University) for his extremely valuable editorial remarks and corrections to the texts accompanying the maps; Satish Pai and Nataliya Bregel (Boston), for their superb proofreading of these texts; my wife, Liliya (Liusia), who supported my work in various ways and patiently put up with almost every horizontal surface in our house (except floors) being taken over for mapmaking. Very special thanks go to the graphic designers at Graphic Services of Indiana University, Suzanne Hull, R. Bryan Smith, and Scott Taylor, who carried out an excellent job in preparing the computerized versions of the maps for the subsequent printing, and who made, upon my requests, repeated and numerous corrections until the maps acquired their final shape. Finally, I am grateful to Indiana University for the financial support that made it possible the assistance of the graphic designers, without whom I would hardly have been able to accomplish the work in such a relatively short time.

Yuri Bregel
Bloomington, Indiana
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Bibliographical notes

General

For the Islamic period (maps 9-44) a detailed bibliography (monographs and articles published before 1989) is to be found in the *Bibliography of Islamic Central Asia*, compiled and edited by Yu. Bregel, pt. I-III, Bloomington, Indiana: Research Institute for Inner Asian Studies, 1995 (Indiana University Uralic and Altaic Series, vol. 160). In the notes below *only* cartographic sources are given, as well as some general and reference works (mostly in English) not included in the above mentioned bibliography.

For the geographical base the following maps have been used:

- for maps 1-12, 14-16, 18-32, 34-39, 45: the map “Sredniaya Aziya i Kazakhstan,” in: *Atlas SSSR*, Moscow, 1962, pp. 22-23;
- for maps 2, 43, 47: the map “Kazakhstan i Sredniaya Aziya,” in *Atlas SSSR*, Moscow, 1984, pp. 60-61, with corrections based on the maps of Central Asia in *The Times Atlas of the World*, 9th comprehensive edition, London, 1994, plates 27 and 43;
- for maps 13 and 17: the map of Asia published by the National Geographic Society (March 1971);
- for maps 44 and 46: 7 maps “Rossiya: Aziatskaya chast” and “RSFSR (SSSR): Aziatskaya chast” published in Petrograd (Leningrad) in 1923-1926.

Three maps by O. G. Bol’shakov attached to the Collected Works by V. V. Bartol’d (see above, Preface) were also consulted: “Sredniaya Aziya v IX-XIII vv.,” “Sredniaya Aziya XIX - nach. XX v.,” and “Vostochniy Turkestan i vostochnaya Sredniaya Aziya v srednie veka.”

Map 1

The map is based on the physical map of Central Asia published in *Atlas SSSR*, Moscow, 1962, pp. 22-23. Cities are given as of the middle of the 19th century.

On the physical features of Central Asia see further: R. N. Taaffe, “The geographic setting,” in: *The Cambridge history of early Inner Asia*, ed. by D. Sinor, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1990, pp. 19-40; “Central Asia: I. Geographical survey,” in: *Encyclopaedia Iranica*, vol. V, 1992, pp. 159-161.