



11TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE
CENTRAL AND INNER ASIA STUDIES

***Traders and Trade Routes
of Central and Inner Asia:
The "Silk Road", Then and Now***

May 13-14, 2005

Croft Chapter House - University College
15 King's College Circle

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TRADERS AND TRADE ROUTES OF CENTRAL AND INNER ASIA: THE "SILK ROAD", THEN AND NOW

Eleventh Annual Seminar of Central and Inner Asia Studies
Croft Chapter House, University College
May 13 & 14, 2005

PROGRAM

FRIDAY 13

08.15 Registration, Book Sales, Tea and Coffee, kindly donated by Santaguida Fine Foods

08.45 **Opening Remarks.** Michael DONNELLY, Director of the Asian Institute, University of Toronto

Chair: Michael GERVERS, U of Toronto

09.00 HEKIMOGLU, Levent (York Centre for International & Security Studies) ***Trade, Geography and Central Asia's Predicament***

09.30 SHUKUROV, Amin & Faridun ODILOV (Samarkand Regional Chamber of Commerce) ***New Ways of Revitalizing Trade Routes and the Economy in Uzbekistan***

10.00 SPECHLER, Martin (Indiana U) ***Gradual Economic Reform in Uzbekistan***

10.30 USMANOVA-KERNS, Rokhat (Virginia USA) ***Development of Small and Medium Enterprises in Emerging Markets***

11.00 Coffee break

Chair: Victor OSTAPCHUK, U of Toronto

11.20 BENJAMIN, Craig (Grand Valley State U, Michigan) ***'Hungry for Han Goods' Zhang Qian and the Origins of the Silk Roads***

11.50 CATANIA, Domenico & Claudio RUBINI (Architects - Italy) ***Samarkand: a process of urban morphogenesis. How the trade routes became the urban***

stage of power.

12.20 LEE, Miji (Korea U, Seoul) ***Characteristic features of Early Koryo-Mongol relations in the 13th century***

12.50 Lunch (provided)

Chair: Craig BENJAMIN, Grand Valley State U

13.50 HARRIS, Christina (Dept of Anthropology CUNY) ***Towards a Geographical Anthropology of Contemporary Trade in the Himalayan Region***

14.20 KMITA, Cathy & M.E. GARNER (York U) ***The Mongolian Dance "Andai": From Origins in Shamanism to Ethnic Dance***

14.50 HATCHER, Patrick (U of Chicago) ***Peddling Islam: the Merchant in Early Conversion Narratives of the Central Asian Turks***

15.20 NIU, Ruji (Xinjiang U) ***The Silk Road and Religions: the Past and Today***

15.50 Coffee break

Chair: Habib SHIRAZI, U of Tehran

16.10 GHAMAT, Jafar (Tehran Azad U) ***Central Asian Energy Transportation Routes***

16.40 IPEK, Pinar (Bilkent U, Turkey) ***New Trade Routes and New Traders of Energy Resources in Central Asia***

17.10 OBAYASHI, Hikaru & Roderick RUPIDO (Kyoto U Japan) ***Challenges of the Central Asian Energy Market in the New Economy***

17.40 ANASTASSOV, Vassil (Beykent U, Istanbul) ***Language as an Intermediary of Trade and Culture: the Case between Turkey and Russia in Inner Asia***

SATURDAY 14

08.30 Registration, Book Sales, Tea and Coffee, kindly donated by Santaguida Fine Foods

Chair: Daniel VAUGH, U of Washington

08.45 KRAVETS, Maryna, University of Toronto ***The Crimean Khanate and the Black Sea Slave Trade***

- 09.15 JABBARI, Ehsan (Tehran) *Iran and Silk Road Security*
- 09.45 SZABOLCS, Polgar (Szeged U, Hungary) *Trade Routes in Western Eurasia in the Middle Ages*
- 10.15 ZELDOVICH, Mikhail (US Trade Rep. Office of the General Counsel, Washington) *The Role of Volga Bulgaria in trans-Eurasian Trade in the 9-14th Centuries*

10.45 Coffee break

Chair: Michael GERVERS, U of Toronto

- 11.05 CHULTEM, Miga (York U) *Globalization: From Silk Road to Cashmere Road*
- 11.35 ABTAHI, Seyed (Tehran Azad U) *The North East Corridor and its Role for Traders in Central Asia*
- 12.05 SHIRAZI, Habib (Tehran Azad U) *Trade and the Role of a New Silk Road for Traders in Central Asia*

12.35 Lunch (provided)

Chair: Michael GERVERS, U of Toronto

- 13.30 JAMSHEDOV, Parvonakhon (Tajikistan State U) *Linguistic Situation along the Silk Road in Badakhshan*
- 14.00 ASANOVA, Jazira (Toronto) *North-South Knowledge Transfer: International Development Assistance to Kazakhstan's Education Sector*
- 14.30 SHAMATOV, Duishon & Sarfaroz NIYAZOV (OISE/UT) *Teachers as Traders: Local Voices and Global Issues from post-Soviet Central Asia*
- 15.00 TOLYMBEK, Almaz (Kent State U, Ohio) *Higher Education in a Market and Trade-oriented Society: Kazakhstan's Educational Reforms as an Import of Western Market Ideas*

15.30 Coffee break

Chair: Duishon SHAMATOV, OISE/UT

- 15.45 ELI, Ayisha (U of Melbourne) *Women and Tourism along the Silk Road*

- 16.15 BURTON, Audrey (U of Leeds, England) ***Bukharan traders and entrepreneurs in late 19th - early 20th centuries, and their links with Russia***
- 16.45 KALANDAROVA, Mastura (Inst. of Oriental Studies, Moscow) ***Indian Merchants in 9th Century Bukhara: Trade Network and Socio-Cultural Role***
- 17.15 WAUGH, Daniel (U of Washington) ***Continuity and Change in the Trade of Xinxiang into the Early 1920s***
- 17.45 ***Closing Remarks*** Michael GERVERS

THE CURRENT SITUATION OF THE UYGHUR PEOPLE UNDER CHINESE RULE

11th ANNUAL CONFERENCE
Special Session of Central and Inner Asia Studies (CIAS)
sponsored by the Uyghur Canadian Association (UCA)

Croft Chapter House and Room 179, University College

Sunday, May 15th 2005

PROGRAM

- 09:45 **Introductory remarks** - Michael GERVERS, Director of CIAS and Chair of the Session
- 09:50 Erkin ALPTEKIN, President of World Uyghur Congress
- 10:00 Charles BURTON, Brock University, Canada. ***Impact of Chinese Communist Party Policy on Uygurs, Past, Present and Future***
- 10:30 Kahar BARAT, Yale University, USA ***Good-Bye Uyghur Education***
- 11:00 Coffee break
- 11:30 Alex Neve, Secretary-General, Amnesty International Canada, (English-speaking branch) ***Understanding the Crackdown on Uighurs in a Global Context: Human Rights at Risk in the "War on Terror"***
- 12:00 Michael TO, Chairman, Democracy China-Ottawa ***What can we learn from the European Union***
- 12:30 Lunch Break Food and soft drinks will be provided by UCA
- 13:30 Keynote Speaker: DRU GLADNEY, University of Hawaii, USA ***China's Uyghur Dilemma: Autonomy vs. Independence***
- 14:30 Adalyat ISIYEVA, Ph.D candidate McGill University, **Canada Cultural Assimilation of Uyghurs by China**

- 15:00 Coffee break
- 15:30 Michael COPELAND, Professor Emeritus, York University, Canada ***Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region, 2025***
- 16:00 Yitzhak SHICHOR. University of Haifa & Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel. ***Walking on Two Legs: Uyghur Diaspora Organizations and the Prospects of Eastern Turkestan Independence***
- 16:30 ***Closing remarks*** by Mohamed TOHTI, UCA

**TRADERS AND TRADE ROUTES OF CENTRAL
AND INNER ASIA:
THE "SILK ROAD", THEN AND NOW**

May 13 & 14, 2005

Abstracts

Dr. Mostafa Abtahi
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The North-East Corridor and its role for Traders in Central Asia

The North-East corridor which links Helsinki - Moscow - Tehran - Dubai, is divided into two sections: it goes through Saint Petersburg to Moscow, Laghan port, Amirabad port in Tehran, Abas port and finally to the Persian Gulf, which will connect to European corridors. Due to the fact that all Central Asian countries are landlocked and have no access to the outside world, the issue of access to the new corridor is vital for these countries. So, the main question of this paper is how the Central Asian countries want to use the north-east corridor for trade and business and how this corridor will benefit traders who are working in this region.

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Language as an Intermediary of Trade and Culture: The Case of Inner Asia between Turkey and Russia

The paper deals with the issue of trade interaction between the Turkic ex-Soviet republics and more developed economic powers, with the assumption that trade relations often evoke cultural influence from the 'wealthier' source towards the 'humbler' target. It is based on previous research on the importance of a 'Lingua Franca' in strengthening the role of the Ottoman Empire as an intermediary of Western Culture in North Africa, Asia Minor and the Balkans. With the further evolution of this role, Turkish itself became a significant means of 'trade-culture' interaction of the region with the 'Western World'. In more recent times the economic status of Turkey, along with her secularity poses a new set of challenges:

1. The developing influence of the Turkish language on the Turkic states of Inner Asia has to 'compete' with Russian as the traditional 'means of international communication'. The relics of the rigid planned economy of the Soviet Era conflict with the cultural implications of Turkey's traditional 'open-market' economy.

2. In both Turkey and the republics of Inner Asia, the mutually comprehensible means of language communication in the domain of 'trade-culture' functions as a homogeneous unit at the crossroads between Western and Russian socio-cultural influence.
3. The increasingly influential role of English contributes to the diversity of the picture that is an example of a socio-cultural convergence with a rich past and promising future.

Dr. Jazira Asanova
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***North-South Knowledge Transfer: International Development Assistance to
Kazakhstan's Education Sector***

Post-Soviet Central Asia has been a recipient of development assistance since the "iron curtain" was lifted in the early 1990s, yet educational development cooperation in this region has received scant attention from scholars. There is a need for research to enhance our understanding of the effect of foreign aid on educational decision making and agenda setting in recipient countries.

Development agencies are often criticized for displaying little regard for recipients' formulation of priorities, devaluing local knowledge, and failing to learn from past mistakes. Such aid practices often result in a lack of recipient ownership and control of development projects and are at odds with the capacity-building rhetoric espoused by development agencies.

This study examines the politics of development cooperation between the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and education officials in Kazakhstan, and the role of ADB in shaping the country's education sector. Based on interviews with the ADB staff in Kazakhstan and the country's education officials, as well as on document analysis, this study concludes that the agency-driven sector study limited the policy dialogue between the Bank and Kazakhstan's education officials. The author argues that the Bank needs to examine its use of power in recipient countries, foster openness to local knowledge and sharpen its focus on mutual learning and joint decision-making in development cooperation.

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'Hungry for Han Goods': Zhang Qian and the Origins of the Silk Roads

The expedition of Han envoy Zhang Qian is not only a classic tale of Central Asian adventure, but a journey of far-reaching historical significance. Zhang Qian set out in 138 BCE with instructions from Emperor Wudi to pursue the migrating Yuezhi confederation into the Ili Basin and persuade them to form a strategic alliance with the Han. But within days Zhang Qian had become a prisoner of the militarized Xiongnu. During the decade of captivity that followed, the Yuezhi were forced to continue their migration to the west, settling eventually in Bactria (Afghanistan today). Upon escaping in 129, Zhang Qian also continued his pursuit, passing through the Ferghana Valley and Kangju/Sogdia before eventually catching up with the Yuezhi in Bactria. He was unsuccessful in his attempts to persuade them to return to China and confront the Xiongnu, and after spending a year in the region he returned (not without further adventures) to the Han Court. Here he presented an extensive report to the emperor on the political and mercantile opportunities awaiting the Chinese in Central Asia, which persuaded Wudi to adopt an aggressive campaign of military and trade expansion into the region.

Had Zhang Qian avoided captivity and managed to meet with the Yuezhi in the Ili Basin in 138, he may well have enticed them to return, in which case there would have been no need for either party to continue their journeys to Bactria. Not only would this have meant no Kushan Empire, but the Han envoy would never have visited Ferghana, Sogdia or Bactria, nor been able to report on the trade goods and way of life in Parthia and India. It is quite probable that the Chinese court would have remained ignorant of the world beyond their western borders, and of the trade and strategic opportunities it offered, for decades or longer. This paper uses an extensive examination of textual and geographic evidence in its consideration of both the journey and the political and commercial implications of the mission of Zhang Qian, who almost single-handedly brought China out of millennia of relative isolation into its subsequent position of centrality in Silk Roads exchanges.

**Dr. Audrey Burton,
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***Bukharan traders and entrepreneurs in late 19th-early 20th centuries, and their
links with Russia***

This paper will deal with the very enterprising merchants of Bukhara and their multifarious activities, not only in the khanate but also in Russian Turkestan and Russia. I shall attempt to show that, contrary to Russian theories, it was not only the Jews who ran the commerce and industry of the area. There certainly were many important Jewish firms but they did not control trade, nor were they the only ones to use modern machinery in cotton and cotton oil factories. The élite of many faiths used the same methods and sent their children to the same Russian commercial schools. They served together in the Cotton Exchanges and on the Cotton committees. They might even be partners in the same firm, although they no doubt preferred to have partners from their own large families, or from their own co-religionists.

I shall focus on specific traders and entrepreneurs, mainly Muslims and Jews, and show the extent of their versatility (cotton, fur, oil, silk, tea) and the identical character of their business methods. In particular I shall explain the advantages and disadvantages of the system of money advances which were vital to the local economy, although it was disparaged by some as usury and moneylending, leading to a famous show trial in 1910. Details will be given of the Bukharan presence in the markets and fairs of Central Russia, and even in Moscow, with reference to the transport problems encountered in the early 19th century and later, with the gradual extension of the railway to the area. Finally, an attempt will be made to compare the activities of the traders and entrepreneurs residing in Bukhara, with those residing in Samarqand, Khoqand and Tashkent, both before and after the Russian conquest.

**Domenico Catania and Claudio Rubini
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***Samarkand: a process of urban morphogenesis.
How the trade routes became the urban stage of power.***

Samarkand was a very important town along the commercial routes linking Europe

to the Eastern countries. Until the Mongolian conquest in 1220, Samarkand developed on the Afrasyab, the small plateau on which the caravan routes which had started in China to the North, in Persia to the South, or on the western steppes, converged. During the period of Arab dominion, the town grew up according to the sedentary model of medieval Islamic societies, with its qal'a, its shahristan and its rabad. In the plain overlooked by the city walls, an urban fabric of flat houses and gardens progressively developed along the commercial pattern of the layout of trade.

After 1220 and the Mongolian plundering, the sedentary community's intra mœnia town was abandoned. The nomadic populations who conquered it consolidated their positions in territory which was open to the trades and easy to reach. The new town developed along the final stretches of the commercial routes which once ended at the foot of the fortified core.

A further transformation of the forma urbis took place between the end of the 14th century and the beginning of the 15th. Under Tamerlan, Samarkand became the country's capital city again. A new radial structure that cut across the previous urban fabric, arose around the monumental heart of the town, the Registan square. The trade routes became places in which the rulers showed and celebrated their power and the magnificence of their kingdom.

With this contribution, we aim to reconstruct those transformations contextualizing them in the wider process of the town's morphogenesis.

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Globalization: From Silk Road to Cashmere Road

Since 1989 Mongolia has been experiencing large-scale social and economic changes as a result of the reforms associated with the transition to a market economy. This paper explores gender-based analysis in policy and practices in Mongolia during this transition period. The transition, from a planned economy to a market economy and political democracy, brought new trends and challenges. The challenges have affected women's health and social security more than that of men in Mongolia. For example, in the major economic restructuring between 1992 and 1995, 63% of women lost their jobs compared to 37 % of men. Also, the government policy changes and cuts pushed many women out of formal employment into unpaid work.

The study investigates the importance of economic, socio-demographic and cultural determinants in explaining the health status of women in Mongolia, focusing on globalization and trade and social policy changes. The study also contributes to the emerging research on the globalization and trade and their gendered implications.

Ayisha Eli

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Women and Tourism along the Silk Road

With the demise of the former Soviet Union and the emergence of Central Asia once again as a strategically important part of the world, there has been a growing interest worldwide in the history, culture and peoples of the ancient Silk Road. Not only has this route attracted more and more scholarly attention and research, but the number of tourists has also increased. Recent studies have generally focused on the formation and reconstruction of national identity in this area, yet these studies have ignored gender as one of their key concerns. In the past three years, I have been doing my PhD research on Uyghur women in Xinjiang and in 2003 and 2004 I had the chance to be a lecturer for Australian Silk Road Cultural Studying Group (from Xi'an to Tashkent). Based on these experiences, I will make a comparative analysis of how national identity is formed and expressed in terms of gender among the Uzbeks in Uzbekistan and the Uyghurs in Xinjiang, from the perspective of tourism.

Some of the questions that I am going to explore are:

1. What has inspired the development in tourism along the Silk Road?
2. Why is it interesting/useful to study Uzbek and Uyghur women? What are their positions?
3. How are Uzbek and Uyghur women portrayed in the tourism literature and tourism promotion?
4. What are the similarities and differences in the expression of ethnicity among Uzbek and Uyghur women?

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Central Asia Energy Transportation Routes

Since the Central Asian countries are land-locked their explored natural resources must cross at least one or two international borders before they reach a port and a tanker. In theory, new pipelines could go in almost any direction: southern or eastern routes could serve the Asian markets, northern routes could serve Russia and western routes could serve Europe.

One important geo-political consequence of the collapse of the Soviet Union was the rise of intense political and commercial competition for control of the vast energy resources of the newly-independent states of the Caucasus and Central Asia. The biggest problem facing investors is how to transport the oil and gas to foreign markets. Therefore there is an intense competition between the powers to transfer the resources. This paper will highlight the results of the different routes of transportation.

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Towards a Geographical Anthropology of Contemporary Trade in the Himalayan Region

"Long isolated from the outside world..." begins the entry for "Lhasa" in the online version of the Encyclopedia Britannica. Although Tibet has often been portrayed by travelers and scholars as other-worldly, remote and inaccessible, it has remained at the center of a vibrant network of trans-Himalayan trade routes ever since the 7th century. Recently however, parts of the Himalayan region have undergone rapid economic and political changes, from a period of prosperous trans-regional yak and mule caravan trade in the 1940s and 1950s, to border-closings and political upheaval in the 1960s and 1970s, to rapid economic development in the past decade. This paper seeks to understand how economic transformations on a regional scale might be manifested through changes in smaller-scale, 'everyday' sites, particularly traders' relationships with material culture and their cross-border and local social networks.

I will therefore center on the importance of the trader - the 'mediator' or the 'intermediary' - in influencing the travels of a commodity in between production and consumption. Firstly, I will look at some of the recent literature on 'traveling commodities', particularly the introduction to Arjun Appadurai's edited volume, *The Social Life of Things* (1986) which examines the paths of objects through various regimes of value', as well as recent literature on commodity chains and the role of the middleman in art-object transactions. Secondly, I take a cursory look at another feature of 'mediation': the control over the knowledge of an object, and the way in which social actors might participate in the recontextualization of their religious or national identity through the creative use of an object. I will illustrate these arguments via a contemporary analysis of the marketing, distribution, and social significance of Tibetan ritual commodities, specifically items that are produced in Nepal, India, and China and are distributed to Tibetan boutiques and online ritual goods distributors in the United States. Although the use of certain objects (such as ceremonial scarves) is a prominent feature of social life in the Tibetan Autonomous Region (TAR) as well as in exile, how do intermediaries market these goods to Western Buddhists? In what ways have the traditional uses of these objects been recontextualized by Tibetan and Chinese wholesalers in Lhasa? How have changing commodity transport networks and the emergence of Internet dealers affected the transfer of these objects across transnational borders? Theoretically, this paper positions itself at the juncture of material culture studies, economic anthropology, and social geography, arguing that a cross-disciplinary and cross-regional approach is necessary in order to examine contemporary trade in the Himalayan region and beyond.

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Peddling Islam: The Merchant in Early Conversion Narratives of the Central Asian Turks

By the 10th-century C.E., the religion of Islam had begun to spread into Central Asia in new ways, as the military expansion of Muslim rule into the steppes slowed considerably. Because of the prominence of Sufi orders in the Islamization of the steppe peoples from Ahmad Yasawi (d. 1166) onward, many historians of Central Asia have projected a similar role for the Sufis upon the earlier periods of Turkic conversion. However, there are few narrative examples of Sufi presence among the Turks from this earlier time, and even fewer in which the mystics are credited with their conversion to Islam.

Instead, the roles and social positions of individuals bringing Turks into the fold in early conversion narratives are quite diverse, ranging from theologians, lawyers, and doctors to political exiles, adventurers, and merchants. While scholars have acknowledged the historical role likely played by merchants and traders in spreading Islam in Central Asia at this time, there has been little discussion of the merchant as a distinctly religious character.

This paper will treat the Islam-bearing trader as a literary and religious figure in the conversion narratives of the early Turkic Muslims. In most of these narratives, merchants are not merely tradesmen but also play authoritative roles as scholars or princes, creating an amalgamated religious "ideal type." Using the examples of Abu Hamid al-Gharnati's (d. 1170) account of the 9th/10th-century conversion of the Volga Bulgars and two distinct renditions of the 10th-century conversion of Qarakhanid ancestor Satuq Bughra Khan (Jamal Qarshi and Tadhkira-i Bughra Khan), I will suggest that the combination of mercantile with other roles points to a perceived intrinsic link between trade and religious propaganda in these early conversion narratives.

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Trade, Geography and Central Asia's Predicament

Much of the thinking in the West about Inner/Central Asia has been premised for a long time now on the validity of two assertions: one, that the region possesses vast economic resources, especially regarding commercial agriculture and extractive industries; and two, that land transportation is economically competitive with maritime transport even over long distances. Both assertions are highly problematic. Inner/Central Asia indeed does have some economic resources, and railroads and highways have surely made a significant impact on the region. The common tendency, however, is to greatly exaggerate the extent and potential of both, and conversely, to turn a blind eye to the severe geographical predicament of Inner/Central Asia. This distorted view is further aggravated by the more recent general myths that in this age of globalization distances mean little and location hardly matters, and that neo-liberal model is a geography-neutral panacea to problems of economic growth.

All the achievements and impact of the communications revolution notwithstanding, globalization is also, and arguably even more so, about production and trade of commodities and manufactures. The global economy expects countries and regions to produce what they can competitively trade in the global market, and the prospects and the extent of

such production is still determined to a considerable degree by geography, by access, by costs of transportation. In fact, there is a strong argument that economic globalization has in certain ways rendered geography even more important than before. It is important to recognize that economic globalization is a geographically uneven process, and that this unevenness is not at random. Entire regions around the world, including much of Inner/Central Asia, remain marginalized within the global economy, deemed 'structurally irrelevant' in the new century's pattern of international division of labour.

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New Trade Routes and New Traders of Energy Resources in Central Asia

The new trade routes of Central Asia have been drawn among its rich oil and gas resources via the pipelines crossing vast and mountainous regions to access energy markets. The new traders of energy resources are not only limited to local and regional actors but are also global actors like European and American multinational corporations. This paper will explain the myth of "great game," as argued by some scholars in the struggle for controlling the rich energy resources of this landlocked region, and how this label has been misleading in understanding the realities of the strategic interaction process taking place among the new traders of energy resources.

"The contract of the century", "peace pipeline" and "East to West Energy corridor" are some of the labels frequently used to praise the co-operative nature of new trade routes. On the other hand, "authoritarian leaders", "multinational corporations" and "great game of major powers" are the other set of labels to emphasize the conflicting interests of new traders of energy resources. Rather than setting two extremes of all winners or few winners, this paper will explain how the new traders of energy resources perpetually play out their political and economic power in a strategic interaction process, in which regional or global traders respond to the opportunities and risks and the host countries make their policies on the characteristics of new traders.

Two cases will be taken to explain the strategic interaction process in building the new trade routes, namely the Caspian Pipeline Consortium and Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipeline.

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Iran and Silk Road Security

Iran is bounded to the north by the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), to the east by Afghanistan and Pakistan and to the west by Iraq and Turkey. In ancient times Iran was one of the important bridges between East and West along the Silk Road. This ancient road stretched from China to Iran and from Iran to Rome.

The oldest highway in Iran was Jadde Shahi (The Royal Road) which began from Babel and reached Kermanshahan and Ekbatan, passing through the Zagros straits. From thence it went to Rey and going from there along the southern Alborz ended in Bactria (Balkh). This main way, which connected the East and West, passed through Central Asia and continued to China. On this road, in addition to trading, there was much exchange of goods, ideas and knowledge of the different countries.

It seems that the Iranians took trouble to provide security and safety for merchants and traders. For example during the Sassanian and Parthian periods, the big caravans traveling to the west were protected against thieves and bandits by Iranian official forces. Along this road Iranians built many caravanserai for dwelling and resting and safekeeping the merchandise of travelers. One of them was Sharaf caravanserai in Khorasan. Since the good condition of the road was very important and contributed to trade and economic growth, this paper will discuss the location of Iran and the struggle of Iranian rulers to provide security on this road.

This paper is based on historical and geographical sources, itineraries and field research of Iranian and foreign researchers.

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Linguistic situation along the Silk Road in Badakhshan

The autonomous district of Badakhshan in present day Tajikistan is bordered by China on the east and by Afghanistan on the south and west and is separated from Pakistan

and Azad Kashmir by a narrow strip of Afghan territory. In the 4th - 6th centuries Badakhshan was occupied by peasants and horsemen of the Sakas (Scythian) tribes. Badakhshan was the territory through which the Silk Road caravans to China passed. This is mentioned in the histories. In the 1st-7th centuries the Tan Dynasty strengthened its influence in China, and one of the main goals of its foreign policy was to gain control of the Great Silk Road.

Dozens of oral languages have survived and are in use today in both sides -Tajik and Afghan- of Badakhshan, which is really like a linguistic laboratory. Along the valley of the upper Panj river, which separates Tajikistan from Afghanistan, there are a series of narrow valleys of tributaries of the Panj river, divided one from the other by high mountains. Each valley has its own Pamiri language. These are East Iranian languages, related to Pashto, which is spoken in Afganistan, for example, more closely than to Tajik, the Central Asian form of Persian, which is a West Iranian language (Comrie, Matthews and Polinsky, 1996).

From north to south these languages are:

1. Yazgulami in the upper Yasgulam valley above Vanj, which had an estimated 2,000 speakers in 1940
2. Rushani, spoken in the Panj valley above Vanj and in the lower Bartang valley, which had an estimated 5,300 speakers in 1939
3. Bartangi, spoken in the upper parts of the Bartang valley, which had an estimated 3,700 speakers in 1939
4. Shughni, spoken in the Panj valley above Rushan, and in the valleys of the Shdar and Gund rivers that drain into the Panj, which had an estimated 18,600 speakers in 1939
5. Ishashimi, spoken in the Panj valley, south of the Shughni zone, at the point where the Panj river changes direction abruptly from west to north, which had an estimated 500 speakers in MBAP
6. Wakhi, spoken in the Wakhan corridor in the highest section of the Panj valley above Ishkoshim, which had an estimated 4,500 speakers in 1939 (Margus, Tonurist, Vaba & Viikberg, 2001; Dodykhudoeva, 2002b)

The number of speakers of these languages is relatively small, but hard to determine since the census has counted speakers of all Pamiri languages as "Tajik" since 1939, and even today all those who speak any Iranian language are counted as Tajiks by nationality, thus making the number of native speakers of Pamiri languages uncertain (Landau and Kellner-Heinkele, 2001:193).

However, speakers of Shughni-Rushani-Bartangi are now estimated at 70,000, of Wakhi at

20,000 and of Yazgulemi and Ishkoshemi at 3,000-4,000, including those in Afghanistan (Fillipov, 2001; Margus et al., 2001). In Kalaikhumb district and Vanj district where historically Pamiri languages were spoken, a dialect of Tajik is now the native language and Pamiri speakers in other districts are said to have stopped using Pamiri languages in public (Bashiri, 1997; Margus et al., 2001; Dodykhudoeva, 2002b). The Pamiri languages are included in UNESCO's atlas of threatened languages around the world (Wurm, 1996). These languages were traditionally unwritten, but a Latin script was developed for Shughni in the 1920s. A Cyrillic script for Shughni is used for a few books mainly children's primers, and in the press mainly for poetry and short stories, but after the war it was banned by Stalin's government. To day these languages are used only within the family as a spoken means of communication.

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***Indian Merchants in the 19th Century Bukhara:
Trade Network and Socio-Cultural Role***

Economic and cultural communications between India and Central Asia may be traced back to remote antiquity. Merchant caravans from India traveled to Central Asia, which was not just an intermediary, but an active trading partner of India, and from there Indian goods found their way into the European countries. The merchants used several routes leading to India; most frequently used were the northern one, Bukhara - Amul-Jahun (Charjou) - Merv - Serakhs - Meshhed - Herat - Qandahar - Kabul - Peshawar, and the southern, from Qandahar to Dadui Shikarpur.

Indian merchants were extremely active in Bukhara, trading mainly with world-famous Kashmiri shawls and woolens of different kinds. In the cities of the Bukhara Khanate they were housed in special caravanserais. One of the latter was referred to as Serai Hindi; it can be safely presumed that it was owned by, or leased to, the Indian merchants. In the 1820s-30s, there were about two thousand Indians from Shikarpur and Sind along with 50 Sikhs from Multan and Punjab permanently residing in the Bukhara Khanate. By the 1840s-50s, their number had increased to five thousand. Indian merchants resided not only in Bukhara, but also in other Central Asian cities. In Kokand, for example, they occupied six caravanserais, and three in Samarqand. Indian merchants and usurers also resided in other cities of the Bukhara Khanate like Gijduvan, Vobkent, Quarshi

The Indian merchants concentrated in their hands nearly all the trade activity in the Central Asian cities of their residence. They formed a highly developed commercial network and

credit system. Indian usurers managed to penetrate deeply into the Bukhara economy: their clients were feudal lords and rich merchants who took huge loans from them, as well as petty craftsmen who asked for trifling sums. Enjoying considerable influence upon the ruling élites, they at the same time penetrated into the remotest cities and villages and brought with them not only goods, but also the great culture of their country.

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The Mongolian Dance Andai: Trading Dance for Identity

The dance, andai, is a shamanic healing dance, simple yet lively in form, employing red scarves which fly through the air as the dancers kick up dust. From almost mythic origins, it has become a national dance in Inner Mongolia. Its purposes have been expanded, it has been transformed more than once, and it has spread from its beginnings in Eastern Inner Mongolia to the world.

This paper will outline some of the origin myths of andai and trace its development in Mongolian culture. It will question how andai has come to be "the most characteristic folk dance" in Inner Mongolia today, what role it plays in shaping Mongolian identity in China, and whether its origins in healing contribute to its continued relevance to Mongolians today. A video clip and demonstration of the dance will also be presented.

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The Crimean Khanate and the Black Sea Slave Trade

The importance of slavery in the political, military, and social spheres of the pre-modern Islamic world is well known. However aspects of the institution pertaining to the traffic of slaves of eastern European provenance through the Crimean Khanate to the Ottoman Empire and beyond have not yet been systematically examined, owing mostly to

the paucity of documentary sources.

The areas north and east of the Black Sea had been a recognized source of white slave manpower for the Mediterranean world long before the appearance of the Crimean Khanate, the Qipchaq and Circassian recruits supplied for the Mamluk Sultanate of Egypt being the most celebrated example. With the establishment of Ottoman control over the Black Sea basin, these areas continued in this capacity, albeit with some modifications. The Crimean Khanate, a Golden Horde successor state and an Ottoman vassal after 1478, replaced the Genoese and Venetian merchants as the main supplier of slaves from eastern Europe to the Islamic Middle East. The Khanate collected tribute in slaves from some Circassian polities in the northern Caucasus. Far more plentiful a source of slave manpower, however, were the slave raids carried into the territories of the neighboring eastern European Christian states, especially the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth and Muscovy/Russia. This slave-raiding, reasons for which range from geo-political to ideological and commercial, achieved its apogee in the 16th and the first half of the 17th century, when the Crimean Khanate became the main supplier of white slave manpower to the slave markets of the Ottoman Empire.

Yet many aspects of this traffic still have not been examined: organization of the Crimean slave trade, numbers of slaves exported, their gender, age, ethnic composition, slave prices and so on. My paper will utilize some previously unused Crimean and Ottoman sources towards a reconstruction of the slave traffic from the Crimean Khanate to Istanbul—the hub of the Ottoman slave trade and a major consumer of the slave manpower supplied by the Crimean Khanate.

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Characteristic features of Early Koryo-Mongol relations in the 13th century

The Jurchen Chin dynasty which had seized control of northern China by expelling the Sung to Southern China began to fall apart as the power of the Mongol empire rose in the 13th century. The Koryo dynasty in the Korean peninsula encountered the mighty Mongols in a military operation, but both countries tried to maintain communication with each other, for their own purposes, even during more than forty long years of war when all interchanges, including trade, had officially stopped between them.

Nevertheless, this period was a meaningful transitional stage when political order and

understanding of each other was established and secured between the Koryo and the Mongols. For example, the monarchs of the Koryo who reigned during the war were King Kojong and King Wonjong. They claimed outwardly to be vassals of the Mongol emperor and had been given traditional temple names, but with the ending "-jong" which was usually reserved for emperors. Only after King Ch'ungnyol, the son of King Wonjong, became a son-in-law of the Mongol emperor was he given a temple name starting with "Ch'ung-", which signifies loyalty and submission to the Mongol emperor.

While it is certainly important to analyze the early Koryo-Mongol relations in terms of the history of warfare and resistance, we may also be able to comprehend what was really going on in the country under war time conditions. Most Korean researchers into this period have focussed mainly on the process of warfare and the defensive combats of the Koryo dynasty. They have fully utilized the basic primary sources, e.g. Koryosa, The History of Koryo which shows how the people of Koryo encountered the new foreigners, and how ghastly battles were fought throughout the peninsula. Consequently, the whole course of the war and the correspondence of the Koryo people have been clearly established. However, I think that, even with the obstacles of a military operation, there must have been exchanges not yet noted when the two cultures crossed paths. I plan to trace the vague evidence for such interchanges as I examine the primary sources closely. I hope that this small step will increase our understanding of early and subsequent Koryo-Mongol relations.

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The Silk Road and Religions: the Past and Today

The Silk Road did not exist for the sole purpose of trading silk. Although silk was most remarkable for westerners, it was only one of many items that were traded throughout the history of the Silk Road. Gold, precious metals, ivory, precious stones, and glass went towards China, while firs, ceramics, gun powder, jade, bronze objects, lacquer, and iron went west.

Religion was the most important commodity to be carried along the route. The religions of Central Asia owe much of their existence to the trade routes that carried them to the Taklimakan region, and eventually China's ancient capital Changan. Buddhism came into China from India as early as the first century AD, and changed the face of Silk Road towns with monasteries and pagodas. The influence of Buddhism was also seen in the art of the era, as more artists began using the image of the Buddha in their work. Zoroastrianism

came into Chinese Central Asian from Persia along the Silk Road during the 3rd - 4th centuries. Christianity, too, was carried by European and Middle Eastern missionaries and took root in Tang China in 638 AD, and re-entered Central Asia and China again during the 13th-14th centuries. Later, Sogdian merchants brought Manichaeism into China along the Silk Road in the 5th-6th centuries.

Islam made it into the heart of China in much the same way as Buddhism did before, but its ultimate effects contributed to the Silk Road's eventual decline. A revival of Islam in Central Asia led to the destruction of non-Islamic artwork and architecture in key cities. Renewed interest in the Silk Road began at the end of the 19th century. Imperial Great Britain and Russia competed for trade opportunities in Kashgar and other surviving cities. Swedish missionaries for Christianity came to Kashgar and Yarkand along the Silk Road. In the present, the Islamic revival movement and Islamic fundamentalism in Central Asia have strong political tendencies and threaten the regional security.

The inevitable encounter between East and West some 2,000 years ago provides us with a guide for dealing with twenty-first century effects of globalized economy, culture, race, and nationality.

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Challenges of the Central Asian Energy Market in the New Economy

In recent years, Central Asian natural gas has been a point of much interest as an important resource for the future. The trade of natural resources to other parts of the region brings foreign currencies and possibilities for economic growth. With the demand for natural gas increasing all over the world and Eurasia having large reserves and potential for natural gas production, the Central Asian nations have good opportunities to produce natural gas to boost their economic development. Central Asia can significantly contribute to the great demand for natural gas in the European market in the future. The European Union has been dominating the natural gas market by importing a large amount of natural gas.

This study analyzes the significance of the export of natural gas from Central Asian nations by exploring three scenarios of trade viability: gradual transformation, vertical integration and pull-the-plug. A perfect competitive equilibrium has not been formed in the European gas market, which is supported by extensive pipeline networks. The price of natural gas is linked to long-term contracts that are fixed with "take" or "pay" contracts, and structural

differences in energy along with forces like trade, investments and thermal efficiency. The advancement of IT is also considered, which is a major force in improving productivity, raising maximum potential output, and promoting higher living standards, which require energy to attain economic growth. Simultaneous achievement of economic development and environmental protection is extremely difficult at this time. Electricity is indispensable for development, but economic and social environments will become all the more severe. Countries will call for active involvement in environmental issues. Central Asian and EU nations must maintain economic growth to ensure the safe livelihood of their peoples. Appropriate responses that bridge the gap between developed countries and Asian nations are absolutely required. International approaches and technical assistance with regard to energy efficiency must respond to the changing times and are needed to develop IT industries in Asia. This movement can change the present market structures to imperfect competition markets or market structures. Central Asian countries will have to compete with other players if they enter this market. The fluctuation of prices will give new market participants an incentive for market entry.

Economic growth requires sound management for sustained growth by improving service capabilities and rehabilitating the environment without compromising productive capacities where electricity is indispensable. Therefore, international approaches to striking a balance between energy efficiency, trade and IT diffusion are relevant issues which should not be overlooked.

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New ways of revitalizing trade routes and the economy in Uzbekistan

This paper will look at the current problems of economic development in the Republic of Uzbekistan, which holds a strategic central position in the Central Asian region. Once the center of the world with the capital in Samarkand, Uzbekistan is now struggling to reform its decayed economy after 70 years of Soviet rule. It is now 13 years since Uzbekistan proclaimed its independence from Russian Moscow.

Official statistics seem to show that the economy is on the rise, although it is increasing at a slow rate compared to other countries of the former Soviet Union (e.g. Ukraine, Russia). Different numbers with specific examples are given for each sector of the economy. But what these numbers do not tell us is the real situation in Uzbekistan's economy. Due to the recent protectionist and restrictive actions of the government authorities, the borders with its close neighbors (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Tajikistan) were literally

closed, the import excise and customs duties were raised significantly causing the near death of trans-border trade. This is not mentioned in the official statistics.

Nevertheless, Uzbekistan possesses great potential for growth in the near future that could give the Great Silk Roads of the past a new life. Two main areas were identified:

1. Stimulation of tourist development in the main cities of Samarkand, Bukhara and Khiva which should be Meccas for tourists from around the globe. Many countries receive most of their GDP from incoming tourism and Uzbekistan should not be an exception.
2. Proper utilization of the more-than-20 million population of Uzbekistan. Most people are young and have at least a high school education. With little or no investment in a cheap labor force, foreign multinational companies could be induced to set up production facilities in Uzbekistan. This would spur economic development and increase the standard of living of the people of Uzbekistan.

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***The Silk Road and Hydrocarbon Pipelines:
Where the Future Meets the Past***

The emergence of Central Asia on the international arena implicitly reflects very important political and economic changes in world politics over the last fifteen years. At that time neither the United States nor major European states were present in Central Asia. The United States, in fact, had never been in Central Asia until recently.

Over the course of centuries, Central Asia was part of the ancient Silk Road. Traders, like Marco Polo, were traveling from European cities to Chinese cities. Cities, like Bukhara, Khiva, Samarqand, and Kasghar, in Central Asia flourished as trade centers.

Today, much has changed. Central Asia is still a focal point of competing historical interests, cultural collisions, national aspirations, and geo-political ambitions. However, the role of Central Asia in world trade is measured according to its natural wealth of gas and oil reserves which is extensively untapped. There is passionate debate over which route the

pipelines to transport this wealth should take.

In this paper my goal is to explain how Central Asia is transforming itself from being a part of the 'Silk Road' to becoming a part of the 'Hydrocarbon Road.' Research questions are: what are the effects of the Silk Road on current Central Asian states and especially their societies? Are there similarities/ differences between the past and present in that sense? My hypothesis is that the past repeats itself in Central Asia. That means the similarities between the competition from controlling Silk Road with controlling the Hydrocarbon Road are much greater than we had assumed.

The paper will first outline what kind of role the Silk Road played, and what kind of role Hydrocarbon Road can play in terms of trade routes; the second part will concentrate on the similarities; and the third and final part will highlight the effects of the trade routes on world politics.

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Teachers as Traders: Local Voices and Global Issues from post-Soviet Central Asia

The collapse of the Soviet Union and the advance of a market economy have resulted in the redefinition of values and reconsideration of professions and life priorities in order to survive and live through the multi-layered upheavals of the "unending" transition period. In the current socio-economic realities, thousands of people are working as *kommersants* (traders) in Central Asia. A large portion of these people are current and former teachers who have engaged in this new profession because of low salaries, poor working conditions, and the decreased status of the profession. Many more are eager to join this increasing army of "market employees" by putting their "teaching diplomas on the shelves".

The former and current teachers who, as guardians of the socialist system, previously condemned and fought against petty trade as something immoral, capitalistic and speculative are now, along with other *kommersants*, buying and reselling products, traveling from one place to another, dealing with police and illegal elements. Yet working as a *kommersant* is a risky business in post-Soviet Central Asia. It has implications for the safety of the teacher-traders as they travel between towns and cities in the country and beyond; dealing both with legal (though often corrupt) police and customs authorities and with illegal forces, such as racketeers or bandit groups (see Humphrey, 2002; Ries, 2002).

More than that, the new activity has an impact on their values and relationships with colleagues, students and education authorities.

This paper is based on two intensive qualitative studies conducted in 1999 and 2002 in Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan. Collecting data through in-depth interviews and participant observation methods, it explores and discusses how former teachers from Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan are coping with their new "roles" and "jobs" and how they are responding to the constraints and opportunities that confront them. Stories reveal the former teachers' tensions and hopes, frustrations and moments of joy, past recollections and future aspirations. The paper suggests that the teachers' particular stories and tales are not simple representations of personal struggles, but reveal critical societal and global issues related to the transformation of societies under the interface of new and old change forces. The analysis indicates the implications of the teachers' stories for education and society in Central Asia.

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Trade and the Role of the New Silk Road for Traders in Central Asia

With the world witnessing the increasing economic integration of nations, economic and technical factors are now the main impetus in inter-communal relations as the efficient movement of goods and services has become the pre-dominant theme and tool by which countries strive to develop their standards of living.

The old silk route, which was of major historical impact, extended from the shores of the Pacific Ocean in China in the East, to the Mediterranean in the west. Once again it has become the focus of international attention and has created new geographic realities in the wake of the emergence of the Central Asian republics following the dissolution of the Soviet Union in December 1991. The five Central Asian countries Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan have emerged as the focus of much international attention. Located in the heart of Eurasia, having a strong historical nexus with western Asia and the Indian sub-continent and rich in huge oil and gas resources, vast fertile plains and rich mines, most Central Asian republics are land-locked states whose direct and indirect economic connections pass through Russia, China, Turkey, Iran and Afghanistan.

In the broader context, the development and expansion of these routes will also lead to a

new cycle of exchanges between Eastern, Western and Southern Asia. This will be precipitated by the new-found ability to tie Central Asia to the sea routes of the Persian Gulf and Indian Ocean in the South and West and China and the Pacific Ocean in the North and East via the Malaka Strait. As such, Canton, Shanghai and Yung Ang Port (a port in northern China) and subsequently Japan, Hong Kong, South Korea and the South East Asian countries will then be effectively linked by the establishment of these routes.

The focus of this paper is an attempt to assess where and how business entry strategies can best be placed in the Central Asian markets by companies trading on this new silk road.

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Gradual Economic Reform in Uzbekistan

The "Uzbek road" was inspired by Asian examples, as well as a need to preserve political and social stability, with growth and technical change secondary. Four phases are distinguished in this paper: following stabilization, 1993-96 followed normal Washington consensus, but with little privatization of state-owned enterprises: disinflation, expanded worldwide trade, liberal banking and labor laws. The setback in 1996 caused by rapid decline of cotton and gold prices, overexpansion and resulting depletion of foreign exchange reserves. Inconvertibility lasted until 2003, with adverse results for manufacturing, trade, FDI, and personal incomes. Renewed IMF support and American pressure, together with improved cotton and gold prices, led to return of convertibility in mid-2003, but administrative measures still hamper regional trade, withdrawals of cash, and proper adjustment of the soum's value.

Uzbekistan's self-reliant "export globalism" permitted an independent foreign policy, including the option of downplaying any regional arrangements entered into. The various Central Asian regional trading agreements have had little effect, and Uzbekistan has regularly refused any military cooperation with its neighbors under CSTO, SCO, or any other institution. Of course, President Karimov's desire for freedom of action-some say, his desire for hegemony-has reinforced this tendency.

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Trade Routes in Western Eurasia in the Middle Ages

The paper focuses on the role of trade in the 8-11th centuries in Western Eurasia. There were two basic trade routes crossing the huge area: the Silk Road from China to the west reaching Byzantium; Road of the Fur in the northern belt of forest zone. The most important political centers were formed along these trade routes in Eastern Europe. Trade was one of the most important factors in the history of the Khazar Kaganate, Volga Bulgharia and Rus'. The trade routes had cultural significance. The world religions were spread along these routes (Judaism, Islam, Christianity). Commercial interests influenced the fate of Eastern Europe. The Khazars controlled the route along the Dnieper and Volga in the 9th century, which provided abundant wealth for them. The decline of the Khazar Kaganate could be connected with their losing control over these trade routes and Rus' and the Volga Bulghars assumed their role along the Dnieper and the Volga. In the 12th century the eastern Rus' principality tried to gain control over the Volga route, which led to frequent wars with the Volga Bulghars.

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***Higher Education in a Market and Trade-oriented Society:
Kazakhstan's Educational Reforms as an Import of Western Market Ideas***

Since 1991 Kazakhstan, re-opened to globalization, world markets and international trade and development cooperation, has been confronting unprecedented challenges in virtually every policy area. Initially, economic reforms understandably dominated the public agenda at the expense of other policy areas such as higher education (HE). Indeed, sweeping marketization reforms, liberalization of trade and economy, opening up for foreign trade and massive foreign investments, have virtually transformed the former centralized economy of Kazakhstan. Thus, trade and market-based ideas and values have taken over the modus operandi of the Kazakh government. Consequently, this Western-modeled marketization of the economy, the society, and its mentality, could not have left its HE

intact.

Indeed, first of all, the spill-over effect of free trade and market ideology has since considerably changed the whole structure of HE sector and the range of educational programs/services due to new labor market demands. Second, the exposure to international education cooperation and exchanges has inevitably led to a transfer of new HE organization, management, curricula, and teaching methods. Third, emergence of a private HE sector driven primarily by new market economy demands poses a challenge to the public HE, which prompts the government to update public HE programs/services. Finally, declining funding and standards of state-funded HE urges the Kazakh government to elaborate new supply-demand based policies toward HE system.

Overall, these trade and market trends, as a globalization impact, have driven the government to start marketizing HE sector in the same Western market spirit. This means that nowadays HE is viewed more as a service-providing industry, operating largely under market laws and with fewer public regulations.

This paper aims to provide an overview and analysis of conditions and respective market-spirited policies related to HE reforms in Kazakhstan.

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Development of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in Emerging Markets

Uzbekistan is a member of known and respected international and finance institutions such as the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, the World Health Organization, Economic and Social Commissions of Asia and Pacific, the European Bank of Reconstruction and Development, the International Finance Corporation, and the Asian Development Bank. By working with these international institutes, Uzbekistan has an opportunity to implement several trans-national projects and to help solve inter-regional problems.

As in any sustained and steady economy, the economy of Uzbekistan substantially depends on progress in the development of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs). Because of their mobility and ability to meet rapidly changing market requirements only small- and medium-sized enterprises can survive in the severe conditions of emerging markets. Big companies cannot react promptly to changes in demand and more readily go into bankruptcy.

In this paper I consider funding opportunities and funding sources as well as other aspects of developing SMEs in Uzbekistan. With respect to the funding issue, several sources allow for the promotion of small- and medium-sized businesses. For example, some companies have their initial funds primarily coming from privatization of the company as well as daily business activity. There are also some external sources of financing of SMEs such as loans from Employment Funds and Farm Supporting Funds, what businesses themselves contribute into centralized special funds. Assistance from the State for newly-created companies is one more source of available funding. These are soft loans (named 'aimed loans') from local banks with the interest rate not exceeding a refinancing rate which is calculated and presented by the Central Bank of Uzbekistan.

A most important source of financing of SMEs is the granting of long-term bank loans. Leading local banks have signed long-term loan agreements as a way to receive loans from international institutes specifically for SME development by refinancing through them. International Institutes such as EBRD, IFC, ADB, HERMES, COFAS, US EximBank and other world leading financial institutes have provided loans and have made significant investments into the economy of Uzbekistan. The number of enterprises with foreign investment assistance has significantly increased during recent years. In order to get loans from international financial institutes, companies have to meet a stringent set of requirements. Refinancing banks carefully study many aspects of the potential borrower. Strict filtering of all applicants through the prism of financial, economic, ecological, and previous business experience etc. is supposed to give desired results. However sometimes, even when meeting all requirements, some companies cannot withstand the severe conditions of reality in the transition period. Regardless of the size of their assets and well-regulated and adjusted business activity, not all small and medium size businesses are eligible for the loans being granted from the funds of international financial institutes.

This paper describes some of the difficulties businesses face in the way of receiving loan funds, determines challenges and also recommends how small and medium enterprises could adjust to this problem in order to run their businesses for further prosperity.

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Continuity and Change in the Trade of Xinjiang into the Early 1920s

The historic overland exchange along the Silk Roads connecting China with the West passed through what is today Xinjiang. Early travelers such as Xuanzang and Marco

Polo visited the famous oasis cities, and the work of archaeologists such as Aurel Stein has documented their importance as centers of cultural and economic exchange. Traditional scholarship tended to write off the overland trade in Eurasia as unimportant once the sea routes to East Asia opened up. While, to some extent, recent studies have filled the gap for the early modern period, the more recent history of this Inner Asian trade still needs to be written. Commercial interaction between Ferghana and Transoxania on the one hand, and the Tarim Basin on the other, continued in unbroken fashion down through the centuries. The Indian merchant diaspora in Xinjiang is also an important facet of the region's history down into modern times. Economic considerations were among the reasons why the imperial statesmen in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries indulged in the rivalry we call the "Great Game." The British and Russian consulates in Kashgar (Kashi), established at the turn of the 20th century, were not merely centers for the imperial rivals to spy on each other and try to influence the local authorities but also served the commercial interests of their respective subjects who traded in the region.

While in some ways the Bolshevik Revolution and establishment of Soviet power in Central Asia disrupted the traditional patterns of cross-border trade, there is interesting evidence about the ways in which the historic networks continued to operate. This paper will examine trade and traders in Xinjiang as seen through the lens of the British consulate in the early 1920s. Many of the objects of the consuls' attention have resonance even today, among them border security, the opium trade, and the potential for petroleum extraction.

This paper is part of my continuing work on the activities of C. P. Skrine, the British Consul in Kashgar from 1922-1924. Skrine is best known for his still-valuable book on the region (Chinese Central Asia). He was also the author of a stream of intelligence reports, documented new routes through the mountains, and compiled trade statistics which were published by the Government of India. A major part of his official duties involved interceding with the local authorities in court cases affecting the interests of British Indian citizens, a matter where his activism did not always square with the perceptions of the British embassy in Beijing.

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The Trade Route of Central Asia: Trading with the European Union

On the walls covering the grand marble staircase at the Samarkand State Institute of Foreign Languages there is a gigantic mural. The mural which covers the second floor entrance to the administrative offices depicts the journey of Marco Polo. It begins by showing

the visitor the markets, the products on offer and what passers by are interested in and what they offer in exchange. It is not only a journey of distance but also of time as one notices the difference in dwellings depicted as well as the modes of transportation.

My intention is to continue the mural, focusing on the current trading patterns of Central Asia, with special emphasis on the trade route to and from the European Union. This paper focuses on the post-independence trade routes of Central Asia as well as engaging in a chronological analysis of past trading relations in order to seek whether there is a discernible pattern at work. Given the fact that the European Union is the largest trading block in the world and given the level of attention all Central Asian states direct toward the EU in terms of bilateral trade treaties and the importance attached to benefiting from its aid programs, this paper seeks to discover and understand the extra-regional trade route that has emerged in the last decade or so.

The relationship with the EU encompasses many issues ranging from the cultural to the social and from the political to the economic. The EU has invested much human and material resource in the region, hoping to receive dividends in terms of trade expansion and economic influence. For the most part Central Asia has welcomed the attention and the opportunities the EU has offered, in many ways the relationship with the EU closely weaves together all the abovementioned categories and does not enable one to see a clear trading dimension. This paper intends to categorize hierarchically these factors in terms of their effects on trade. The goal is to discover the depth and importance of trade between the EU and Central Asia. Primary evidence and interviews will constitute a central element to shed light onto this phenomenon.

If not answers, at least clarifications to the following questions will be sought in this paper:

- What are the indigenous and exogenous factors for Central Asia's trade routes?
- Are there any instances of trade creation or diversion?
- How different from previous epochs are the current trading routes?
- To what extent does the EU affect trade in Central Asia?

In the final analysis, the Central and Inner Asian countries are endowed with much mineral wealth, which makes them enviable partners for many states, transnational corporations as well as regional and international organizations. Historical legacies, current political relations as well as domestic requirements are to name but three factors, affecting the complex issue of trading routes. This paper will strive to draw the contours of the current EU-Central Asia trade route whilst offering suggestions for the reasons and dynamics that explain this particular direction.

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The Role of Volga Bulgaria in trans-Eurasian trade in the 9th - 14th Centuries

The history and study of the trade routes of Central and Inner Asia in medieval times is a fascinating and fairly well-researched subject. However, several particular topics remain largely unaddressed, at least in the West. Among them is the analysis of the important role that a medieval Turkic state, called Volga Bulgaria, played in the trans-Eurasian trade in the 9th-14th centuries. This presentation aims to help close that gap.

Volga Bulgaria was founded in the 8th century AD by a group of Bulgar tribes fleeing the destruction of their earlier state in the Pontic steppes. It was a sedentary agrarian society, but its location at the confluence of the Volga and Kama rivers straddled several emerging trade routes, and its capital of Bulgar quickly emerged as a major trade center. The Bulgars developed three major directions of trade. To the west, they traded with the Scandinavian Rus merchants and later Slavs from various principalities of the Kievan Rus. To the east they engaged in an active trade with the Moslem states of Central Asia and the Middle East, emerging as the north-western end-point for the caravan route from the rich oases cities of Central Asia, such as Samarkand, Bukhara, Merv and Urgench. Finally, the Bulgars traveled to the north and north-east to trade with the local tribes, purchasing large quantities of valuable fur pelts.

By the middle of the ninth century, Bulgar had emerged as the central marketplace for the massive and lucrative fur-for-silver trade in which wealthy Moslem merchants came to Bulgar to purchase luxury fur pelts from the Bulgar traders in exchange for high-quality silver dirhams, as well as from the Rus, who came to trade in Bulgar, attracted by the dirhams. Traded through Bulgar, the dirhams have been found as far away as Estonia, Poland, and Gotland, whereas furs purchased in its marketplaces reached lucrative markets in Persia and the Middle East. However, fur was only one of a multitude of commodities traded in Bulgar. In addition to being a major marketplace and trans-shipment point, Volga Bulgaria also produced a variety of goods for export, including famous bulgari leather, which was exported to most of the Moslem world. Rich Bulgars with an appetite for Oriental luxury items imported an immense amount of such goods from Central Asia, Persia, and as far away as India and China.

Volga Bulgaria and its merchants showed tremendous resilience and ability to adjust to changing markets, shifting trade routes, and competition. Thus, it adopted and continued to prosper through the "silver famine" of the late 10th-11th centuries, increased competition and military encroachment on the trade routes by the Russians, etc. The Mongol invasions of the 13th century devastated the country and temporarily disrupted the trade routes,

but Volga Bulgaria recovered and adjusted to the changing conditions, remaining an important center of trans-Eurasian trade as a part of the Golden Horde. After the decline and eventual fall of Bulgar in the early 15th century, its successor state, the Kazan Khanate, inherited much of its trade network and export markets until it, too, was conquered by its main trade competitor, Russia.

The role of Volga Bulgaria in the Eurasian trade system was a very important one, and it deserves further research and analysis by scholars of Central Asia and Inner Eurasia. This is particularly important in a time when the peoples of Central and Inner Asia, historically prominent trading societies, are re-joining the world trading system after seventy years of being essentially cut-off from it.

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