

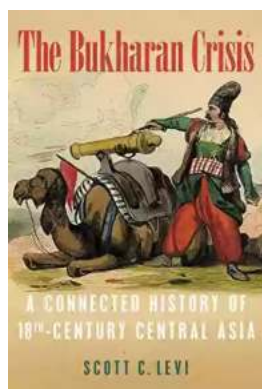
The Connected History of 18th Century Central Asia in the Context of Central Eurasia

In the vast region of Central Eurasia, the 18th century was a period of immense transformation, where political, economic, cultural, and religious connections shaped the interconnected histories of Central Asia. This article aims to delve into the rich tapestry of this era, examining the interplay of various empires, nomadic tribes, intellectuals, and trade routes that characterized the region at that time.

Alt Attribute (long descriptive keyword): A vibrant caravan passing through the Silk Road in Central Eurasia during the 18th century.

The Great Game: Power Struggles and Geopolitics

The 18th century witnessed a fierce competition between major powers who sought to expand their influence in Central Asia. Russia, Persia (modern-day Iran), and China were the primary players in this geopolitical chessboard.



The Bukharan Crisis: A Connected History of 18th Century Central Asia (Central Eurasia in Context)

by S. George Philander (Kindle Edition)

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 6187 KB

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Screen Reader : Supported

Enhanced typesetting : Enabled

Word Wise : Enabled

Print length : 224 pages

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Russia, under rulers like Peter the Great and Catherine the Great, embarked on a quest to acquire warm-water ports through Central Asia. The Great Game between Russia and the British Empire, originating from the 19th century, can be traced back to these early Russian ambitions in the region.

Persia, on the other hand, aimed to regain territories lost to the Ottomans and create a buffer zone against Russian encroachment. This led to frequent conflicts and power vacuums in Central Asia.

The Legacy of the Silk Road

Alt Attribute (long descriptive keyword): A bustling marketplace on the Silk Road, showcasing cultural exchanges in 18th century Central Asia.

The Silk Road, an ancient network of trade routes connecting East Asia with Europe, played a vital role in shaping the history of 18th century Central Eurasia. It served as a conduit for the exchange of goods, ideas, and cultures, fostering a diverse and cosmopolitan atmosphere in the region.

Caravanserais were established along the Silk Road, providing merchants and travelers with places to rest and trade their wares. These hubs of activity facilitated the diffusion of various commodities, knowledge, and religions, such as Islam and Buddhism.

Nomadic Tribes: The Powerhouses of Central Eurasia

Alt Attribute (long descriptive keyword): A painting depicting the nomadic tribes of Central Eurasia during the 18th century.

Central Eurasia's history is deeply intertwined with the nomadic tribes that roamed its vast steppes. Tribes such as the Kazakhs, Uzbeks, Kyrgyz, and

Turkmens exerted significant influence on the political and economic landscape of the region.

These nomadic tribes were known for their exceptional horsemanship and warrior skills, enabling them to establish empires or confederations that rivaled sedentary powers. The Kazakh Khanate, for instance, dominated the steppe region and held considerable sway over trade routes.

Cultural Renaissance and Intellectual Exchange

Alt Attribute (long descriptive keyword): Scholars engaged in intellectual discourse in a vibrant 18th-century Central Asian city.

The 18th century witnessed a cultural renaissance in Central Asia, with flourishing intellectual and artistic movements. The legacy of Timur (Tamerlane) and the intellectual heritage of medieval Persianate culture played a significant role in shaping this intellectual awakening.

Central Asian cities such as Bukhara, Samarkand, and Khiva became thriving centers of learning, attracting scholars, poets, and theologians from all corners of the Islamic world. These intellectuals exchanged ideas, translated works, and nurtured a vibrant literary tradition.

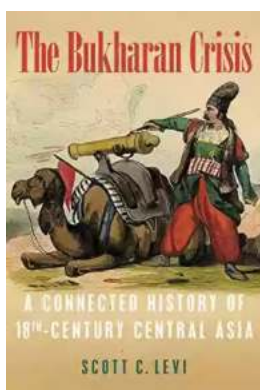
The Impact of Western Encounters

Alt Attribute (long descriptive keyword): A painting depicting the interaction between European explorers and Central Asian merchants in the 18th century.

In the 18th century, Central Asia had its fair share of encounters with the Western world. European explorers, traders, and diplomats sought to establish connections with Central Asian powers for various reasons, including gaining access to lucrative trade routes and negotiating alliances against common rivals.

These interactions led to the exchange of scientific knowledge, technology, and ideas between the West and Central Asia, although not always in equal terms. European powers were often viewed with suspicion and their influences were met with resistance, illustrating the complexities and power dynamics of these encounters.

, the 18th century was a transformative period for Central Eurasia, and Central Asia played a crucial role as a crossroads between empires, trade routes, and intellectual exchanges. The legacy of this connected history can still be felt in the region today, providing a profound understanding of the intricate dynamics that shaped Central Eurasia during the 18th century.



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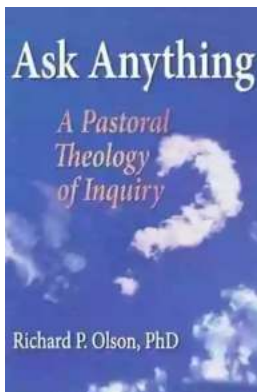
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In the first half of the eighteenth century, Central Asia's Bukharan Khanate descended into a crisis from which it would not recover. Bukharans suffered failed harvests and famine, a severe fiscal downturn, invasions from the north and the south, rebellion, and then revolution. To date, efforts to identify the cause of this crisis have focused on the assumption that the region became isolated from early

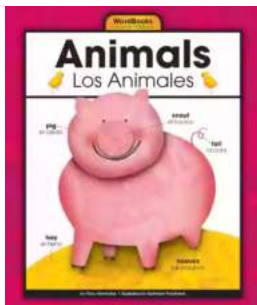
modern globalizing trends. The Bukharan Crisis exposes that explanation as a flawed relic of early Orientalist scholarship on the region.

In its place, Scott Levi identifies multiple causal factors that underpinned the Bukharan crisis. Some of these were interrelated and some independent, some unfolded over long periods while others shocked the region more abruptly, but they all converged in the early eighteenth century to the detriment of the Bukharan Khanate and those dependent upon it. Levi applies an integrative framework of analysis that repositions Central Asia in recent scholarship on multiple themes in early modern Eurasian and world history



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