Muslims in the Post-Soviet Era

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The Expansion of Islam toward Central Asia, 621-661 C.E.

The Expansion of Islam into Central Asia, 750 C.E.

Where is “the Muslim world”?

Source: http://pewforum.org/docs/?DocID=451
The Silk Road, circa 200 B.C.E.-1500 C.E.

Source: http://www.silkroadproject.org
Figure 12.1 Ethnic confusion in the partition of Central Asia. As scissors cut the map, man on left in Kazak costume writes Uzbek on a blank form. The Tajik-appearing man on right declares Kazak on a questionnaire. Mushum, journal no. 11, October 3, 1924.

The Ferghana Valley, historic heartland of Central Asia and site of Pan-Turkic revolts in the early 1920s, was carved up in a spiral pattern by Soviet cartographers in 1924.

Post-Soviet Leaders of Muslim-Majority Post-Soviet Nations

Heydar Aliyev
Azerbaijan
Coup (1993), died in office, 2003
Communist Party chief

Nursultan Nazarbayev
Kazakhstan
In office since independence
Communist Party chief

Askar Akayev
Kyrgyzstan
Overthrown in 2005
Communist parliamentarian

Emomali Rahmon
Tajikistan
In office since civil war, 1992
Communist official

Saparmurat Niyazov
Turkmenistan
Died in office, 2006
Communist Party chief

Islam Karimov
Uzbekistan
In office since independence
Communist Party chief
Authoritarianism in Muslim-Majority Post-Soviet Nations

Authoritarianism in Muslim-Majority Post-Soviet Nations

**Table 1—Religious Observance and Support for Democracy (Percentages)**

*“Democracy may have its faults, but it’s better than any other form of government.”*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Kazakhstan</th>
<th></th>
<th>Kyrgyzstan</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>DK</td>
<td>Y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Muslims</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very observant</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sometimes observant</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not observant</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Difference</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Orthodox</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Observant</td>
<td>57</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not observant</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Difference</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>No religion</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Totals</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source:* Nationwide sample surveys: 1,890 interviews in Kazakhstan between 26 October and 3 December 2001 and 1,964 interviews in Kyrgyzstan between 16 October and 27 November 2001.

Islamic radicalism

Source: http://furqon.com
Official Islam

Naqshbandi Shrine, Bukhara, Uzbekistan
Bukhara, early 20th century and early 21st century

“National” heritage

Ulugh Beg Astronomical Observatory, Samarqand, Uzbekistan

Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ulugh_Beg_Observatory
“National” language: Islom Karimov learns Uzbek

From Soviet apparatchik, 1969, to president of independent Uzbekistan

Sources:
For more information and events related to the Middle East and Muslim societies around the world…

http://mideast.unc.edu

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