

# **ECOLOGY and EMPIRE**

*Nomads in the Cultural  
Evolution of the Old World*

**ETHNOGRAPHICS/USC**

Monograph #1

*Dedicated to the memory of*

**Richard P. Feynman**

*Theoretical Physicist and Adventurer*

# ECOLOGY and EMPIRE

Nomads in the Cultural  
Evolution of the Old World

*Cover Illustration*

Rock carving with Turkic runes from Tuva

From a photograph courtesy of Dr. Dimitri D. Vassiliev

ETHNOGRAPHIC

Monograph #1

Dedicated to the memory of

Richard P. Feynman

Theoretical Physicist and Adventurer

**Proceedings of the Soviet-American  
Academic Symposia in Conjunction  
with the Museum Exhibition  
*Nomads: Masters of the Eurasian  
Steppe***

**Los Angeles, February 3-5, 1989**

**Denver, June 8-11, 1989**

**Washington, D.C., November 16-17, 1989**

**Volume 1**

**ECOLOGY AND EMPIRE**

*Nomads in the Cultural Evolution  
of the Old World*

Edited by

**GARY SEAMAN**



Copyright 1989 Gary Seaman and the University of Southern California

All rights reserved

Manufactured in the United States of America

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

*Ecology and Empire: Nomads in the Cultural Evolution of the Old World*

(Ethnographics Monographs, University of Southern California)

Includes bibliographies.

1. Nomads--Central Asia--Cultural Ecology. 2. Steppe Empires--Relations--Sedentary Empires. 3. Ethnography--Central Asia--Soviet Union and China

I. Seaman, Gary W. 1942- II. Series III. Ethnographics Monographs #1, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, California

*Published by*

ETHNOGRAPHICS/USC  
Center for Visual Anthropology  
University of Southern California  
Los Angeles, CA 90089-0032  
Phone: (213) 743-7100

## CONTENTS

Page

- Preface and Acknowledgements 1  
*Gary Seaman*
- Part 1. The Steppe and the Sown**
1. Richard Feynman and the Tuva Adventure 11  
*Ralph Leighton*
2. Chokan Valikhanov: Explorer of the Nineteenth  
Century Asian Nomadic Peoples 29  
*Ramazan. B. Sulejmenov*
3. An Ecological History of Central Asian Nomadism 41  
*Rhoads Murphey*
4. The Ecology of the Ancient Nomads of Soviet  
Central Asia and Kazakhstan 61  
*Boris A. Litvinskii*
5. One of the Origins of Nomadism 75  
*Sevyan. I. Vainshtein*
6. The "Decline" of the Central Asian  
Caravan Trade 81  
*Morris Rossabi*
- Part 2: Steppe and Nomadic Cultures of Eurasia**
7. Principal Tendencies in the Development of Hunting  
in Ancient and Traditional Nomadic Societies 105  
*Leonid B. Ermolov*
8. The System of Nourishment among the Eurasian  
Nomads: The Kazakh Example 111  
*Nurila Z. Shakanova*



9. Hierarchy in Traditional Men's Associations of Central Asia <i>Rachmad R. Rahimov</i>	120
10. Traditional Hunting with Raptors in Central Asia and Kazakhstan <i>Georgii N. Simakov</i>	129
<b>Part 3: Interactions of Steppe and Sown</b>	
11. Central Asian Concepts of Rule on the Steppe and Sown <i>Richard N. Frye</i>	135
12. Dunhuang as a Funnel for Central Asian Nomads into China <i>Victor H. Mair</i>	143
13. The Emperor of the Dark Heavens and the Han River Gateway into China <i>Gary Seaman</i>	165
14. Official Policies in the People's Republic of China toward Minority Nationalities <i>Kui Bai and Rui Gao</i>	179
15. The Preservation of Folk Cultures of Inner Mongolia <i>Hao Wen</i>	185
16. Contemporary Khanates: Compromises Adopted by Kazakh and Kirghiz Leaders <i>Andre Singer</i>	193
General Bibliography <i>Mary F. Zirin</i>	205