

# RUSSIA AND NATIONALISM IN CENTRAL ASIA



## THE CASE OF TADZHIKISTAN



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## PREFACE

MY INTEREST IN Soviet Central Asia dates back to my 1954–56 participation in a project on Soviet Central Asia under the sponsorship of the Human Relations Area Files—Washington Branch, an interest that later developed into a doctoral thesis, which, in turn, has served as the point of departure for this monograph. My greatest debt is to Professor Merle Fainsod of Harvard University, under whose direction it was my privilege to work. His scholarship has been a source of guidance and inspiration, and his advice and encouragement was of the greatest value in the preparation of this manuscript. He is, of course, in no way responsible for any of its shortcomings. For the early stages of the research I am also indebted to the original team of the HRAF project, especially to its director, Dr. Lawrence Krader, who introduced me to the methodology of ethnic “name-reading,” and to Mrs. Natalie Frenkley for fruitful exchange of information and for unfailing friendship.

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#### NOTE ON TRANSLITERATION

Transliteration of Russian names follows the Library of Congress usage, except for generally accepted spellings of geographic and other names. Russian capitalization usage in transliterating titles of books and articles is retained, but Russian nouns are given anglicized plural forms when practicable. Names of territorial-administrative units, and some economic and political terms such as *kolkhoz* (collective farm), *obkom* (province Party committee), and *Komsomol* (Young Communist League), are also kept in the original Russian. Persian and Arabic names are transliterated from Russian spelling. The Tadzhik capital, originally Dushambe (Monday), was called Stalinabad until 1961 when the original name was restored in a new spelling, Dushanbe. The name Stalinabad is used here as the appropriate one for the period.

T.R.-H.



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The reaction to Soviet imperialism in Central Asia—in fact throughout the rimland of the Soviet empire—is increasingly confronting Soviet Russia with one of the most dangerous threats to its empire. The issue is one of conquest and reaction, of the creation by the conquerors of national awareness in indigenous populations. Focusing on Tadzhikistan, this study analyzes the methods, and the results, of Soviet colonial policy. The major theme is that of a growing nationalist potential on the part of the Tadzhiks, especially—perhaps ironically—on the part of the Soviet-educated ruling elite.

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