

Russia and Central Asian Politics
April 3, 2109



Tajik Man
near Hissar



Kazakh designer
Aigerim Idrissova



LGBTQ Rights

- Russia
 - Decriminalized after transition.
 - But: "gay propaganda law," 2013.
 - Bans "the promoting of nontraditional sexual relationships among minors" and "creating a distorted image of the social equivalence of traditional and nontraditional sexual relationships."
 - Rejected by European Court of Human Rights (June 2017) but little ability to enforce.



Arrest of protestor 2013



Ali Feruz

- Journalist.
- Tortured in Uzbekistan 2009.
- Fled to Russia.
- Lost documents.
- Order of deportation to Uzbekista.
- Reversed; now in Germany.



Clans



What are clans *not*?

- Clans ≠ ethnic groups
- Clans ≠ organized crime groups
- Clans ≠ political parties

Other terms:

- horde* (Kazakhstan)
- tribe* (Arabia, Northern and Central Africa, North America)



Clans

- Diffuse boundaries.
- Confusing overlap of clans, regions, institutions, economic interests.
- Hard to measure, but clearly influential.
 - (especially Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and - to a lesser degree - Uzbekistan).

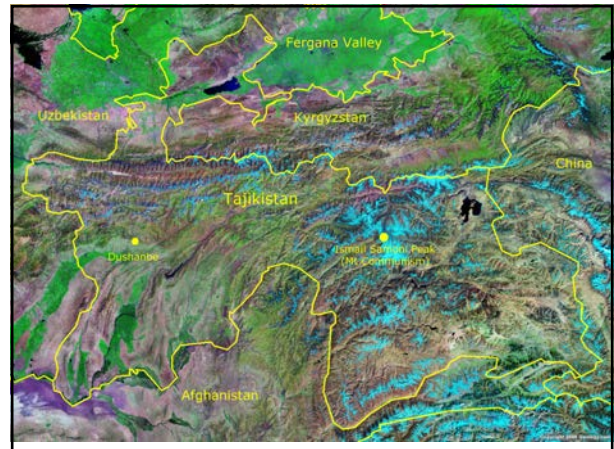
Kinship Clans vs Neo-patrimonial Clans

- Kinship clans: extended kinship networks (can involve tens of thousands).
- Neo-patrimonialism: patron-client networks where loyalty and identity is based on systems of rewards.

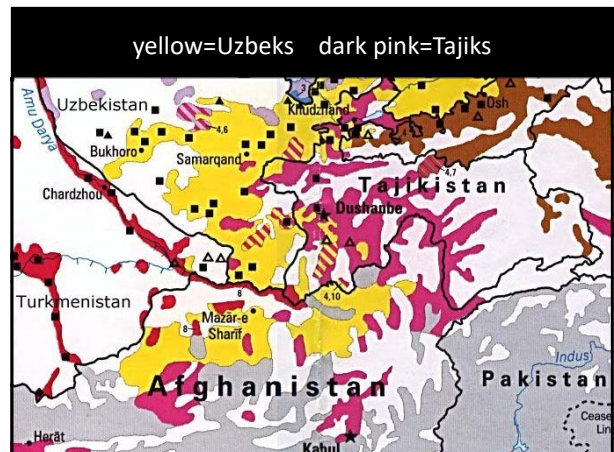


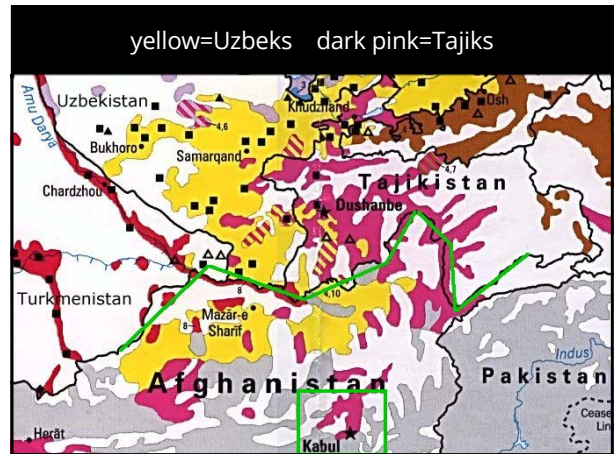
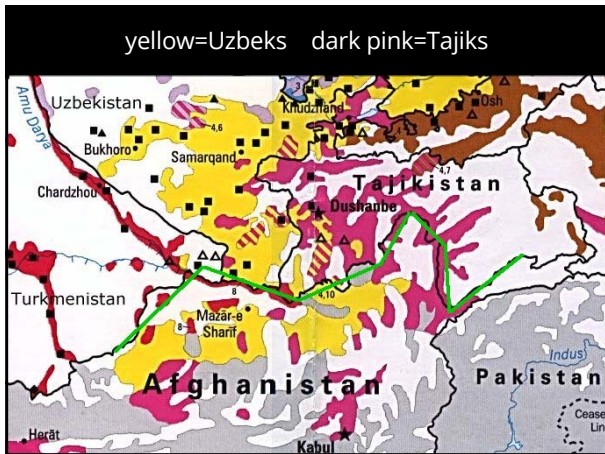
Clan Politics in the Soviet Period

- Clans were supposed to disappear.
 - Nomads were forcibly settled into collective farms.
 - Larger, ethnic identities were (more or less) created: Kazakhs, Uzbeks, etc.
 - The larger ethnic identity was to supersede clan identity.
- Instead, clans "modernized": adapted to the bureaucratic state.



Ethnic vs Political Map of Central Asian/Afghan Border Region







Clan Politics Today

- Tajikistan: clan identity stronger than national identity.
- Kyrgyzstan: clan (regional) identity threatens unity off and on.
- Turkmenistan: clan politics partially settled succession crisis after Niyazov's death.

Diplomatic Forum

- 12 delegations
 - Nine two-person delegations
 - Three four/five person delegations
- One moderator (Quynh) + one additional person
- Table arrangement?

Basic Rules

1. Raise your sign to get on the speakers list.
2. Speak only when acknowledged.
3. Stand when speaking.
4. Refer to yourself in the third person ("Armenia believes...").
5. Refer to others as (e.g.) "the delegation from Russia."

Study (link on the forum page):
http://jimbuterfield.org/3440/Forum_Conduct_Rules.pdf

Basic Rules

6. Except for opening statements, you have one minute.
7. When Quynh signals your time is up, sit down.
8. If you finish before using your full minute, say(e.g.) "Georgia yields the rest of its time."

Study (link on the forum page):
http://jimbuterfield.org/3440/Forum_Conduct_Rules.pdf

Basic Rules

9. Each delegation should have a two-minute opening statement of general positions.
10. Also, prepare one-minute opening statements for each of the four questions.
11. Everyone is expected to participate multiple times each day.
12. If you miss class, you will lose one third of your grade (i.e., the best grade you can get is 67, a D).

Study (link on the forum page):
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