

**Centre for Russian and Central Asian Studies**  
**School of International Studies, JNU**

Course	Ph.D
Course Title	Politics and Society in Modern Central Asia
Course No.	SE: 602
Course Type	Core Course
Course Teacher	Prof. Sanjay Kumar Pandey, Prof. Phool Badan and Prof. Nalin Kumar Mohapatra ,
Credits	Four
Semester	Monsoon Semester
Contact Hour	Four

**Course Objectives**

Central Asia has been the meeting ground of great civilizations and trade routes in the past. In the last one and half centuries, the region experienced transformation, from feudalism to Tsarist colonialism to socialism to independence. The five Republics – Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan became independent entities in 1991 after more than seventy years of Soviet rule. The post-Soviet period witnessed political and economic transition from socialism to market economy and ‘liberal polity’. While there are some similarities in their past experience and present challenges, the five countries have followed their own model and pace of socio-political change, modernisation and democratization. The present course explains the challenges the Central Asian countries are confronting in their political development and nation-building due to the rise of ethnic conflict, radical extremism, and proliferation of terrorist groups. In fact, these elements are challenging the multicultural fabric of Central Asian society. Domestic politics is also influenced by the geopolitical interest of different external powers. The course also analyses Central Asian political and social systems from theoretical, historical, and comparative perspectives.

## **Learning Outcomes:**

- 1) To generate awareness about the rich and distinctive historical-cultural experience and trajectory of the Central Asian countries as a meeting ground of various civilisations and state systems.
- 2) To provide an in-depth understanding of the relationship between politics and society in the context of Central Asia.
- 3) To analyse the role of formal and informal structures in Central Asian political processes.
- 4) To create a framework for comprehensive research and analysis of security discourses (both in the context of traditional and non-traditional approaches) to examine the regional security, geopolitical processes, and energy security dynamics of Central Asia.

## **Evaluation Methods**

Class performance, Assignments, Seminars, Mid-session examination (50%) End Semester Exam (50%)

## **Course Content**

- **Central Asia in a Historical Perspective**
  - Central Asia on the Eve of Russian Conquest: Khanates of Khiva, Bukhara and Kokand
  - Feudal Socio-Political Structure and Nature of Economic Relations
  - Tsarist Russia's annexation and its Impact on Socio-Economic Structure
  
- **Socio-Political Movements in Tsarist Central Asia**
  - Jadidism
  - Pan-Turkism
  - Socialism
  
- **Soviet Central Asia**
  - The October Revolution of 1917 and Socio-Political Changes
  - Soviet Nationality Policy and creation of Central Asian Republics

- Economic Transformation: Agrarian change, Industrialisation, Urbanisation, and Migration
- Social and Political Modernisation
- Glasnost, Perestroika and Soviet Disintegration
  
- **Central Asia: Early years of independence**
  - Socio-Political Changes: Tradition and Modernity
  - Transition to market economy
  - Post-Communist Transition
  
- **Political System in Central Asia**
  - Models of Democratisation - Indigenous; Western Liberal; Syncretic Political Institutions and Processes
    - Constitution
    - Legislature, Executive, Judiciary
    - Political Parties, Elections, and Media
    - Democracy and authoritarianism
  
- **Society and Political Culture**
  - Nomadic and Sedentary societies
  - Multiculturalism, Sub-Ethnic Identity (Clan and Regional)
  - Status of women
  - Migration
  - Social Capital and Civil Society
  
- **Challenges to Democratisation Process**
  - Ethnic conflicts, religious radicalisation, and Extremist and Terrorist groups
  - Political Economy of Regime stability, Resource Curse and Regime Change
  
- **Geopolitics and Security Issues**
  - Changing geopolitics of Central Asia, External Powers, “New Great Game”
  - Energy, Environment, and Connectivity

## Essential Readings

Allworth, Edward (1967), *Central Asia: A Century of Russian Rule*, New York, London: Columbia University Press.

Badan, Phool (2001), *Dynamics of Political Development in Central Asia*, New Delhi: Lancers' Books.

Bossuyt Fabienne & Marcin Kaczmarek (2021) "Russia and China between cooperation and competition at the regional and global level." Introduction, *Eurasian Geography and Economics*, Vol. 62, No. 5-6, pp. 539-556.

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Collins, Kathleen (2002), Clans, Pacts, and Politics in Central Asia, *Journal of Democracy*, Vol. 13, No. 3, Pp. 137-152.

Collins, Kathleen (2003), The Political Role of Islam in Central Asia, *Comparative Politics*, Vol. 35, No. 2, Pp. 171-190.

d'Encausse, Helene Carrere (1980), "Soviet Nationality Policy in Central Asia", *Journal of Area Studies*, Vol. 1, No. 1: 36-40.

Isaacs, R., & Polese, A. (2015) "Between "Imagined" and "Real" Nation-building: Identities and Nationhood in Post-Soviet Central Asia", *Nationalities Papers*, Vol. 43, No. 3, pp. 371–382.

Kaushik, Devendra (1970), *Central Asia in Modern Times*, Moscow: Progress Publication.

Khalid, Adeb (1999), *The Politics of Muslim Cultural Reform: Jadidism in Central Asia*, California: University of California Press.

Kokaisl, P. (2013), Soviet Collectivisation and its Specific Focus on Central Asia, *AgEcon Search* Vol. V, No. 4.

Matveeva, Anna (2009) "Legitimising Central Asian Authoritarianism: Political Manipulation and Symbolic Power", *Europe-Asia Studies*, Vol.61, No.7, pp. 1095-1121.

Mohapatra, Nalin Kumar (2006) *Political Culture and Democratic Development in Central Asia*, New Delhi: Bookwell.

Olcott, M.B (2007) *The Roots Of Radical Islam In Central Asia*,  
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Przeworski, Adam and Fernando Limongi, (1997), 'Modernization: Theories and Facts', *World Politics*, Vol.49, No.2, pp.155-183.

Tunçer-Kılavuz. (2009) "Political and Social Networks in Tajikistan and Uzbekistan: 'Clan', Region and Beyond", *Central Asian Survey*, Vol. 28, No. 3, pp. 323–334.

## Further Readings

Bacon, Elizabeth E. (1966), *Central Asia under Russian Rule*, Ithaca and New York: Cornell University Press.

Badan, Phool (2016), "Socio-Cultural Reform Movement in Central Asia", *Journal of Central Asian Studies*, 23: 1-16.

Blank, Stephen( 2012) " Whither the New Great Game in Central Asia?" , *Journal of Eurasian Studies*, Vol.3 , No, 2, pp. 147–60.

Busygina Irina and Mikhail Filippov (2020) "Russia, Post-Soviet Integration, and the EAEU: The Balance between Domination and Cooperation", *Problems of Post-Communism*, Vol.68, No. 1, pp. 1-11

Coates, Zelda K. and Coates, W. P. (1951), *Soviets in Central Asia*, London: Lawrence and Wishart.

Cooly, Alexander(2012) *Great Games, Local Rules The New Great Power Contest in Central Asia*, New York: OUP

Collins, Kathleen (2002), Clans, Pacts, and Politics in Central Asia, *Journal of Democracy*, Vol. 13, No. 3, Pp. 137-152.

Collins, Kathleen (2003), The Political Role of Islam in Central Asia, *Comparative Politics*, Vol. 35, No. 2, Pp. 171-190.

Dawisha, Karen and Bruce Parrott(1997) *Conflict, Cleavage, and Change in Central Asia and the Caucasus* (Democratization and Authoritarianism in Post-Communist Societies, (Cambridg Cambridge University Press)

d'Encausse, Helene Carrere (1980), "Soviet Nationality Policy in Central Asia", *Journal of Area Studies*, 1 (1): 36-40.

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E. Schuyler, Phil Dr. (1876), *Turkistan*, London, Sampson Low and Marston: Sarle and Rivington.

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Kubicek, Paul (2011) "Are Central Asian leaders learning from upheavals in Kyrgyzstan?" *Journal of Eurasian Studies*, Vol.2, No.2, pp.115-124.

Khalid, Adeeb (2011), *Central Asia: A New History from Imperial Conquest to the Present*, Princeton: Princeton University Press.

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