

# Russian Central Asia, 1867-1917: A Study in Colonial Rule



## Russian Central Asia, 1867-1917: A Study in Colonial Rule by Richard A. Pierce

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The conquest of Central Asia by the Russian Empire in the 19th century was a major turning point in the history of the region. For centuries, Central Asia had been a crossroads of trade and culture, and had been ruled by a variety of empires, including the Persian, Arab, and Mongol empires. However, the Russian conquest brought about a new era of colonial rule that would have a profound impact on the region's people and culture.

## The Russian Conquest of Central Asia

The Russian conquest of Central Asia began in 1864, when the Russian army invaded the Khanate of Kokand. The Khanate of Kokand was one of three khanates that ruled over Central Asia at the time, the other two being the Khanate of Khiva and the Emirate of Bukhara. The Russians quickly defeated the Kokand army and annexed the khanate.

The Russian conquest continued in 1865, when the Russians invaded the Khanate of Khiva. The Khivans were defeated and their khanate was also annexed by Russia. In 1868, the Russians invaded the Emirate of Bukhara and forced the emir to accept Russian suzerainty.

With the conquest of the three khanates, the Russians had gained control of all of Central Asia. The region was renamed Russian Turkestan and was ruled by a governor-general appointed by the Russian tsar.

### **The Impact of Colonial Rule**

The Russian conquest of Central Asia had a profound impact on the region's people and culture. The Russians introduced a number of new policies that transformed the region's economy and society.

One of the most significant changes was the of a new system of land ownership. Under the traditional system of land ownership, land was held in common by the community. However, the Russians introduced a new system of private property, which allowed individuals to own land.

The of private property led to a number of changes in the region's economy. It encouraged the development of a market economy, as individuals could now buy and sell land and other goods. It also led to the growth of a new class of landowners, who became the dominant economic force in the region.

The Russians also introduced a new system of education. Under the traditional system of education, children were taught in religious schools. However, the Russians introduced a new system of secular education, which taught children about science, mathematics, and other subjects.

The of secular education had a profound impact on the region's culture. It led to the growth of a new class of intellectuals, who were educated in the Russian language and culture. This new class of intellectuals played a leading role in the region's nationalist movement.

## **The Rise of Nationalism**

The Russian conquest of Central Asia led to the growth of a nationalist movement in the region. The nationalists sought to create a new, independent Central Asian state. The nationalist movement was led by a group of intellectuals who had been educated in the Russian language and culture.

The nationalist movement gained momentum in the early 20th century. In 1916, a major uprising against Russian rule took place in Central Asia. The uprising was led by the Basmachi movement, which was a group of armed rebels who fought against the Russians.

The Basmachi movement was defeated by the Russians, but the uprising showed the strength of the nationalist movement in Central Asia. In 1924, the Soviet Union was created and Central Asia became one of its constituent republics.

The Russian conquest of Central Asia was a major turning point in the history of the region. The Russians introduced a number of new policies that transformed the region's economy and society. The Russian conquest also led to the growth of a nationalist movement in the region. The nationalist movement eventually led to the creation of the Soviet Union in 1924.



Table of Russian Central Asian Khanates

Khanate	Capital	Founded	Conquered by Russia
Khanate of Kokand	Kokand	1709	1865
Khanate of Khiva	Khiva	1511	1865
Emirate of Bukhara	Bukhara	1785	1868

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