

PAMIRIAN CROSSROADS

Kirghiz and Wakhi of High Asia

2015 Harrassowitz Verlag · Wiesbaden

Dedicated to Sabine Felmv

Bibliografische Information der Deutschen Bibliothek:

Die Deutsche Bibliothek verzeichnet diese Publikation in der Deutschen Nationalbibliografie; detaillierte bibliografische Daten sind im Internet über http://dnb.ddb.de abrufbar.

Bibliographic information published by Die Deutsche Bibliothek:
Die Deutsche Bibliothek lists this publication in
the Deutsche Nationalbibliografie; detailed bibliographic data is available in the
Internet at http://dnb.ddb.de

For further information about our publishing program please consult our website http://:www.harrassowitz.de/verlag

© for this edition Otto Harrassowitz GmbH & Co. KG, Wiesbaden 2015

This work, including all of its parts, is protected by copyright. Any use beyond the limits of copyright law without the permission of the publisher is forbidden and subject to penalty. This applies particularly to reproductions, translations, microfilms and storage and processing in electronic systems.

Cover photograph: Hermann Kreutzmann Back cover: Demetrius Charles Boulger, 1878

Editors: Anne Beck and Sabine Felmy
Photography: Hermann Kreutzmann except where dedicated otherwise
Design and typography: Hermann Kreutzmann
Desktop publishing and image processing: Harald Weller
Cartography: Bernd Hilberer and Markus Hauser
Printing and binding: Memminger MedienCentrum AG, Memmingen
Printed on permanent/durable paper.

Printed in Germany · ISBN 978-3-447-10449-4



CONTENTS

Avant-propos 7

Mapping the Pamirs and Wakhan 7

Locating the arena 8

- Approaches 8
- Kirghiz and Wakhi communities 9
- Ecology and economy in the Pamirs 9
- Kirghiz and Wakhi migration in space and over time 10
- Pastoralists across boundaries 10
- Aspects and prospects 11

Transliteration and transcription 11

Acknowledgments 12

Copyright 14

Introduction 17

Pamir and Wakhan – locating the arena 17

Pamir 20

From Buddhist pilgrims to colonial missions 22

People and places 32

Wakhan 39

Borders and maps 42

Natural boundaries and scientific borders 51

Frontiers of contact versus frontiers of separation 58

Taking refuge – people to places 60

Coping with transformation 63

Approaches 69

Exploring the crossroads 69

Asia and Europe – a widening gap 70

Production of knowledge 71

From Fergana, Kabul and Kashgar to the Pamirs 72
Pamir and Wakhan – approach to the highlands 82
Consolidating knowledge and playing the game 89
Grombchevsky and Younghusband: two individuals
driven by equal interests – representing rival powers 92

The Gilgit Mission and Wakhan 96

Shrinking 'blank' spaces and mapped desires 100

Individual travellers on high ground 105

Change of interests – from individual traveller to

scientific expedition 112

Gazetteers and handbooks for practice 114

Closed borders 114

Exploring the roads – vehicular traffic in High Asia 116

Wakhi and Kirghiz communities 127

Imagination and persistence 127

Conflicting classifications 127

Denominational affiliations in space and time 137

Nomads, pastoralists or combined mountain farmers 140

Outsiders' perceptions and attributions 141

Collective terms and varying applications 144

Distribution and diffusion – a spatial approach to

mobility 146

Chances and constraints for pastoral practices 151

Ecology and economy in the Pamirs 151

- Environmental constraints in Kirghiz and
- Wakhi settlement areas 152
- Climatic conditions 156
- Classification of the Pamirs 158
- Pamirian pasture potential 163

Passes and valleys – location of settlements 167

- Built environment 167
- The house and the yurt 175

Wakhi livelihoods 176

- Mountain agriculture and cropping systems 179
- Farm size and cultivation patterns 183
- Animal husbandry and high-mountain pastures 184
- Pastoral practices in Shimshal 187
- Variations in Wakhi combined mountain agriculture 189

Kirghiz migration in space and time 190

Kirghiz vak-keeping 195

Relations and transitions 197

Mobility and multi-locality in High Asia 205

Kirghiz and Wakhi migration in space and over time 205

Wakhan - maintaining independence despite external

threat (1747–1872) 205

Afghan and imperial pressure on Badakhshan

(1872-1883) 216

The Mir leaves Wakhan and half the population follows 221

Effects of boundary-making (1883–1899) 229

Search for new abodes 249

Changing taxation and forced labour practices as a stimulus for mobilising Wakhi migrants (1899–1901) 255

Consolidation of states within newly created borders (1901-1919) 261

Political and religious discrimination in the Pamirs (1919-1949) 267

Collectivisation strategies 277

Border closures affecting exchange 281

Migration as an adaptation strategy in High Asia 295

Forceful dislocation of people 295 Migration to reduce risk 300

Population dynamics among Wakhi 307

Population dynamics in Kirghiz enclaves 312

Kirghiz pastoralists across boundaries 319

Kirghiz patterns of evasion and exchange 319

Kirghiz communities 322

Nomads and pastoralists in Central Asian peripheries 327

Life history of Khan Rahman Qul 335

Dissident Kirghiz in the Afghan Pamirs 342

Kirghiz communities – perceptions past and present 343

A long way to go 346

Aspects and prospects 351

Winds of change in minority politics 351

Nation-building and regionalism of rural groups in Afghanistan: Wakhan Woluswali in Badakhshan 352

- Formation of a social hierarchy without a traditional ruling elite 352
- Exchange relations in a 'closed frontier' situation 356
- Trends in Wakhan since the Saur revolution in 1978 360
- The Afghan Pamirs and Wakhan in relation to the Northern Alliance 362

Soviet nationalities policy in Tajikistan: collectivisation and border protection in Gorno-Badakhshan 367

- The policy of national delimitation and administrative reforms in Gorno-Badakhshan 367
- Integration of the Pamir groups into the Tajik nation 373
- Stages of collectivisation in Gorno-Badakhshan 374
- Socio-economic transformation in the Wakhi communities and national integration processes 378

Chinese minority policies in Xiniiang: people's communes in Sarikol 384

- Nationality policies and autonomy concepts 385
- Transformation of rural communities in China 387
- Minority policies in Xinjiang 388
- Collectivisation and regional autonomy in Xinjiang 389
- Wakhi in Sarikol 390
- Transformation processes in Sarikol 392

Absence of nationalities' policies - minorities in

Pakistan 397

- Ishkoman from seat in exile to periphery 397
- Baroghil pauperisation in a remote location 401
- Goial transition from outsider position to model of Ismaili integration? 406

Portraying the present age 431

Afghan Wakhan 432

Little Pamir 439

Great Pamir 443

Rajon Ishkashim 445

Murghab District 449

Sarikol and Taghdumbash Pamir 456

Little Kara Köl 463

Gojal 468

Ishkoman 472

Baroghil 472

Epilogue 477

Scientific and sensitive boundaries in transition 477 Final words – shepherdesses in harsh environments 478

Glossary of important terms and toponyms 485

Glossary 485

Pronunciation 492

Toponyms and meanings 493

Toponyms and previous transliterations and usages 494

Bibliography 496

Archival collections, files, memoranda and primary

sources 496

Bibliography of printed and published material 510

Bibliography of maps 546

Index 552