



China, Xinjiang and Central Asia: History, Transition and Crossborder Interaction into the 21st Century (Routledge Contemporary China)

From Mackerras Colin

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Central Asia and Xinjiang – the far north-western province of China – are of increasing international importance. The United States, having established military bases in Central Asia after September 2001, has now become a force in what was previously predominantly a Russian sphere of influence; whilst China, Russia and Iran all continue to exert strong influence. These external, international influences have had a significant impact on local politics, with the overthrow of a long-standing regime in Kyrgyzstan, continued unrest and opposition to the current regime in Uzbekistan and the intensification of Chinese control in Xinjiang.

This book explores the effect of global and local dynamics across the region: global influences include the 'War on Terror' and international competition for energy resources; local dynamics include Islamic revival, Central Asian nationalism, drugs trafficking; economic development and integration. The authors argue that these multiple challenges, in fact, unite Xinjiang and Central Asia in a common struggle for identities and economic development.

This book provides a comprehensive overview of the region's historical significance, the contemporary international forces which affect the region, and of current political, economic and cultural developments.

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Review

'This is a worthy book that should be read by all students of international relations with an interest in Central Asia' - *L.J.Newby, University of oxford, The China Journal, No. 63*

About the Author

Colin Mackerras is Professor Emeritus at Griffith University, Australia. His main works on ethnic minorities include *China's Minorities: Modernization and Integration in the Twentieth Century* and *China's Ethnic Minorities and Globalisation*. He has written a paper on the Tibetans in contemporary China for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, 2005. **Michael Clarke** is a Research Fellow at the Griffith Asia Institute at Griffith University, Australia. He has published numerous articles on the history and contemporary politics of Xinjiang in such journals as *Asian Security*, *Asian Studies Review*, *Issues & Studies* and *Terrorism & Political Violence*.

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