

Age 1000-1765 (2019), *Persianate Selves* is chronologically more focused. Its terminology offers an alternative discourse about Persian as a cosmopolitan language. The main text is followed by a rich endnote section. Footnotes could clarify certain points and ameliorate the understanding of the multilayered arguments of the book. The system of transliteration contains a few redundancies in words such as *tizkirih* and *silsilib* (p. 109), instead of *tazkira* and *silsila*, and does not mark long vowels (e.g. “Bidil” on page 182 instead of “Bedil”). However, *Persianate Selves* makes significant interdisciplinary connections and will surely animate discussions while opening new theoretical avenues.

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Koulouri, Anastasia and Nikolai Mouraviev, eds. *Kazakhstan's Developmental Journey: Entrenched Paradigms, Achievements, and the Challenge of Global Competitiveness*. Singapore: Palgrave Macmillan, 2021. 271 pp. ISBN: 9789811569012. DOI: 10.22679/avs.2021.6.2.008

At the present moment, Kazakhstan has entered a new stage of its evolutionary development, associated with the beginning of political and economic modernization under the new leadership of President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev. The voluntary resignation of the first President of Kazakhstan, Nursultan Nazarbayev, from the political Olympus, has attracted increased attention from scholars to an objective study of the political heritage of the ‘Father of the Nation’ or ‘Elbasy.’

The present collection consists of an introduction and three parts, devoted to the analysis of some of the most key issues on the agenda of the Government of Kazakhstan over the past 30 years, including energy (Chapter 2), agriculture (Chapter 3), education (Chapter 4), public administration (Chapter 5), management of water resources (Chapter 7), and monotowns (Chapter 8). Many of these issues are capturing increased attention from the civic groups of Kazakhstan, which in recent years have expressed their opinions more and more openly.

This collection is very extensive in its content and covers almost all key policy documents and milestones of the modern model of Kazakhstani development or ‘Kazakhstan’s Way.’ Indeed, the book scrutinizes the primary goals of Nazarbayev’s following strategies ‘Kazakhstan-2030,’ ‘Kazakhstan-2050,’ the ‘Nurly Zhol’ economic program, and the five institutional reforms, as well as their impact on the above-mentioned areas.

It is noteworthy that most of the chapters were written by young researchers from Kazakhstan, who contributed to the significant enrichment of the book with meaningful empirical data and expert assessments of modern political and socio-economic trends in Kazakhstan. This approach continues the efforts of the Asian Development Bank Institute,

the OSCE Academy in Bishkek, and the Central Asia Program at the GWU Elliott School of International Affairs, among many others, to enforce the Central Asian and Kazakhstani scholarship by a young generation of Central Asian scholars.

In general, it can be agreed with the authors that the comprehensive study of these fields and other related areas can provide a deeper understanding of how effective government policies and programs are, and how they influence the economic development and social well-being of Kazakhstan. This is doubly interesting considering the plans of Kazakhstan to become a member of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

In fact, topics that reveal the essence and problematic issues of the development of Public-Private Partnerships (Chapter 6), the Water-Energy-Food Nexus (Chapter 7), and monotowns (Chapter 8) in Kazakhstan are rarely found in the academic literature. These three chapters (Chapters 6, 7, and 8) add novelty and relevance for researchers studying Central Asia and, in particular, Kazakhstan.

In Chapter 8, readers can also find statements by residents of Kazakhstani monotowns themselves, discussing their personal experiences and existing difficulties. Obviously, Kazakhstan's movement towards recovery in the post-COVID-19 period and achieving carbon neutrality by 2060 will only encourage the interest of scholars in these areas.

Today, the development of agriculture and education, including the privatization of national universities, teachers' support, and childcare, are all actively discussed at the meetings of the National Council of Public Trust, initiated by President Tokayev for closer interaction with the country's civil society.¹ For example, the domestic political processes taking place around the introduction of a moratorium on the sale and transfer of land for rent indicate the formation of an alternative paradigm of dialogue between the state apparatus and the civil society.²

Despite the enormous amount of data, the book rarely contains fresh statistical data on the number of people employed in a particular sector. Since 2001, the population of Kazakhstan employed in agriculture, forestry, and fisheries has decreased from 2.3 million to 1.2 million in 2020.³ In 2021, the rural population of Kazakhstan consists of 7.7 million people, or 41 percent of the total population.⁴ More than 1.1 million people are employed in the education sector of Kazakhstan, which also makes this area one of the key priorities in

¹ President of Kazakhstan. Accessed May 4, 2021. https://www.akorda.kz/ru/events/akorda_news/meetings_and_sittings/prezident-kasym-zhomart-tokayev-prinyal-uchastie-v-chetvertom-zasedanii-nacionalnogo-soveta-obshchestvennogo-doveriya.

² 'Kazpravda' Newspaper. Accessed May 4, 2021. <https://www.kazpravda.kz/fresh/view/prezident-obyavil-moratorii-na-popravki-v-zemelnyy-kodeks>.

³ Bureau of the National Statistics of the Agency for Strategic Planning and Reforms of the Republic of Kazakhstan. "Information and Analytical System." Accessed May 2, 2021. <https://taldau.stat.gov.kz/ru/NewIndex/GetIndex/702843?keyword=>.

⁴ Prime Minister of Kazakhstan. Accessed May 2, 2021. <https://primeminister.kz/ru/news/v-2021-godu-na-razvitie-480-sel-napravyat-105-mlrd-tg-mne-rk-2033431>.

the national development agenda.⁵

At the same moment, the book rarely contains the opinions of Dossym Satpayev, Rakhim Oshakbayev and his Center for Applied Research ‘TALAP,’ nor those of Olzhas Kudaibergenov, Alikhan Baymenov, Andrey Chebotarev, Yerlan Karin, experts from the Kazakhstan Institute for Strategic Studies, and it lacks the voices of other researchers who today are trying to decipher the official discourse or present a position and opinions that differ from it, including on such subjects, as public administration, economic reforms, and social policy.

Finally, Chapter 9 shows that many issues of the modern development of Kazakhstan overlap in one way or another, and reinforce the importance of their detailed study from different angles. The authors additionally note the importance of inter-sectoral thinking and policy integration as key aspects of achieving sustainable development in Kazakhstan. However, the book covers the regional or international context to a lesser extent, which cannot but influence the adaptation of the Kazakhstani development model to external factors.

In this regard, this book could also be recommended to students and researchers not only in the field of public administration but also in the field of international relations for a deeper understanding of the domestic context of foreign policy initiatives and the economic diplomacy of Kazakhstan.

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Shahrokni, Nazanin. *Women in Place: The Politics of Gender Segregation in Iran*. Oakland: University of California Press, 2020. vii + 155 pp. ISBN: 9780520304284. DOI: 10.22679/avs.2021.6.2.009

Nazanin Shahrokni’s *Women in Place* is about gender, space, and the state. It is the study of the contemporary Iranian government’s policies on gender segregation and women’s access to public spaces in Iran. Based on the author’s doctoral dissertation, completed at UC Berkeley, the book largely focuses on gender-segregated spaces in the post-revolutionary capital city of Tehran. The author shows “that the unsettling of the gender order caused by shifts in Iran’s social, political, and economic environment prompted the Islamic state to develop a new regime of gender segregation, including strategies that would be flexible enough to address

⁵ Bureau of the National Statistics of the Agency for Strategic Planning and Reforms of the Republic of Kazakhstan. “Information and Analytical System.” Accessed May 2, 2021. <https://taldau.stat.gov.kz/ru/NewIndex/GetIndex/702840?keyword=>.