

## Slavery and Empire in Central Asia

The Central Asian slave trade swept hundreds of thousands of Iranians, Russians, and others into slavery during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Drawing on eyewitness accounts, autobiographies, and newly uncovered interviews with slaves, this book offers an unprecedented window into slaves' lives and a penetrating examination of human trafficking. Slavery strained Central Asia's relations with Russia, England, and Iran, and would serve as a major justification for the Russian conquest of this region in the 1860s–70s. Challenging the consensus that the Russian Empire abolished slavery with these conquests, Eden uses these documents to reveal that it was the slaves themselves who brought about their own emancipation by fomenting the largest slave uprising in the region's history.

**Jeff Eden** is a Mellon Postdoctoral Research Fellow at Cornell University. He is the author of *The Life of Muhammad Sharif* (2015) and co-editor of *Beyond Modernism: Rethinking Islam in Russia, Central Asia and Western China (19th-20th Centuries)* (2016).

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JEFF EDEN  
*Cornell University*



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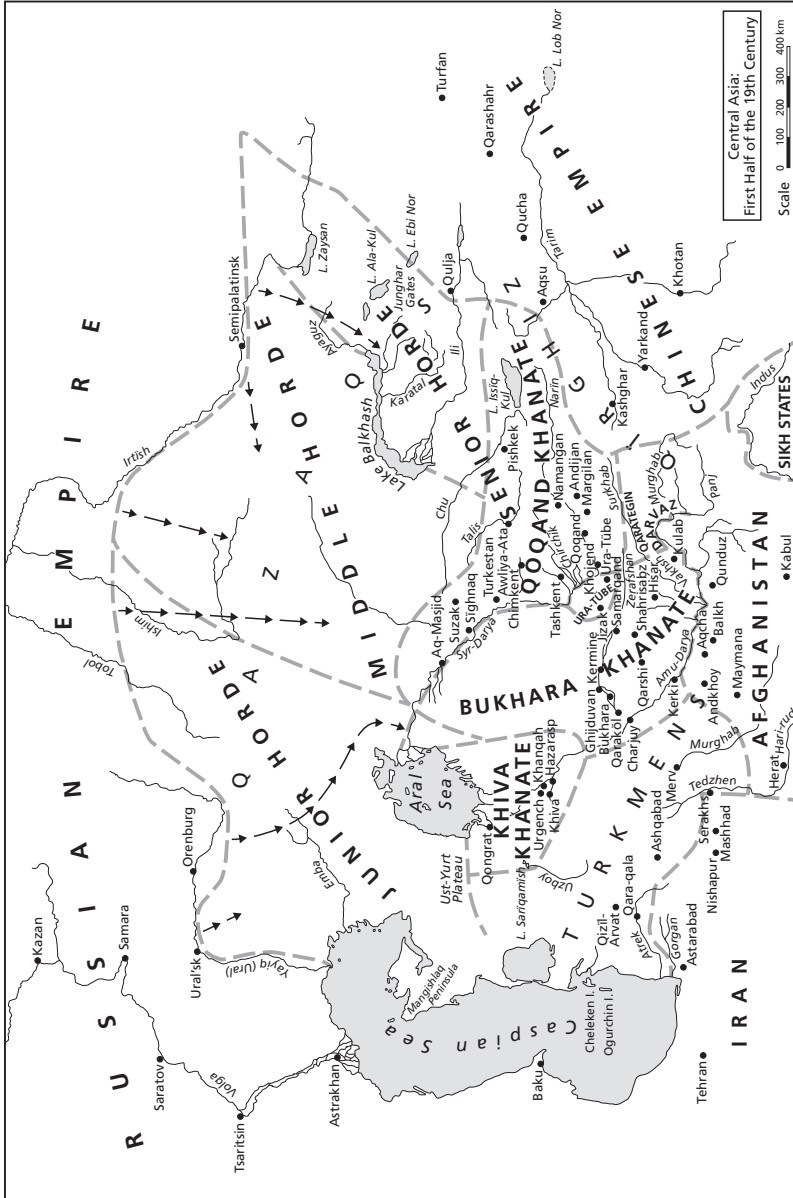
This book is dedicated to my parents, Lawrence and Susan Eden. Finally, I thank Ashley, the light of my life.

## A Brief Note on Transliteration

In the interests of keeping diacritics to a minimum, I have omitted them for most place-names (e.g. Bukhara, Khwarazm) as well as for common-place titles that are widely recognized in English (e.g. Shah, Khan). I have retained diacritics for personal names as well as for transliterated samples of Persian and Turkic sources. In transliterating Persian, I have followed the *IJMES* standard. There is no commonly accepted standard for transliterating nineteenth-century Central Asian Turkic, but I have tried to be as consistent as possible on that front. In transliterating Russian, I have used the “Modified Library of Congress” system.



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Yuri Bregel, *Historical Central Asia Maps* (Bloomington, IN: SRFIAs Papers on Inner Asia, 2000)

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