

## PREFACE

This volume examines the nationalities question in post-Soviet Kazakhstan. Chapter one by Professor Nurbulat Masanov provides a conceptual, theoretical, and historical context for examining ethnic identity and ethno-politics in Kazakhstan. His article also explores how a state ideology is formed under the current nationalizing regime. In chapter two, Dr. Erlan Karin and Dr. Andrei Chebotarev examine the government policy of so-called “kazakhization,” the policy to promote the Kazakh people in various spheres of life, among others, in state and government institutions. The paper by Natsuko Oka, presented as chapter three, is based on interviews with Kazakhstan’s political and cultural elites with regard to the government nationalities policy.

Chapters one and two are translated from Russian. Geographic names, tribes’ names, and other nouns in Kazakh have been Latinized from the Cyrillic script according to the U.S. Library of Congress transliteration system (the Russian spelling was provided by the authors). As authors follow different principles, some proper nouns are not rendered consistently in the two articles (for example, “Kyzylorda” and “Kzyl-Orda”). Positions of persons quoted in the articles are as of the year 2000.

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