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Hermann Kreutzmann • Teiji Watanabe  
Editors

# Mapping Transition in the Pamirs

Changing Human-Environmental Landscapes

 Springer

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# Preface

Certain areas in the world that have gained a certain level of attention only when geopolitical interests clash, severe political crises occur and/or in the aftermath of natural disasters receive short-term attention and trigger off humanitarian support. The Pamirian Knot has formed such a temporary hotspot in the transitional zone between Central and South Asia. During the colonial period it was the arena of Great Game competition when the superpowers of the time seemed to be clashing, but avoided any direct confrontation by creating boundaries and buffer zones. During the Cold War, Soviet troops entered Afghanistan through this corridor and left from there to sound the bell of its end. In the immediate aftermath independent Central Asian states struggled to find a constellation in which power could be shared among struggling stakeholders, where new economic set-ups could be tested and where a vision for statehood outside the former Soviet Union needed to be developed. In some cases this created disastrous results such as the civil war in Tajikistan. The area addressed in this book has been confronted with major natural disasters such as earthquakes, landslides and rock falls.

The Pamirian Knot qualifies for the initial statement about short-term attention. The authors who have contributed chapters to this book look at the Pamirian interface from various perspectives and have attempted to draw the readers' attention towards a number of aspects and issues that allow regular attention for this region. The case studies cover a wide range of topics between the fascinations of earth scientists for geological features such as a mountain knot or for the hydraulic potential of the glacierised Pamirs and neighbouring mountain ranges. The other side of the spectrum draws our attention towards efforts in development and humanitarianism. The challenges of transition after independence have forced rural people in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan to adapt to socio-economic changes. Those changes have been severely felt and seem to affect people's lives much more than any climate change to date. Similar perceptions apply for neighbouring countries such as Pakistan where significant changes in the political ecology, development policies and infrastructure assets have affected the lives of mountain dwellers.

In the context of mapping transition in the Pamirs, two features have gained a special attention: borderlands and pastures. The process of boundary-making and giving a shifting importance to borders – once open, then hermetically closed, later on perforated or open – are challenging our understanding of cross-border communication and exchange, of cooperation and segregation and of belonging and migration. The second feature, pastoralism, has a history of cross-border mobility, but as well one of closed-frontier nomadism. The recent changes in lifestyles and living conditions are reflected in pastoral practices, resource utilisation and nature protection. International and national, regional and local interests are meeting in a supposedly remote mountain area. Remoteness is a perception that is informed by our worldview, our assessment of mobile and settled lifestyles and by disciplinary perspectives at the threshold between Central and South Asia. In this book the Pamirs have become centre stage, and we would like to stimulate an enhanced research interest for an area with a rich heritage and a challenging environment.

Berlin, Germany  
Sapporo, Japan

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# List of Abbreviations and Acronyms

AKDN	Aga Khan Development Network
AKF	Aga Khan Foundation
AKFED	Aga Khan Fund for Economic Development
AKRSP	Aga Khan Rural Support Program
AKTC	Aga Khan Trust for Culture
asl	above sea level
CARU	Central Archive of the Republic of Uzbekistan
CE	Common Era
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States (Sojuz nezavisimych gosudarstv)
CKNP	Central Karakoram National Park
C-USSR	Constitution of the USSR
DEM	digital elevation model
ETM	Enhanced Thematic Mapper
FBIS-SOV	Foreign Broadcast Information Service-Soviet Union
FFW	Food for Work Programme
Fig.	figure
FLU	Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan ‘on forests’
FOCUS	Focus Humanitarian Assistance
ICG	International Crisis Group
IRIN	Integrated Regional Information Networks
ISAF	International Security Assistance Force
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
GAOZh	State Archive of the Province Jalal-Abad
GBAO	Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast
GDP	gross domestic product
GIS	geographic information system
GLP	Global Land Project
GPS	Global Positioning System
ha	hectare

HMIS	Health Management Information System
IGBP	International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme
IGC	International Geographical Congress
IGU	International Geographical Union
IHDP	International Human-Dimension Programme
ISM	Indian Summer Monsoon
ka	kilo-annum
KGB	Committee for State Security (Komitet gosudarnoj bezopasnosti)
KIRGIZGIPPROZEM	Kyrgyz State Institute for Land Arrangement of the Kyrgyz SSR
KKH	Karakoram Highway
km <sup>2</sup>	square kilometre
km <sup>3</sup>	cubic kilometre
KNP	Khunjerab National Park
KSF	Kongur Shan normal fault
kW	kilowatt
Kyrgyz ASSR	Kyrgyz Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic
Kyrgyz SSR	Kyrgyz Soviet Socialist Republic
LC	local council
LCKSSR	Land Code of the Kyrgyz SSR
LFCT	Lady Fatemah Charitable Trust
LGM	Last Glacial Maximum
LSO	local support organisation
m <sup>3</sup>	cubic metre
m.w.e.	metre water equivalent
MACP	Mountain Area Conservancy Project
MICT	Madinatul Ilm Charitable Trust
MIS	marine isotope stage
MPT	Main Pamir Thrust
MSDSP	Mountain Societies Development Support Programme
N.B.	take notice ( <i>Lat. nota bene</i> )
NASA	National Aeronautics and Space Administration
NDMA	National Disaster Management Authority Pakistan
NDVI	normalised difference vegetation index
NGO	non-governmental organisation
NIR	near infrared
PATU	Pamir Transport Trust (Pamirskoe avtotransportnoe upravlenie)
PDPA	People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan
PECTA	Pamirs Eco-Cultural Tourism Association
PHC	Primary health care
PLK	Law of the Kyrgyz Republic 'on pastures'
PPI	productive physical infrastructure
PR	People's Republic

PRDP	Pamir Relief and Development Project
PUA	Pasture Users Association
PUTIK	Decree 'On the Administration of the Turkestan Province'
RBE	Regional Bureau for Europe
RBF	Russian Federal Border Forces (Rossijskie federal'nye pogranichnye voiska)
SARNIGMI	Central Asian Regional Scientific and Research Hydrometeorological Institute
ShOSK	Headquarter of the Independent Siberian Corps
SLC-off	Scan Line Corrector-off
SRTM	Shuttle Radar Topography Mission
SSR	Soviet Socialist Republic
SSSR	Union of the Soviet Socialist Republic
Tajik SSR	Tajik Soviet Socialist Republic
TJS	Somoní
TM	Thematic Mapper
Turkmen SSR	Turkmen Soviet Socialist Republic
UN	United Nations
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
USGS	United States Geological Survey
USSR	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
USWA	Jabbir Bin Hayyan Trust
Uzbek SSR	Uzbek Soviet Socialist Republic
UZGIPROZEM	Uzbek State Institute for Land Arrangement of the Uzbek SSR
VG	voluntary guidelines
VI	vegetation indices
VO	Village Organisation
WCT	Water Code of the Republic of Tajikistan
WFP	World Food Programme
WGMS	World Glacier Monitoring Service
WHO	World Health Organization
WO	Women's Organisation
WWF	World Wildlife Fund