

THE DIVISION OF TURKESTAN INTO KHANATES

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***Annotation:** This article provides detailed information about the Khanate of Turkestan, also known as Turkestan, a large country located in Central and East Asia. It is composed of the former Turkic Soviet nations of Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, and Azerbaijan, as well as the former Russian federal subjects of Bashkortostan, Chuvashistan, Tatarstan, Samara, Ulyanovsk, Altai, Tuva, and the former Chinese provinces. The country is the fourth largest country in the world by land area and is the largest landlocked country in the world, bordering China, Russia, Iran, Afghanistan, Mongolia, Armenia, Pakistan, India and the Caspian Sea. The terrain of Turkestan ranges from flat lands to high mountain regions and valleys.*

***Key words:** Turkestan, Turkic Soviet, Soviet Union, Natural Gas Exports, History, Politics, Government.*

Turkestan was formed out of the collapse of the Soviet Union, with the former Turkic Soviet Nations forming a Union, with other Federal Subjects of Russia later joining in the late 1990's. The Turkic Majority Chinese Province of

Hanjiang (Tibet) joined the Union in 2002, followed later by the Turkic Majority Province Qinghai. Turkestan is a culturally diverse nation with different Turkic cultures and languages, ranging from its official language, Turkmen, to Russian, Chinese, and Azerbaijani.

Turkestan has since developed a balanced foreign policy, consisting of gross Natural Gas Exports, as the nation sits on the largest deposit of Natural Gas in the world, aswell as its Space Industry at Baikonur Cosmodrome which is the main global space launching site after the United States ended the Discovery Program. The Turkestan Space Program operates out of the Cosmodrome. Turkestan also has a large agricultural sector.

Turkestan is a Constitutional Monarhcy, led by a Khan, with a Parliamentary System based in Turkestan's capital city of Astana. Turkestan's Monarchy is strictly cultural and ceremonial, and the Khan does not have any governmental power. Turkestan is a very tolerant country when it comes to religions, and is constitutionally secular, while most of its population practice Islam and Buddhism. The Turkmen Language is the state language, while Russian, Azerbaijani and Uzbek are also major languages within the country.

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Turkestan is an active member of the United Nations, including the United Nations Security Council. Turkestan is also a member of the World Trade Organisation, G20, the World Bank Organisation, Organisation for Economic Cooperative Development, BRICT also known as the 'Big Five', and the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries. BRICT, or Brazil, Russia, India, China and Turkestan, all of which are at the same general stage of development, despite Turkestan's criticisms of Russia and China.

Turkestan is divided into 10 cultural and geographic regions that have no administrative power. The geographic regions follow similar boundaries to the former nations, and have their own regional language and ethnic majority. These geographic regions are then divided into Provinces, which are represented in the People's Assembly of Turkestan. Provinces are then divided into Districts, which are then subdivided into individual Villages, Towns and Cities. The Autonomous Region of Tibet, holds special autonomy within the country, governed by the People's Government of Tibet.

Turkestan is the largest landlocked country in the world, with the Caspian Sea separating the bulk of the country from its two exclaves, former Azerbaijan and Nakhchivan. Turkestan, altogether borders 9, countries, Afghanistan, Armenia, China, Georgia, India, Iran, Mongolia, Pakistan, and the Russian Federation. Turkestan has a wide range of geographic regions, ranging from the desolate Karakum Desert to the south of the country, to the edge of the Himalayan Mountains, and the high-altitude Tibetan Plateau to the East of the country.

Turkestan's National Currency is the Turkic Terazi, issued by the Central Bank of Turkestan in Astana. Turkestan currently has a Free Market Economy, kept afloat by the export prices of Crude Oil and Natural Gas with the largest gas company being Turkgaz, with other major exports being textiles, livestock, agriculture, consumer technology, and other manufactured items.

Turkestan is one of the wealthiest countries in Asia, which in turn is due to its size, as well as its location, sitting on top of the largest reserve of natural gas

in the world, as well as its position with the Baikonur Cosmodrome, and since its formation has seen much of its GDP come from exporting its natural resources and agriculture. Formerly known as an undeveloped country, Turkestan has seen improvements to its industry and infrastructure since its formation in 1991, currently with a 'Very High' Human Development Index, and ranking Third in the World, after Australia and Norway, and before the United States. Various institutions across the globe have stated that along with India, China and Japan, Turkestan could grow to become a major world power in the coming years.

Since the country's formation the Turkestan Space Agency (TSA), has been involved in several space missions, as well as being part of the International Space Station (ISS) Program. Since the discontinuation of NASA's discovery program, Turkestan's Baikonur Cosmodrome, owned by the TSA, has become the only way of cargo and personnel reaching the ISS, which has greatly benefitted the TSA with its main program, the Sinir Program. Turkestan has also launched several of its own satellites, including several mappings and reconnaissance satellites, as well as the Turkestan Luna Exploration Program. Turkestan's Space Exploration has been fuelled by the large amount of money the government has designated for the TSA.

Education in Turkestan is provided by the state; however Private Schools also exist, and do not gain state funding. Education is the responsibility of the Public Service Ministry of Turkestan and has improved greatly since the country's formation and the loss of Soviet Teachings, in favour of more intellectual and non-biased teachings. Turkestan has some of the most prestigious educational institutes in Central Asia, such as the University of Turkestan in Astana, and the Tashkent University.

One of the titles that Umar Khan gave himself was “amir al-muslimin,” Arabic for “emir of the Muslims.”. However, proclaiming themselves to be truly Muslim rulers backfired on the khans of Kokand. On the one hand, Islamic law without administrative power behind it could not create a unified polity. Giving ulama a prominent place at court did not enable the khans to force nomadic

Kyrgyz or semi-nomadic Uzbeks to pay taxes on a regular basis. Local tribal law continued to supercede Islamic law according to tribal convenience. No central authority could tell anyone except town-dwellers—a small part of the total population—what they had to do to be accepted as part of the Muslim community. On the other hand, claiming legitimacy on an Islamic basis got Muhammad Ali Khan and his entire family in deep trouble with Nasrullah, the aggressive emir of Bukhara who also claimed to be amir al-muslimin. In 1840 Kyrgyz and Qipchaq tribes in Kokand were already angry over their increasing tax burdens. Then the khan lost support of the clergy when he married two sisters and his mother-in-law, in violation of sharia. Nasrullah was invited by internal rebels to invade Kokand, which he could easily justify based on Muhammad Ali's bad behavior. Within two years Muhammad Ali and his family were dead, including his remarkable mother Nodira. The Bukharan attack failed due to resistance from the Qipchaqs, who themselves ruled in Kokand for several years, but the Kokand khanate never recovered from the chaos. Ming rule was restored under Khudoyar, who ruled as khan three separate times, but Khudoyar stood no chance against Russian arms. The Russians took Tashkent from Kokand in 1865, setting off not only retaliation by Khudoyar but another attack against Kokand by Bukhara. Kokand could not hold together under such pressures. One historian even suggests that the anarchy of Kokand “virtually forced to impose their own solution” when in 1876 they broke up the khanate and annexed its territory to their imperial Turkestan Province.

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