Basic Facts: Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan

KYRGYZSTAN

Geography and Population
Area: 124,244 square miles; slightly smaller than the area of South Dakota.
Population: 5.55 million.

Government
Type: Republic
Chief of State: President Almazbek Atambayev.
Head of Government: Prime Minister Zhantoro Satybaldiyev (appointed by president).
Elections: Popular vote every six years.
Legislative Branch: Unicameral Supreme Council (Jogorku Kengesh) (120 seats, five year terms).
Judicial Highest Courts: Supreme Court, Constitutional Court.
Judges: recommended by the president, appointed by the Supreme Council.

Economy
Centers mostly around the agricultural sector and gold exports.
GDP: $13.5 billion.
Unemployment Rate: 8.6 percent.
Population Below Poverty Line: 33.7 percent.
Inflation Rate: 2.7 percent.
Agricultural Products: cotton, potatoes, vegetables, grapes, fruits; sheep, goats, cattle, wool Industries: small machinery, textiles, food processing, cement, gold, rare earth metals.

Society
Religion: 75 percent Muslim, 20 percent Russian Orthodox, 5 percent other.
Life Expectancy: 69.75 years.
Literacy Rate: 99.2 percent.

Major Contemporary Issues
Drugs: Kyrgyzstan is a transit country for Southwest Asian drugs heading for Russian and Europe. Significant portions of the population consume opiates.
Other issues include the continuation of democratization, endemic corruption, and terrorism.

Sources:
Hanks, Reuel R. Central Asia: A Global Studies Handbook (Santa Monica: ABC-CLIO, 2005).
TAJIKISTAN

Geography and Population
Area: 88,856 square miles; slightly smaller than the area of Wisconsin.
Population: 8 million people.

Government
Type: Republic.
Chief of State: President Emomalii Rahmon.
Head of Government: Prime Minister Oqil Oqilov (appointed by president).
Elections: Popular-vote elections for president every seven years.
Legislative Branch: Bicameral Supreme Assembly, two chambers (both five year terms).
  Upper chamber: National Assembly (34 seats).
  Lower chamber: Assembly of Representatives (63 seats).
Judicial Highest Courts: Supreme Court, Constitutional Court, High Economic Court.
Judges: Nominated by president, approved by National Assembly.

Economy
The civil war in the 1990s damaged an already fragile economy that has yet to fully recover.
GDP: $18.04 billion.
Unemployment Rate: 2.5 percent (official rate; actual rate much higher).
Population Below Poverty Line: 39.6 percent.
Inflation Rate: 5.8 percent.
Agricultural Products: cotton, grain, fruits, vegetables; cattle, sheep, goats, vegetable oil.

Society
Religion: 85 percent Sunni Muslim, 5 percent Shia Muslim, 10 percent other.
Life Expectancy: 66.72 years.
Literacy Rate: 99.7 percent.

Major Contemporary Issues
Clean Water: While 92 percent of the urban population has access to clean water, only 54 percent of the rural population does.
Drugs: Almost all Afghan narcotics bound for Russia pass through Tajikistan. Tajikistan seizes 80 percent of all drugs captured in Central Asia. Significant portions of the population consume opiates.

Sources:
Hanks, Reuel R. Central Asia: A Global Studies Handbook (Santa Monica: ABC-CLIO, 2005).