WEB GLEANINGS By Judith S. Ames

Central Asia

CENTRAL ASIA AND THE SILK ROADS
Silk Road Foundation
URL: http://tiny.cc/u5go5w
For anyone who wants information and historical facts about the Silk Roads, this is a good resource. There are historical chronologies and short biographies of those who traveled the Silk Roads, dating back to 959 BC, timelines, the history of silk, and maps.

Silk Road
URL: http://tiny.cc/xj46w
Produced by Jeffrey Hays, this site is rich in resources. There are details about the routes, the products, Samarkand, transportation along the Silk Roads, and other important information. In addition, there are a huge number of links to associated sites, some produced by Mr. Hays.

The Silk Road—an e-history
URL: http://tiny.cc/u4go5w
Daniel C. Waugh, Professor Emeritus at the University of Washington, has assembled a group of articles about the Silk Roads. He has written most of the articles himself; they cover the history, the geography, and culture of pastoral nomads, as well as cities, architecture, and works of art. Professor Waugh also participated in the Silk Road Seattle project: http://tiny.cc/wbk46w.

Asia Times Online—Central Asia News
URL: http://tinyurl.com/2anavj
This online journal has a Central Asian section. At the top of the homepage are the most recent articles, and below them is a section, “Best of Before,” with pertinent articles, such as book reviews from the prior year.

KAZAKHSTAN
Images of Kazakhstan
URL: http://tiny.cc/q6go5w
The Bing search engine provides many images of Kazakhstan. This page has countless maps; one can hover over each map before clicking in order to choose the appropriate one. There are links to many other related images, including the scenery, women, and culture of Kazakhstan.

Kazakhstan Virtual Travel Guide
URL: http://tiny.cc/c8go5w
A tour company has produced this helpful guide to Kazakhstan. In the left-hand frame are links to subjects that include the history, politics, people, nature, and currency of Kazakhstan. Some subject areas, such as food, also have photos accompanying the article.

KYRGYZSTAN
Kyrgyzstan—EurasiaNet
URL: http://tiny.cc/x8go5w
EurasiaNet, located in New York City, is part of the Central Eurasia Project of the Open Society Institute. This page is devoted to information about Kyrgyzstan. The latest political and economic news is featured on the main page. There are also links to the views of local reporters.

BBC News—Kyrgyzstan Country Profile
URL: http://tiny.cc/h9go5w
This BBC profile is brief but provides a nice overview of Kyrgyzstan, a timeline of its history, information about the current president, and some essential facts. At the bottom of the page is a link to the Kyrgyz Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The link to the English version is http://mfa.kg/index_en.html.

TAJIKISTAN
Tajikistan 2011
URL: http://tiny.cc/gah05w
Published in April 2011 by the Washington Diplomat, this twenty-page document covers topics such as energy, tourism, government, history, and investment. It is a sophisticated publication with excellent graphics.

Tourism Authority of Tajikistan
URL: http://www.visittajikistan.tj/en
The Tourism Authority has created an informative site about Tajikistan with information translated into English. Along the top of the photo on the homepage are a variety of links to subsidiary subjects on the site. The link labeled “About Tajikistan” connects to the history, geography, and population statistics of Tajikistan and other pertinent subjects.

TURKMENISTAN
Turkmenistan Magazine
URL: http://tiny.cc/oh05w
This English version of Turkmenistan Magazine offers a number of articles about contemporary Turkmenistan. The articles are arranged by category, such as “Society and Economy.” There is ample and broad coverage of the topic of each article.

UZBEKISTAN
Uzbekistan, the Gem of the Silk Road (video)
URL: http://vimeo.com/4570572
This five-minute video goes from city to city in Uzbekistan, showing images of the people, the landmarks, the bazaars, and the architecture. There is no narration, but each city is labeled as the video enters its region.

National Food of Uzbekistan (video)
URL: http://tiny.cc/fmho5w
The mouth-watering and detailed depiction of food preparation in Uzbekistan is the core of this video. The communal nature of preparing food is easily seen. There is a musical score, but no narration. Despite the lack of explanation, the video reveals a great deal.

Samarkand—Crossroads of Culture
URL: http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/603
UNESCO’s World Heritage List consists of almost 1,000 properties throughout the world that have outstanding value. Samarkand is one of those on the list. In addition to the detailed description of the history and value of Samarkand, there are photos, videos, and documentation of the reasons for designating Samarkand a place of outstanding value.

MONGOLIA
Mongolia (video)
URL: http://tinyurl.com/p2n9u47
This is an excellent view of today’s Mongolia. The video is more than an hour in duration. It begins with a look at the nomadic, agricultural life of many citizens and follows with views of the capital, Ulan Bator, with its temples, sidewalk cafés, traffic, and university. A long segment about the Gobi Desert is also shown, as it occupies one-third of the country.
Contested Sovereignty
URL: http://tiny.cc/4jho5w
This article by Gail Lapidus looks at the conflict between Russia and Chechnya in the 1990s and the role, if any, that outside governments can or should play in such struggles. She examines the causes of the conflicts, describes the crises, and writes about the failure of the West and the Russian government to resolve the conflict.

Chechnya: 200 Years of Background in Four Minutes (video)
URL: http://tinyurl.com/bnrurg9
The bombing in April 2013 at the Boston Marathon prompted this video, produced by The Washington Post. The first section of the video refers to the bombing; the remainder of the video gives a brief history of Chechnya.

AFGHANISTAN
An entire column of Web Gleanings was devoted to Afghanistan in EAA Volume 17:2, Fall 2012. The online link to this column is here: http://www.asian-studies.org/eaa/Ames_17-2.pdf.

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