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Nota di contenuto	Introduction: On the Social in Central Asian History : Notes in the Margins of Legal Records / Paolo Sartori -- Amlakdars, Khwajas and Mulk Land in the Zarafshan Valley after the Russian Conquest / Alexander Morrison -- Managing Rural Landscapes in Colonial Turkestan : A View from the Margins / Beatrice Penati -- Who Should Manage the Water of the Amu-Darya? : Controversy over Irrigation Concessions between Russia and Khiva, 1913-1914 / Akifumi Shioya -- High Rank and Power among the Northern Kirghiz : Terms and Their Problems, 1845-1864 / Daniel G. Prior -- Performance and Poetics in Kyrgyz Memorial Feasts : The Discursive Construction of Identity Categories / Svetlana Jacquesson -- Using Turki-Language Qazaq Letters to Reconstruct Local Political History of the 1820s-30s / Virginia Martin -- A Month among the Qazaqs in the Emirate of Bukhara : Observations on Islamic Knowledge in a Nomadic Environment / Allen J. Frank -- Creating the Facade of a Despotic State : On Aqsqaqs in Late 19th-Century Bukhara / Andreas Wilde -- Fathers and Sons : Re-Readings in a Samarqandi Private Archive / Thomas Welsford.

Post-Cold War historiography of modern Central Asia has been characterized by a focus on cultural history. Most of this scholarship rests on a set of assumptions about traditional institutions and social practices which merely reflect the bias of Soviet or even Tsarist-era historiography. 'Explorations in the Social History of Modern Central Asia' addresses the need for a remedy to this state of affairs and thus offers new insights on a number of subjects relating to the social history of the region. It includes essays dealing with property relations, resource management, forms of local administration, the constitution of new social groups, the construction of identity categories, and an enquiry into the landscape of Islamic practices among the nomads.
