

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910783310303321
Autore	Soucek Svatopluk
Titolo	A history of inner Asia // Svat Soucek [[electronic resource]]
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cambridge : , : Cambridge University Press, , 2000
ISBN	1-107-11715-1 1-280-16009-8 0-511-99152-5 1-139-14607-6 0-511-11767-1 0-511-06638-4 0-511-06007-6 0-511-30306-8 0-511-06851-4
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (xiii, 369 pages) : digital, PDF file(s)
Disciplina	958
Soggetti	Asia, Central History Xinjiang Uygur Zizhiqu (China) History Mongolia History
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Title from publisher's bibliographic system (viewed on 05 Oct 2015).
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. 341-359) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Cover; Half-title; Title; Copyright; Contents; Maps; Preface; Introduction; CHAPTER ONE The beginnings; CHAPTER TWO The Kok Turks, the Chinese expansion, and the Arab conquest; CHAPTER THREE The Samanids; CHAPTER FOUR The Uighur kingdom of Qocho; CHAPTER FIVE The Qarakhanids; CHAPTER SIX Seljukids and Ghaznavids; CHAPTER SEVEN The conquering Mongols; CHAPTER EIGHT The Chaghatayids; CHAPTER NINE Timur and the Timurids; CHAPTER TEN The last Timurids and the first Uzbeks; CHAPTER ELEVEN The Shaybanids CHAPTER TWELVE The rise of Russia, the fall of the Golden Horde, and the resilient Chaghatayids CHAPTER THIRTEEN The Buddhist Mongols; CHAPTER FOURTEEN Bukhara, Khiva, and Khoqand in the seventeenth to nineteenth centuries; CHAPTER FIFTEEN The Russian conquest and

rule of Central Asia; CHAPTER SIXTEEN From Governorates-General to Union Republics; CHAPTER SEVENTEEN Soviet Central Asia; CHAPTER EIGHTEEN Central Asia becomes independent; CHAPTER NINETEEN Sinkiang as part of China; CHAPTER TWENTY Independent Central Asian Republics; CHAPTER TWENTY-ONE The Republic of Mongolia  
Summary and conclusion  
Appendix 1; Appendix 2; Select bibliography;  
Index

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Sommario/riassunto

Svat Soucek's book offers a short and accessible introduction to the history of Inner Asia. The narrative, which begins with the arrival of Islam, charts the rise and fall of the different dynasties right up to the Russian conquest. Dynastic tables and maps augment and elucidate the text. The contemporary focus rests on the seven countries which make up the core of present-day Eurasia, that is Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Sinkiang and Mongolia. Since the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991, renewed interest in these countries has prompted considerable political, cultural, economic and religious debate. While a divergent literature has evolved in consequence, no comprehensive survey of the region has been attempted. Soucek's history promises to fill this gap and to become an indispensable source of information for anyone studying or visiting the region.

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