

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910887808303321
Titolo	Central Asia in a Multipolar World : Internal Change, External Actors, Regional Cooperation // edited by Jakob Lempp, Sebastian Mayer
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cham : , : Springer International Publishing : , : Imprint : Springer, , 2024
ISBN	9783031637278 3031637275
Edizione	[1st ed. 2024.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (515 pages)
Collana	Contributions to Political Science, , 2198-7297
Disciplina	303.409584
Soggetti	Asia - Politics and government Comparative government Political science Europe - Politics and government Economics Asian Politics Comparative Politics Governance and Government European Politics Comparative Public Policy Political Economy and Economic Systems
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references.
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Sommario/riassunto

This handbook-style edited volume discusses historical, but predominantly current political, economic, and societal trends in Central Asia comprising Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan. The five countries exhibit many cultural and historical commonalities and face similar internal and external challenges. Despite different transformation paths and frequent intra-regional tensions, a common regional identity has emerged in the countries since gaining their independence in 1991. Besides covering their political systems, a variety of topics such as human rights, media, terrorism, and civil society are addressed. As well, bilateral relations with seven external actors are examined. Lastly, the authors explore the opportunities and limitations of institutionalized regional cooperation in various fields of action.
