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CREECA

THE CENTER FOR RUSSIA, EAST EUROPE, AND CENTRAL ASIA

University of Wisconsin - Madison

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*Newsletter of the Center
for Russia, East Europe,
and Central Asia*

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Nauruz with Roksonaki

From March 24-26, 2008, CREECA and the Central Asia Student Association (CASA) celebrated Nauruz, the Central Asian New Year, by welcoming the innovative Kazakh folk-rock band Roksonaki for a rich program of lecture-demonstrations, radio appearances, and concerts. In addition to presentations in classes in the department of Languages and Cultures of Asia, the musicians participated in a live call-in show on Wisconsin Public Radio's "Here on Earth," and gave a concert for a crowd of enthusiastic young listeners at John Muir Elementary School. The culminating event in the three-day residency was a free concert in the Great Hall of the Memorial Union on the evening of March 26.



Roksonaki at Muir Elementary

Roksonaki was formed in Almaty, Kazakhstan in 1990 under the direction of Ruslan Kara, who sought to create new music using motifs drawn from Eurasia's indigenous religious traditions. Their Madison performances highlighted Roksonaki's pioneering sound, which integrates ancient Kazakh instrumentation – the traditional kylkobyz, shankobyz, sazsyrynai and dombra – with contemporary rock music and jazz.

Funding for this residency was provided by the Kemper K. Knapp Bequest and the Associated Students of Madison, with support from CREECA and the Central Asian Studies Program. CREECA would like to thank David Dettmann and the other members of CASA for their enthusiastic participation in this event.

For more information on Roksonaki and samples of their music, please visit their blog: <http://mosaiquarecordstour.blogspot.com>.



Faculty Focus: *Uli Schamiloglu*

Uli Schamiloglu is a professor in the Dept. of Languages and Cultures of Asia where he teaches Central Asian Turkic languages and cultures. He also serves as chair of the UW-Madison Central Asian Studies Program and the UW-Madison Middle East Studies Program. We asked him recently about his research travels to Tatarstan, and its capital, Kazan.

CREECA: So exactly what is it that you do when you go to Tatarstan?

Uli: Thanks for asking. I have been traveling regularly to Kazan, Tatarstan since the fall of 1989. At that time Kazan was just newly opened to foreigners and I was one of the first U.S. citizens (and perhaps the first U.S. academic specialist on the region) to visit the city. I was invited by what was then the Ibragimov Institute of Language, Literature, and History through the kind help of my colleague Farid Khakimzyanov, whom I had first met as a student in Hungary in 1979. Kazan holds a special attraction for me because my ethnic background is Kazan Tatar and I grew up speaking the language. As the ethnic republics of the U.S.S.R. were opening up under Gorbachev I could not pass up the opportunity to finally visit Kazan. As it happens, in addition to meeting colleagues and gathering materials published locally for my own research, I was able to observe and later write about the modern Tatar national movement that was beginning its activities then. While I maintained my contacts with Tatar scholars, whom I would sometimes see at international conferences (including in Madison), unfortunately I was not able to go back there until summer 1998 when I took part in the First International Conference on the Sources for the Golden Horde. On that occasion my colleagues and I organized an expedition driving south as far as Astrakhan to visit the archeological sites related to the major cities of the Golden Horde. (I was later a co-organizer for the Second International Conference on the Sources for the Golden Horde which met in Istanbul in 2005.)

Since 1998 I have had various opportunities to visit Kazan. I have been visiting colleagues at the Institute of History of the Tatarstan Academy of Sciences, especially with Damir Iskhakov, with whom I now collaborate on numerous projects. (Since my first visit, the Institute of History has split off from what is now called the Ibragimov Institute of Language and Literature.) For example in 2000 and 2001 I was able to combine teaching at a summer course in Oral/Ural'sk, Kazakhstan with visits to Kazan. (In 2001 Damir Iskhakov and I were even able to locate and visit the village of my father's birth in Bashqortostan.) In 2005 I was invited to participate in the second International Symposium on Islamic Civilization in the Volga-Ural Region which was scheduled to coincide with the opening in the Kazan Kremlin of the Kul Sharif Mosque. It was one of the great honors of my life to be one of only two representatives of the Tatar diaspora from outside Russia to be present at the opening ceremony of the first mosque to be built in the Kazan Kremlin since the



Continued on next page

Faculty Focus, continued

conquest of Kazan in 1552 and to participate in the first prayers to be held in the Kazan Kremlin in approximately 453 years.

Last year I made two trips to Kazan. The first visit was in July 2007 to deliver a plenary address on the “The Rise of Kazan as a Cultural Capital” at the jubilee 50th anniversary meeting of the Permanent International Altaistic Conference. This conference was held at the Kazan State University of Humanities and Education, a new university (established on the basis of the former pedagogical university) including curriculum in both Tatar and Russian languages. I wrote one of the proposals for the establishment of this new university, which was a high priority for Tatar intellectuals demanding the creation of a “national university” (*milli universitet*). The Kazan State University of Humanities and Education awarded me an honorary doctorate (along with Denis Sinor, Sergei Klyashtornii, and Charles Carlson) on the occasion of this conference.

My second visit to Kazan last year was in December to attend the Fourth World Congress of Tatars. I had never attended one of these Congresses before, but I was invited to deliver a plenary address on “National History and National Consciousness.” My brief presentation was about the great Tatar scholar Shihabeddin Merjani, who published in two volumes in the 1880s-1890s what I have argued is the first national history of the Tatars. (This argument, if correct, has important implications for the study of all Turkic and Muslim nationalisms, but that is a thought for another day.) As a result of my publications on this figure the Tatarstan Academy of Sciences decided to name the Institute of History in honor of Shihabeddin Merjani. A conference will be held in Kazan later this year to honor this scholar.

All in all my visits to Kazan and my collaboration with close colleagues and friends there have been a source of tremendous satisfaction for me. I am regularly asked to speak at schools, which I do gladly as an educator. What I value the most, however, is the affirmation and feedback of my colleagues in the Institute of History on my topics of research: the tribal history of the Golden Horde, the impact of the Black Death, Islamic civilization in the Volga region, the rise of Tatar nationalism in the 19th century, and many other topics. Through my discussions with colleagues, translations of my writings, and my original contributions to the seven-volume *History of the Tatars and Tatarstan* (which began appearing in Russian in 2002), Kazan is that place in the world where my ideas are taken most seriously and where they have the greatest impact. I don't think there can be anything more satisfying than that for a scholar who grew up as a Kazan Tatar in the Bronx.



Kul Sharif Mosque

CAILS: The Central Asian Listening Series

Wendy Johnson (Language Institute), CAILS project coordinator

When collecting video material in Uzbekistan in the summer of 2007, Dr. Talant Mawkanuli faced a challenge reminiscent of Soviet times: how to get people to talk honestly, especially in front of a video camera, about Uzbek culture and life in an increasingly authoritative and closed society. Arriving in the country with few contacts and no prearranged meetings, Mawkanuli faced hesitation among the scholars, politicians, teachers and others with whom he hoped to conduct interviews.

In the end, a combination of Central Asian hospitality and Mawkanuli's well-honed field-work skills prevailed, and he was successful in obtaining more than twenty compelling interviews on a variety of topics including love and arranged marriage, Islam in Central Asia, Uzbek folk music and Uzbek international relations. These materials, along with video material collected in Kazakhstan and the United States, make up the core content of The Central Asian Interactive Listening Series (CAILS).

The CAILS project is housed in the UW-Madison Language Institute, and overseen by Professor Uli Schamiloglu, with funding from the U.S. Department of Education. The goal of CAILS is to develop and disseminate a series of twenty online lessons designed to enable students with an intermediate level of proficiency in a Central Asian Turkic language to achieve advanced-level listening comprehension in Kazak or Uzbek. The lessons will be freely available online for educational use by individuals and institutions around the world.

In a typical lesson, the viewer reviews a 2-3 minute clip of an interview several times, first listening just for the main idea, then watching for different details. In such a way, the user develops his or her skills in approaching paragraph-length discourse on various topics.

The lesson on Language Rights, for example, focuses on the struggle among Kazaks to have their language recognized as the sole state language of Kazakhstan. First, as a pre-viewing activity, users are given background on the 1986 anti-Soviet uprising in Almaty. Then, the user views an interview with a specialist in Turkic languages, all the while focusing attention on certain words, grammar, or particular points. Through repeated viewing of the clips, the user comes to an increasingly detailed understanding of the argument concerning language laws in Kazakhstan.

The user is aided by the Listening Assistant, a tool developed at the University of Wisconsin and used in



CAILS, continued

other projects such as RAILS, the Russian Advanced-level Interactive Listening Series. Listening Assistant resources include a basic comparative grammar, extensive pronunciation notes, spoken grammar notes, vocabulary notes, a clip summary, culture notes, and a lesson glossary.

A unique feature of the CAILS project is cross-dialect training, made possible by the relative similarity of the Turkic languages. Thus, lessons focusing on Kazak include several learning activities intended for the Uzbek speaker, and Uzbek lessons will include similar activities devoted to the Kazak speaker.

The lessons conform to current best practices in foreign language education and provide a unique opportunity for students to practice listening to authentic language in its real cultural context. The CAILS Web site is found at www.languageinstitute.wisc.edu/cails. Please contact Wendy Johnson (wsjohnso@wisc.edu) to obtain a password to view the lessons.

NEWS from CREECA FACULTY and OFF-CAMPUS AFFILIATES

Halina Filipowicz, professor of Slavic languages and literature at UW-Madison, contributed numerous annotated entries to *Women and Gender in Central and Eastern Europe, Russia, and Eurasia: A Comprehensive Bibliography*. The two-volume set, edited by Mary Zirin, Irina Livezeanu, June Pachuta-Farris, and Christine Worobec, was published by M. E. Sharpe in 2007.

We also wish to extend our congratulations to off-campus affiliate **Tomasz Inglot**, who was promoted to full professor at Minnesota State University-Mankato in August 2007. Professor Inglot teaches in the Department of Political Science there and is also the director of the university's International Relations Program. His new book, entitled *Welfare States in East Central Europe, 1919-2004*, was published by Cambridge University Press, and is expected to be available in early May 2008. Professor Inglot also presented a paper on "Emergency Welfare States in East Central Europe" at the 5th Annual Conference of ESPANet (European Social Policy Association Network) in Vienna, Austria.

Finally, **David McDonald**, professor of history at UW-Madison, has been active on the lecture and conference

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Central Eurasian Studies Review Update

The Editorial Staff of the *Central Eurasian Studies Review* (CESR), the online bulletin of the Central Eurasian Studies Society (CESS) is seeking contributions to the Fall 2008 (Vol. 7, No. 2) issue! Deadline is October 1st. Please consult the webpage "Information for Contributors" at http://www.cesr-cess.org/CESR_contribution.html for guidelines about submissions to CESR's four sections: Perspectives, Research Reports, Conference Reports, and Educational Resources and Developments. For questions, please write to the Chief Editor, Virginia Martin, at vmartin2@wisc.edu, or to one of the section editors, whose contact information is listed at <http://www.cesr-cess.org/staff.html>.

CESR Vol. 6, No. 1/2 (Fall 2007) and all back issues are available on the website at www.cesr-cess.org. The Spring 2008 (Vol. 7, No. 1) issue will be posted in May.

CESR is sent to individuals through membership in CESS and to institutions through subscription. For information on how to become a member of CESS, please visit <http://www.cess.muohio.edu>.

Faculty and Affiliates News, continued

circuit. He gave a presentation at this year's National Convention of the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies in New Orleans, entitled "Seeing Like a (Russian) State: Absolutism, *Upravlenie* and Continuity in the History of Russian Administration." Professor McDonald also participated in the AAASS round table discussion, "Russia's Great World War, 1914-1921," and gave additional presentations at Ege and Bilkent University in Turkey and the University of Toronto. Professor McDonald recently contributed the article "The State, Domestic Factors and the World Outside, 1700-2005" to the book *Russian Foreign Policy in the 21st Century & the Shadow of the Past*, edited by Robert Legvold and published by Columbia University Press in 2007.

In spring 2007 Professor McDonald, together with **Francine Hirsch**, associate professor of history, and CREECA associate director **Jennifer Tishler** provided introductions and analyses for the Web-based non-credit course "Russian Civilization: The Revolutionary Movement to the Cold War." This lifelong learning course, sponsored by the Wisconsin Alumni Association and the Division of Continuing Studies, incorporated newly-digitized lectures prepared by long-time history professor Michael Petrovich for Wisconsin Public Television in the 1950s. A new course incorporating Petrovich's televised lecture material—"Imperial Russia: From Peter I to the Great Reforms" is being offered by WAA and runs until May 29, 2008. For information on this and other lifelong learning courses through WAA, please contact Sarah Schutt (sarahschutt@uwalumni.com).

CREECA Professors Receive Romnes Awards

Two members of the CREECA faculty are among the seven UW-Madison professors who have been honored with H.I. Romnes Faculty Fellowships for 2008. The Romnes award, supported by the Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation (WARF), recognizes great potential in faculty who have earned tenure within the last four years. Award-winners receive a \$50,000 cash award to be used in support of their research. All of us at CREECA would like to extend our congratulations to:

- **Michel Guillot**, sociology. Guillot has established himself as one of the leading young demographers in the world, producing an impressive body of research in the areas of formal demography (the study of mathematical and statistical methods for measuring population characteristics and changes) and the analysis of health and mortality in developing countries, including the former Soviet Central Asian republics.
- **Jeremi Suri**, history. Suri is recognized as a leading authority on the international history of the late 20th century, especially the Cold War. He also has excelled as a teacher and mentor — winning a campus teaching award — and is one of the university's most popular speakers.

Alumni news

Former CREECA events coordinator **Alisha Kirchoff** (BA 2006) has accepted a position of program coordinator with the Social Science Research Council Eurasia Program in New York. Alisha will graduate in June with a Master of Arts in European, Russian, and Eurasian Studies from the Munk Centre for International Studies at the University of Toronto.

CREECA M.A. Student Returns to Community-Building in Macedonia

Who says you can't take it with you?

With its strong emphasis on political, historical, cultural and economic issues in Russia, Eastern Europe, and Central Asia, CREECA's various programs of study are giving students the opportunity to take their expertise into the "real world" where their skills are needed more than ever.

A candidate in the master's degree program in Russian, East European, and Central Asian Studies (REECAS), Steve Lied ('08) joins a growing number of graduate students who are putting their language and area studies training to professional use in business and community projects outside academia. Steve started the graduate program at CREECA in 2006 with significant professional experience and a strong desire to compliment his

business and community ventures in the Balkans with a more sustained study of Balkan culture, history, and politics.

Having lived in Albania from 1991-1995, Steve quickly recognized his own desire to help develop post-communist regions like the Balkans into stronger business and commercial centers. He set out on that path in 1996, when he moved to Macedonia to start a software development company, which he still owns today. In 2003, Steve partnered with the Macedonian branch of the Millennium Relief and Development Services network to help develop the civil society of Macedonia and participate in community projects designed to give citizens around the world health and social services, educational instruction, consulting services, and disaster relief and assistance. Steve kindly donates his time and money to such projects as the Albanian Scholarship Foundation, or ASF, (www.fshb.org), which is intended to help support higher education among Albanian students and scholars in Macedonia. Serving on both the general assembly and the executive board of the ASF, Steve works with educators, business people, and local leaders in a concerted effort to help develop the civil society of that region.

With professional credentials such as these in tow, it is not surprising that Steve's training at UW-Madison will enhance his work when he returns to the region after graduation. In joining CREECA, Steve set out to get a better understanding of the cultural and life experiences of Albanians in Macedonia through coursework dealing with Balkan literature and history. He was able to shape his own curriculum to a certain degree by participating in various independent study courses with UW-Madison faculty members like Sara Atis, who directed his independent research on the Bektashi Islamic Sufi order, which has ties to both Turkey and Albania. Steve was also able to carry out independent courses of study with various off-campus scholars whom he located through the Traveling Scholars Program of the Committee on Institutional Cooperation (the Big 10 schools plus the University of Chicago). Working with faculty at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and the University of Chicago, Steve was able to compliment his work at Madison with independent research projects about the Albanian independence movement and the work of Albanian novelist Ismael Kadare. Steve is currently working under the direction of Ipek Yosmaoglu, assistant professor of history, on

Continued on next page

Steve Lied, continued

a master's thesis that explores the work of various Albanian intellectuals in late 19th century-Istanbul and their influence on the Albanian nationalist movement of 1878-1912.

Poised to return to Macedonia and resume ongoing community and business projects, Steve is pleased that he had the opportunity to compliment his work with extensive research into Albanian culture and history. If there is one bit of advice he can share with incoming CREECA grad students, it is that the program offers a variety of ways to put them in touch with people and materials to help them carry out their research. Steve acknowledges the Traveling Scholars Program, in particular, for putting him in contact with scholars at other universities who specialize in Balkan studies. Steve's time in Madison has enabled him to deepen his understanding of a relatively little-studied area of the world, and will allow him to enhance the community and business development projects to which he has already committed himself.

Good luck, Steve!

UNDERGRADUATE and GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

CREECA M.A. student **David Dettmann** delivered a presentation related to his work with the Central Asian Interactive Listening Series. His presentation, entitled "Promoting Language Skills and Cultural Proficiency in Kazak and Uzbek," was part of a Turkic Language Pedagogy panel held at the Association of Central Eurasian Students' (ACES) annual conference, March 22-23, 2008 at Indiana University-Bloomington. Also participating at the conference was **Heather S. Sonntag**, a dissertator in the Department of Languages and Cultures of Asia. Sonntag's presentation was entitled "Central Asian Albums and the Imperial Objective of Russian Military Photography."

Nicole Butkovich Kraus, a graduate student in the Department of Sociology, presented a paper entitled "A Constitutive Outside in Annual Addresses: Putin's Hegemonic Construction of Russian Identity in Contrast to Russian Federation Minorities" at the Midwest Sociological Society in St. Louis, Missouri.

Tom Van Rooy, a senior double-majoring in Russian and Political Science, was recently awarded a prestigious Critical Languages Scholarship by the US Department of State. Tom, who will be graduating in December 2008, will continue studying Russian in either Samara or Nizhny Novgorod this summer.

Department of Slavic Languages and Literature graduate student **Molly Thomasy** has just published a review of Manon van de Water's *Moscow Theatres for Young People: A Cultural History of Ideological Coercion and Artistic Innovation, 1917-2000*, which will appear in the Winter 2007 edition of *Slavic and East European Journal*. Molly also published her translations of two contemporary Russian poets from Tver' (Marina Batasova and Sviatoslav Mikhnia) in volume 3 of the poetry and arts journal *Yellow Edenwald Field*. In addition, Molly presented a

CREECA Podcasts

Since Spring 2007, many of our lectures have been available through Podcasts. For many iPod users, our lectures will automatically upload

<http://www.creeca.wisc.edu/resources/>

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Emerging Perspectives: Graduate Student Working Papers

CREECA and its peer centers at the Universities of Kansas and Texas welcome submissions for the new interdisciplinary working paper series, *Emerging Perspectives: Working Papers on Eastern Europe and Eurasia*. The series aims to highlight the very best work conducted by graduate students concerning the history, languages, literatures, cultures, religions, social issues, politics, and economic issues within the region. The series is designed to provide quick turnaround and a timely publication outlet for original research, including new analyses and innovative research reviews. Submissions from all disciplinary perspectives are welcomed, with interdisciplinary submissions receiving preferential treatment. The series provides the opportunity to receive recognition, feedback, and comments and will assist students in developing familiarity with the publication process.

Submissions are welcomed from Masters, Doctoral, and Professional school students whose primary areas of interest include a focus on Eastern Europe and Eurasia. Submitted papers will be carefully reviewed by the editorial committee for inclusion in the *Emerging Perspectives* series. The editorial board consists of an interdisciplinary group of scholars at the three sponsoring universities. Decisions will be made within six weeks of receipt, with authors given no more than three weeks after notification for all revisions and editing. The papers will be published electronically on the *Emerging Perspectives* web site, and twenty offprints will be provided to the author.

For more information on how to submit a paper, please visit <http://www.crees.ku.edu/~emergingperspectives/>

Staff News

Matthew Maus, CREECA office coordinator, will be graduating in May with a double major in history and anthropology. Immediately after commencement weekend, Matthew will fly to Belize, where he will be working for three weeks as a field archaeologist with the Maya Research Program. Later this summer, he will be spending two months in Ankara, Turkey studying the Turkish language on a Critical Languages Scholarship. After returning from Turkey, Matthew intends to work in the field of contract archaeology while applying for admission to graduate schools and the Peace Corps. We wish him the best of luck!

Anna Senarslan, dissertator in the Department of Languages and Cultures of Asia, was recently awarded a two-year post-doctoral fellowship in the Asian Studies Program at Hamilton College in New York, where her focus will be on Central and Western Asia. Anna will be teaching three courses per year and working on a book about Azerbaijani writer Mirze F. Akhundov. She will also have the opportunity to engage in special student-faculty research projects and outreach projects. Congratulations, Anna!

STUDENT NEWS, continued

poster on her research dedicated to exploring the potential for using online virtual worlds in foreign language teaching and learning at the UW-Madison SLA Graduate Student Organization Symposium "Evolving Perspectives in SLA." She will be working this summer as a lead instructor (Level 2) at the Middlebury Russian School, where Slavic graduate student **Brian Johnson** will be joining her as lead instructor for Level 1. Finally, we wish to congratulate Molly and fellow Slavic graduate student **Matt McGarry** for completing prelim exams.

Workshop on BRICs: “Emerging Powers in the Global System”

On March 8, 2008, Global Studies, in partnership with CREECA and several other centers and departments on campus, organized a workshop for faculty, students, and others interested in the globalization of politics and economy. The workshop, entitled “Emerging Powers in the Global System,” brought together scholars and specialists in the fields of international relations, global systems, and American politics to discuss the reasons and impact of the rise of emerging economic and political powers such as Brazil, Russia, India and China (the so-called BRICs nations) on the global stage. The workshop gave scholars the opportunity to explore the implications of British Prime Minister Gordon Brown’s recent call for India, China, and Brazil to be admitted into the G8 in order to better reflect the existing and increasingly globalized realities of political power.

According to Steve Smith, associate director of Global Studies, the workshop gathered together several scholars from different fields in order to generate a cross-disciplinary dialogue about America’s changing role in an increasingly global political and economic system. “Emerging Powers in the Global System” featured a range of presentations from experts and specialists in international relations and American politics, including Kathleen J. Hancock, assistant professor of Political Science at the University of Texas-San Antonio, and Evgeny Finkel, a Ph.D. student in Political Science at UW-Madison. Kathryn Hendley, Voss-Bascom Professor of Law and Political Science at UW-Madison, served as a discussant for a session on the complex relationship between perceptions and realities of Russia as an emerging economic and political power.

Despite the geographical and thematic range of the presentations, all the speakers’ projects are informed by considerations of the idea of the “emerging power” as a potentially useful analytical category. Their work is also motivated by concerns about the impact of these regional powers on current understandings and manifestations of political and economic growth, particularly in an era when the American-European relationship is no longer the determining factor of such development. The workshop and concluding roundtable session provided a forum in which to exchange insights and share research on a topical and complex political and economic development affecting the entire global community.

Russia Day

CREECA’s largest triennial high school outreach event, “Day in Russia,” took place on April 8, 2008. This year, high school juniors and seniors from Appleton, McFarland, Oregon, and West Allis spent the morning on campus learning about Russia. Ted Gerber, CREECA director, opened the morning with an engaging presentation on modern-day Russia. Afterwards, students were divided up into small groups and participated in presentations on a variety of topics relating to Russia, including folk dance, fairy tales, the Trans-Siberian railroad, tattoos in prison culture, opportunities for studying and working in Russia, and an introduction to the Russian language. “Day in Russia” concluded with a concert by three members of UW-Madison’s Russian Folk Orchestra: Victor Gorodinky, Tamara Ancite, and Maria Undraitis. Many thanks to the CREECA crew, the Russian Folk Orchestra, International Academic Programs, and the following individuals for their help with this event: Michael Kuharski, Benjamin Jens, Matthew Larson, Ryan Tvedt, David Weber, Adam Goodberg, and Nicole Kraus. **Join us on October 15, 2008 for Day in Central Asia!**

CREECA Annual Summer Teacher Workshop



Topic: *Islam in Russia and the Newly Independent States*



**UW-Madison Campus
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