

Project:
Creation of a Coordinated
Educational Programs Network,
Designing Teaching Aids and Textbooks for
Central Asian History



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"Miras" University

- Located in Shymkent, South Kazakhstan
- Founded in 1997
- Private
- Over 2000 students
- Three institutes:

The Institute of Economics and Business specializing in Economics, Management, Accounting, Finance;

The Pedagogical Institute specializing in Primary Education, Pedagogy and Psychology, Chemistry, Biology, History, Kazakh Language and Literature and Foreign Languages;

The Institute of Informational Technologies specializing in Computer Science, Information Systems and Electronic Computing Machines and Software.



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- Long Term Goal of the project is to contribute to the mutual understanding between nations and states in the Central Asian region, as well as create lasting partnerships with European countries and universities.
- The idea is to reform the way history is taught in Central Asian countries.



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- **The Objectives of the project:**
- Identify historical themes used in teaching history in Central Asia.
- Identify conflicts and contradictions between different historical interpretations being taught in Central Asia.
- Historical ideas in the region must be investigated and given a fair objective conclusion.
- Create a history curriculum based on the findings of the project research.
- Write experimental textbooks that could be introduced into every Central Asian country and used in the classrooms.



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- **Tajikistan** In 2006, President of Tajikistan Emamomali Rakhmonov announced that year as “The Year of Aryan Culture in Tajikistan.”
- **Turkmenistan** Turkmenbashi S. Niyazov, the author of his book “Ruhnama”, insists on Turkmenistan nation to be the most ancient one.
- **Uzbekistan** has developed its own conception with the Amir Timur’s activities in the center. This can bring all Central Asian and other countries such as Iran, Afganistan, Pakistan, India, China to certain conflicts.
- **Kazakhstan** is developing its view on Kenesary Kasymov’s role in the history that can irritate Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan.
- **Kyrgyzstan** claims that ancient Turkic culture in fact came from Kyrgyz culture and should be identified as such.



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- In order to avoid some of these conflicts and disagreements between Central Asian countries, especially culturally and historically, an agreed upon curriculum must be introduced on how to teach history and social studies. Each Central Asian country must take part in writing the curriculum and agreements must be made in order to create a cohesive history that doesn't contradict itself and in which all the Central Asian countries can agree. This curriculum must be put into textbooks that will be used throughout Central Asia in educational systems.
- The universities involved in the project could work in teams with the European side acting as a sort of advisor in pushing forward the development of a cohesive historical perspective in the region, especially related to ensuring tolerance in international and interstate relations. Central Asian universities would provide the historical contexts that they are representing and the way in which history is taught in their country or region. The sharing of knowledge between universities would benefit both sides greatly.



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- The project will require a high level of communication between participating universities. Sharing information during meetings, conferences, and through the Internet will be vital.
- Group effort of universities would benefit greatly, but what is more important, overcoming the myths that have been created in Central Asian history would benefit the people of the region by improving relations between the countries and nationalities.