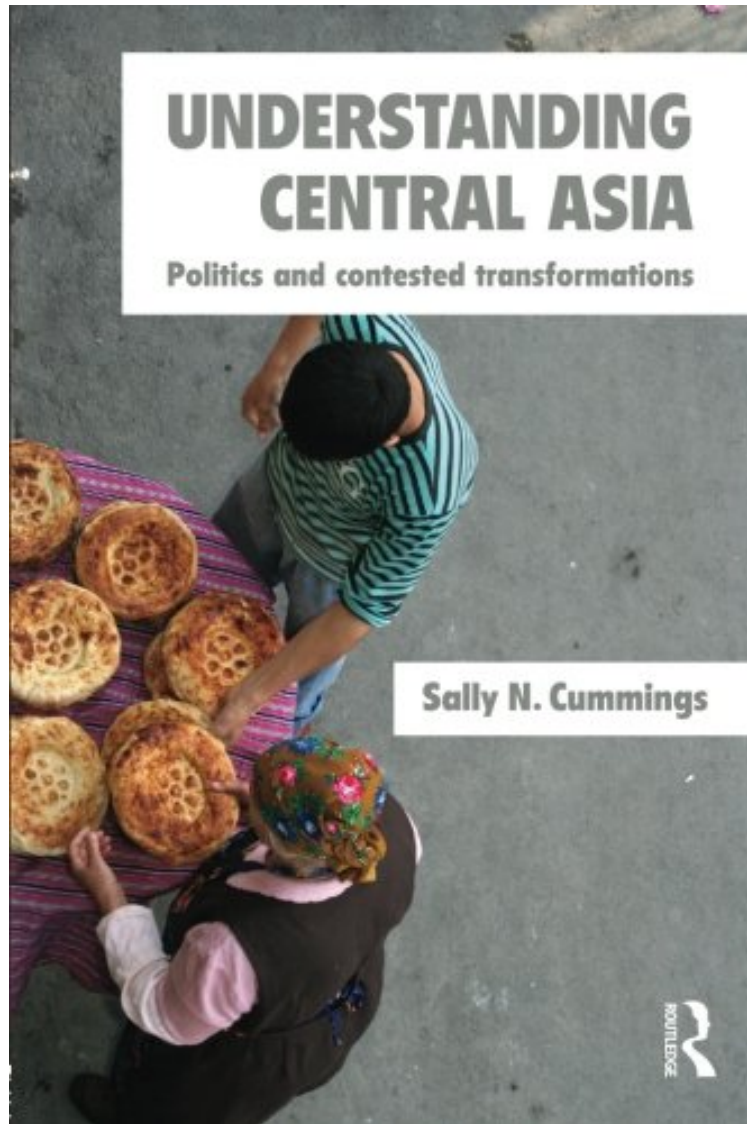


# Understanding Central Asia: Politics and Contested Transformations

*Sally N. Cummings*

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In a cogently written fashion she makes the reader aware of the conflicting interpretations on how to understand the Central Asian region, both how it is constituted, what colonization brought to these territories, and whether years of Soviet rule were a further continuation of colonization or a different kind of political experience." - Martha Brill Olcott, Carnegie Endowment For International Peace, USA "This book is both a major achievement and an important contribution to the field of Central Asian studies. Drawing upon a rich body of literature from across the social sciences and humanities, it offers the most comprehensive account of the region's political transformation since it was jolted into independence from Soviet rule in 1991." - Pauline Jones Luong, Brown University, USA "This is an important and timely book. It provides the state of the art of contemporary Central Asian studies as well as a clear and persuasive interpretation of the post-Soviet Central Asian states... 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It is a welcome addition to the relatively sparse literature on contemporary Central Asia and should prove an effective guide to those interested in understanding the complex political dynamics of the region after the end of the Soviet period." - George Malagaris, Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies, *Journal of Islamic Studies*, vol 26, no 3, September 2015, 365-366 About the Author Sally N. Cummings teaches in the School of International Relations at the University of St Andrews, UK, where she is also Founding Director of the Institute of Middle Eastern, Central Asian and Caucasus Studies. Her publications include *Sovereignty After Empire* (co-ed., 2011); *Symbolism and Power in Central Asia* (ed., Routledge 2010); *Kazakhstan*

(2005) and *Oil, Transition and Security in Central Asia* (ed., Routledge 2003).