

# Uzbekistan and the silk road



# Introduction

Why Uzbekistan

Where is it

Geography

History and Silk road

Pictures of the key cities and stunning architecture

A bit about modern day Uzbekistan

Food, fashion and entertainment



SAINT-PETERSBURG  
(ST. PETERSBURG)

MOSKVA  
(MOSCOW)

R U S S I A

ISTANBUL

ANKARA

TURKEY

SAMARA

YEKATERINBURG

OMSK

Astana

KAZAKHSTAN

BAKI (BAKU)

TASHKENT

ALMATY

ÜRÜMQI

MONGOLIA

Ulaanbaatar

HARBIN

SHENYANG

BEIJING

VIENNA

PYONGYANG

SŌUL (SEOUL)

SOUTH KOREA

BAGHDĀD

TEHRĀN (TEHERAN)

Ashgabat (Ashkhabad)

Dushanbe

KĀBUL

AFGHANISTAN

Islamabad

KARACHI

PAKISTAN

DELHI

New Delhi

KATHMANDU

NEPAL

C H I N A

CHONGQING

SHANGHAI

WUHAN

FUZHOU

TAIPEI

TAIWAN

ARABIA

SAUDI QATAR

AR RIYĀD (RIYADH)

BAHRAIN

U.A.E.

OMAN

YEMEN

Aden (Aden)

MUMBAI (BOMBAY)

I N D I A

HYDERABAD

CALCUTTA

BANGALORE

INDIA

MYANMAR (BURMA)

DHAKA

BANGLADESH

GUANGZHOU

HONG KONG

HA NOI (HANOI)

VIEN CHIAN (VIENTIANE)

South



RUSSIA

RUSSIA

KAZAKHSTAN

UZBEKISTAN

TURKMENISTAN

KYRGYZSTAN

TAJIKISTAN

CHINA

AZERBAIJAN

ARAL SEA

CASPIAN SEA

KYZYLKUM DESERT

SYR DARYA

AMU DARYA

PAVLODAR

NUR-SULTAN

KARAGANDA

AKTAU

ALMATY

BISHKEK

SHYMKENT

TASHKENT

KHUVAND

KOKAND

OSH

SAMARKAND

USHANBE

TERMEZ

ASHGABAT

Majority of the country is desert in between 2 mighty rivers rising in the over the borders in the east .The Tien Shan and Pamir mountains rising to 7500 meters.The Oxus and Jaxartes flow over 2000km to the Aral sea in the north.

# THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN



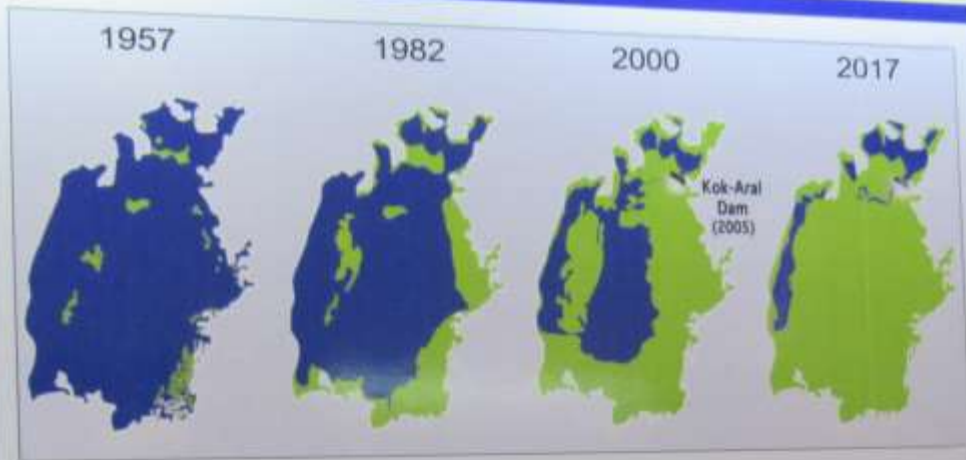
CE BETWEEN CITIES

	Tashkent	Andijan	Bukhara	Dizak	Kashh	Khiva	Navoi	Namangan	Nukus	Samarkand	Termez	Fergana	Urgench
Tashkent	447	447	616	203	558	1119	509	432	1255	354	708	348	1119
Andijan	447	616	919	421	807	1357	669	67	1475	612	1050	73	1357
Bukhara	616	919	363	363	161	503	125	850	558	300	434	905	503
Dizak	203	421	363	363	247	516	248	415	921	95	471	386	516

## UZBEKISTAN • CONVENT

- TASHKENT The capital of Uzbekistan
- Cities
- SAMARKAND Provincial Centers
- Border of Uzbekistan
- KOKAND Urban settlement
- Roads

# ARAL SEA



1960. 68.900 km<sup>2</sup>

2017. 8.600 km<sup>2</sup>



# Over 2000 years ago

- North Uzbekistan was very fertile due to the Oxus
- Fertility = prosperity
- = to be coveted
- =needs defending
- Arab references to land of 10,000 fortresses

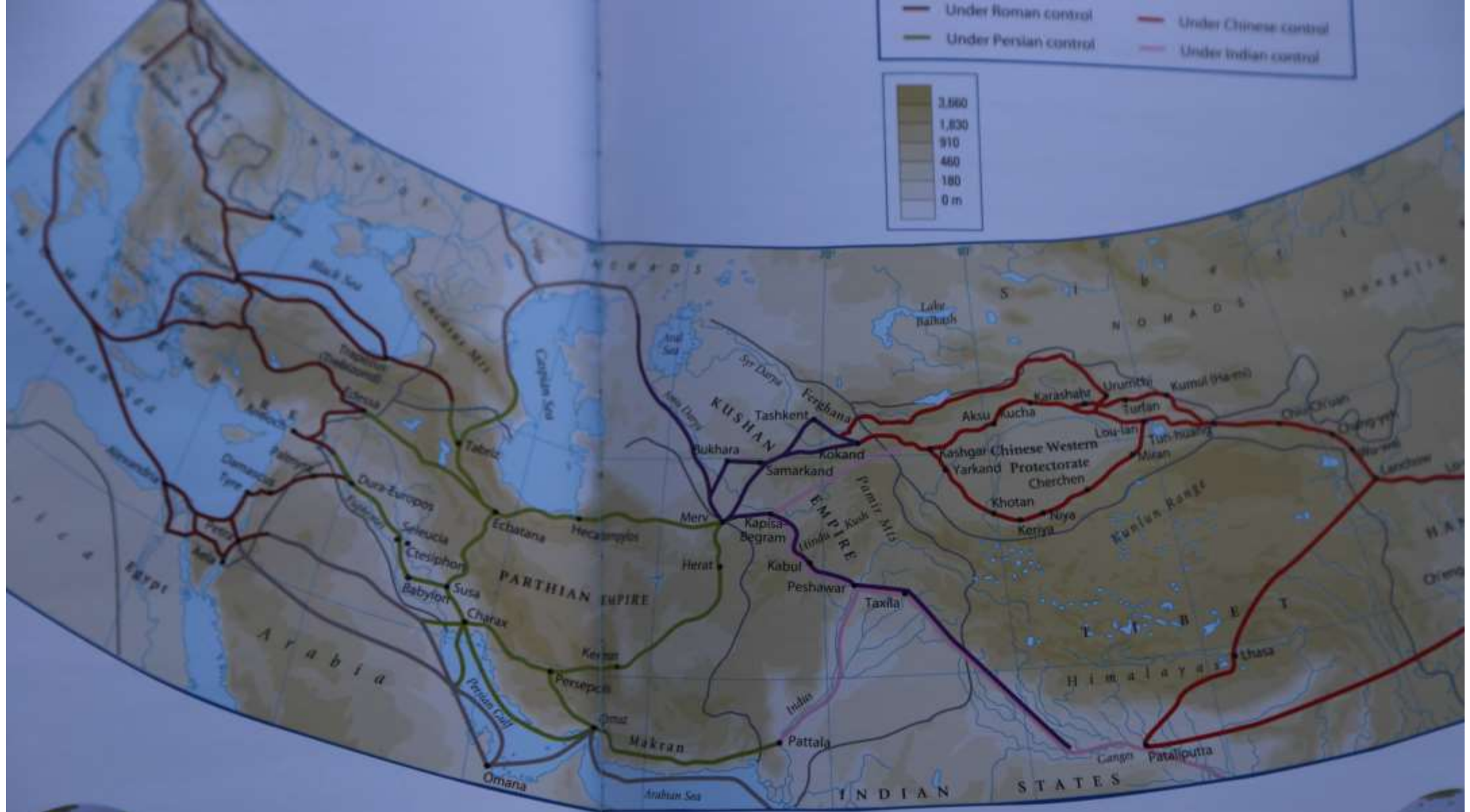
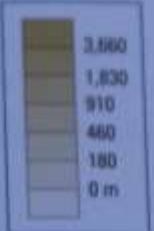




# Early silk road

- Bringing goods between east and west was
- Very profitable..... BUT
- Very dangerous ....UNTIL
- Chinese Han dynasty controlled the Huns and Mongols' raids
- 60 BC last piece of jigsaw as Uzbekistan's Fergana valley connected to China via western protectorate
- Now you can travel Rome to Beijing

- Under Roman control
- Under Persian control
- Under Chinese control
- Under Indian control



# Silk Road

- Term coined in C19 by Red baron's uncle
- Network of roads that changed according to seasons, security, and taxes (4500 miles)
- Cities along the routes grew fabulously wealthy, charging taxes as well as accommodation, food, money exchange and other pleasures
- As well as cities there was a network of camel train service stations every 15 to 20 miles. Fortified refuelling stops called caravanserai
- As well as silk, spices everything was traded inc slaves, ostriches, learning, technology eg paper making and gunpowder
- Major way to transmitted disease internationally eg Black death.





# Major invasions

- 715 Arabs
- Early C13 the Mongols under Genghis Khan
- 1865 Russians
- 1920 Red Army
- Home grown empire builder Timur
- Samarkand is his capital

# Timur/Tamerlane last great “mongol”

- Built alliance of tribes from 1360-80
- Married descendent of GK
- 1380 empire rapidly expands
- Makes Samarkand his Capital...wealth and knowledge pours in
- City becomes centre for Architecture, intellectuals and knowledge
- Envy of the Islamic world
- After his death 1405 his empire breaks up, because he didn't create a stable dynasty and much infighting
- His 4<sup>th</sup> son holds Samarkand element and most of Timurs empire inc Iran and Turkestan and has a son Ulug Bek



# ...RTIASI ...CAMPAIGNS

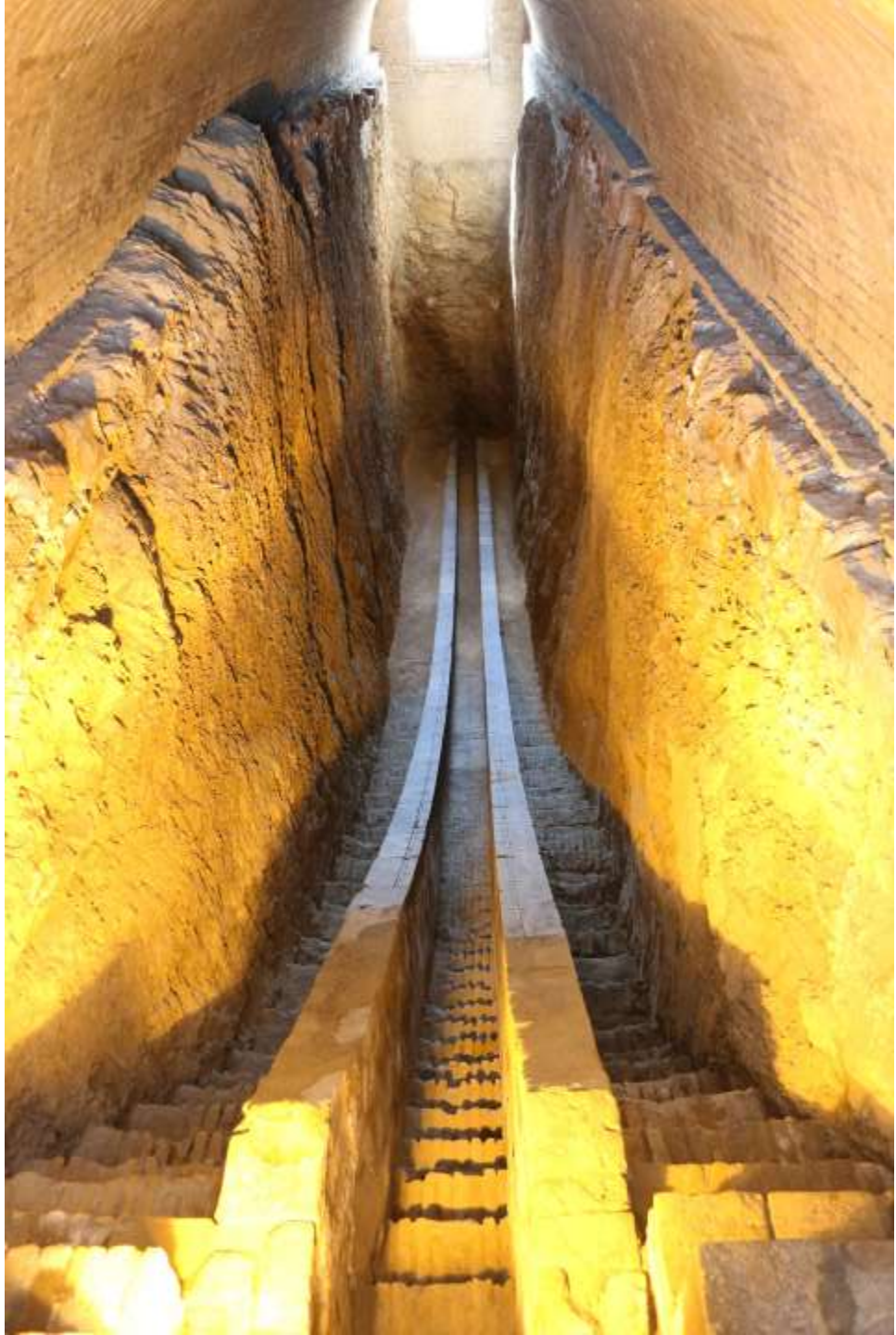


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# Ulugh Bek

- Gifted polymath more interested in science than governing
- His father moved his capital to Herat and gave Samarkand to his son
- 1417 started building centre for higher education. Completed 1420 and key element of the world renowned Registan. He then filled it with best scientists and mathematicians available eg al-Kashi
- Learning was free thinking but UB and AK were the Einsteins and Newtons of the 60 strong intellectuals
- Ub calculated  $\sin 1^\circ$  to 18 decimal places
- He built world beating observatory with super instruments eg a 40m radius, 63 m long quadrant for measuring the heavens etc
- He calculated length of the earths year to within 50 seconds, tilt of earths axis extremely precisely
- His star catalog of 992 stars the Zij was the pre-eminent ref work for several hundred years . Published by oxford uni in 1665



Three fabulous cities

Samarkand

Bukhara

Khiva

# SAMARKAND

- Major silk road city wealthy and powerful and attractive to invaders
- Highpoint as capital of Timurid dynasty
- Mind blowing architecture.....brought back to life by Russians
- Achilles heel is largely built of naturally baked brick, not strong and not earthquake resistant
- 3 key complexes
- Bibi-Khanym (cathedral mosque) built by Timor early C15, Indian elephants employed for heavy work
- Vast size (too heavy for its materials) main portal 45m high









# Shah-i-Zinda

- C11 to C19
- Complex of more than 20 amazing buildings









# Registan square

- 3 stunning madrasahs
- Tillya-Kari at the end
- LHS Ulughbek
- RHS Sher-Dor



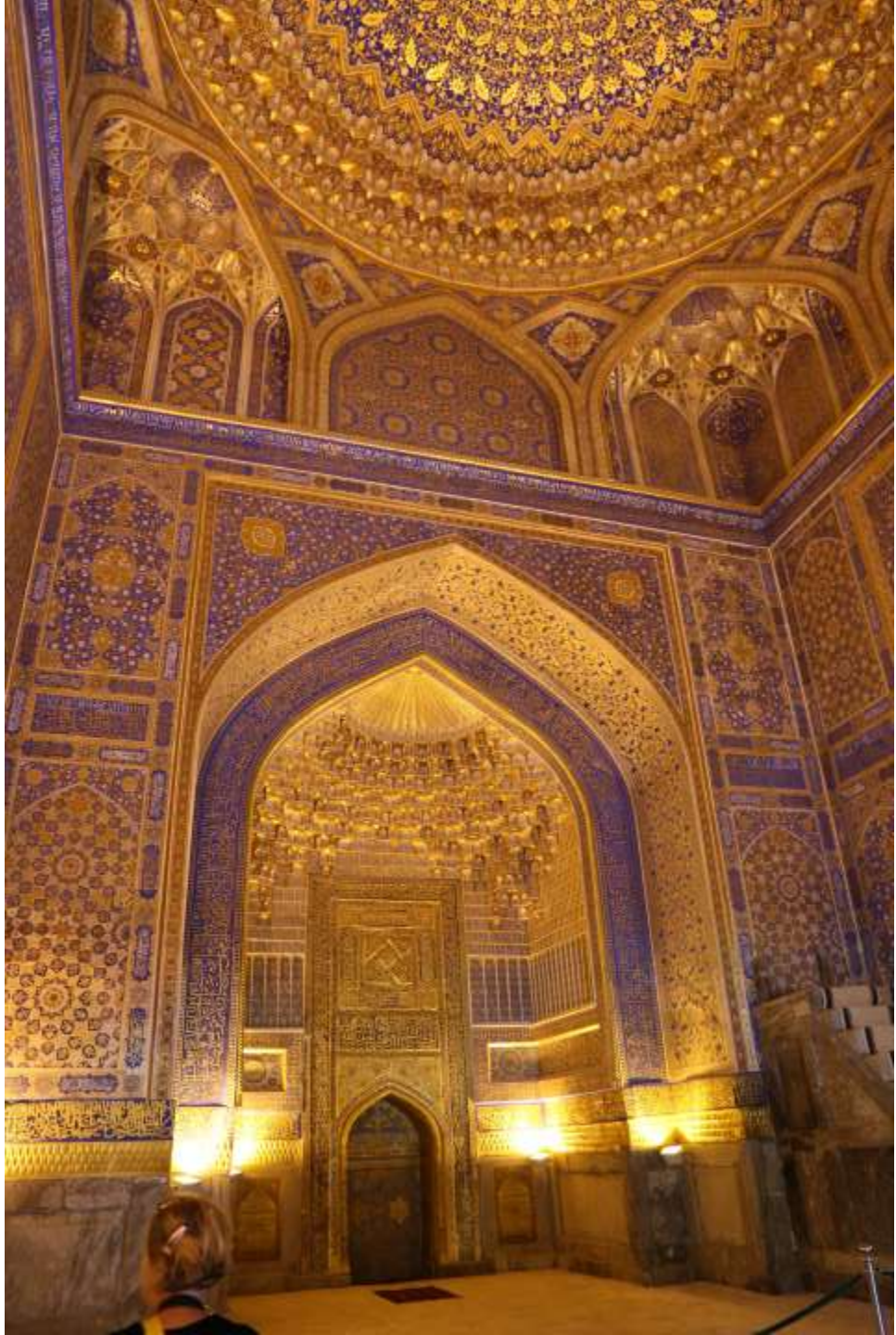


















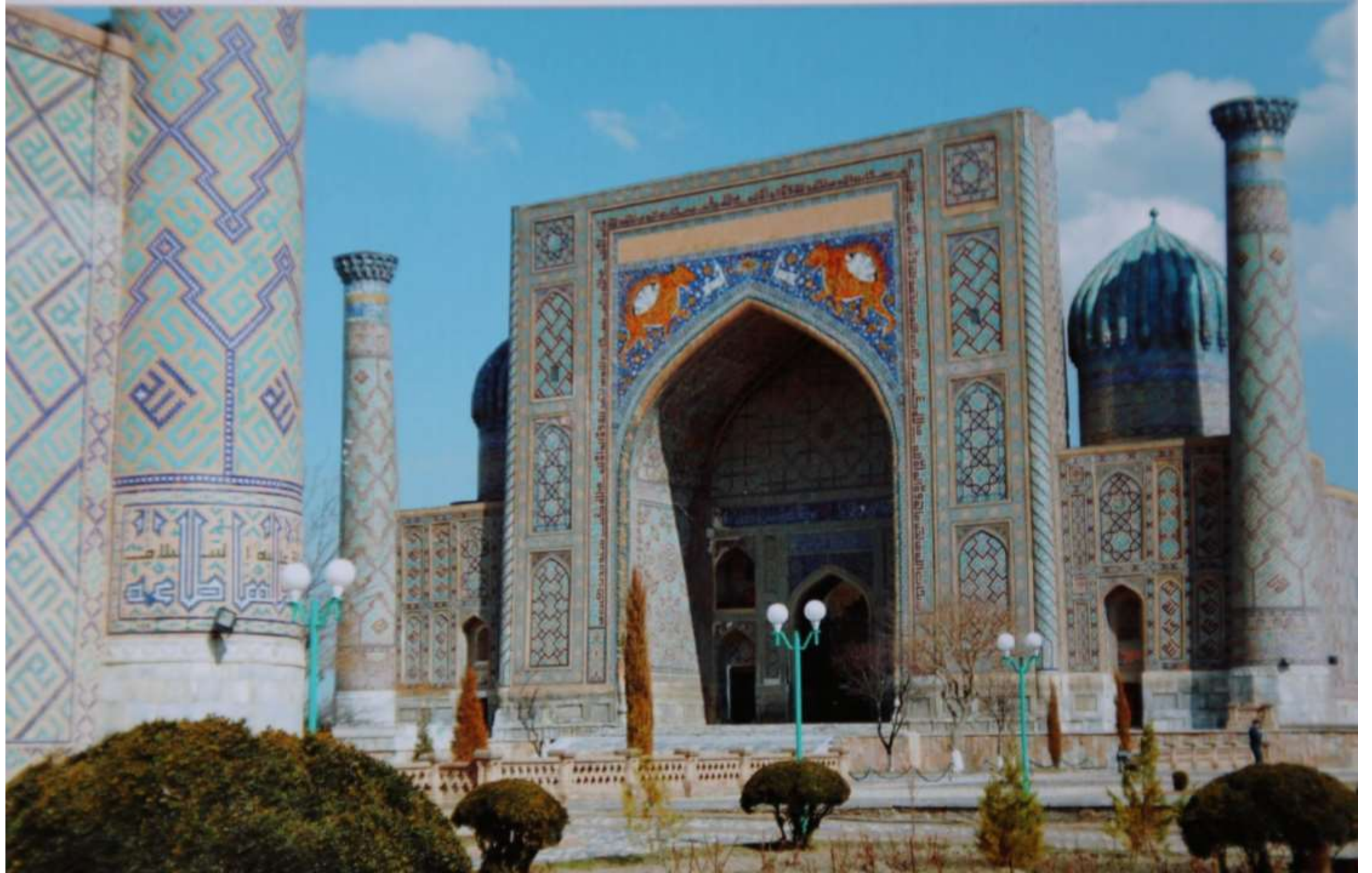
These beautiful buildings didn't  
look so beautiful before the  
Russians annexed Uzbekistan











Bibi Khanim Mosque



# Bukhara sapphire of Uzbekistan

- One of the most esteemed cities in Islamic civilisation
- Links to worship and temples going back 11,000 years
- Key silk road city
- Powerful Khanate
- Carpet making centre























# KHIVA

- Walled Inner city is a Museum for tourists 60 architectural monuments
- Traffic free, commerce free (except tourist shops)
- Rose to importance and fortified in C4 BC
- Early centuries AD citadel built with walls 7-9m thick, 8m high and half a km long on each side each with a huge gate
- Current inner walls rebuilt C14
- Renowned for craftsmanship
- Outer city walls were 6km long but in disrepair now





















H. L. I.















# Modern Uzbekistan

- 1991 Uzbekistan becomes independent – Karimov first president
- 2016 Prime minister Mirziyoyev elected President after death of Karimov
- Rules relaxed and progressive
- Attracts foreign investment eg \$10bn from S Arabia
- Speeds up privatisation of state assets
- Visits and makes peace with Kyrgistan and Tajikistan despite border issues dating back to Stalin
- Led peace making initiatives between Taliban and Afgan government
- Asian of the Year 2018
- Personally takes charge of Covid 19 with positive tributes

# Key Facts

83% Uzbek

88% Muslim

Main language—Uzbek with Russian widely spoken

Secular Republic

Largest power (gas) generator in C Asia

Major producer of cotton

Capital –Tashkent 2.5 m people

Population 34m----50% urban

Land mass twice UK

Life expectancy 72 years

Exports cars to Russia and CIS

High level of literacy

One party state

# Communication

- Uzbek is a Turkic language with strong Persian influence as well as Arabic and Russian
- Russian remains the language of inter-ethnic communication, science, business and advertising
- It was main language of education pre 1991, older people more fluent than young people
- Scripts have changed many times
- Up to 1928 literate Uzbeks used Perso-Arabic script
- Brief period of 12 years when latin alphabet used
- 1940 Cyrillic script imposed
- 1992 Latin script re-introduced

# Summary

- Uzbekistan has amazing history and architecture
- Visiting is very easy with or without guides
- People are very friendly.....absence of beggars and pickpockets
- Policemen very scarce
- Laisser faire attitude even in Mosques-despite notice boards
- Food is good but mostly ethnic
- Hotels are good, service stations is a mixed bag
- Travel is acceptable if not first world standard

Over to Julia