

Peer Review

Review of: "From Tsarist Rule to Independence: The Transformation of Ethnic Identities in Kyrgyzstan"

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In this paper, the author discusses the state policies and public perceptions that shape ethnic identities in Kyrgyzstan. The author highlights how this is important to understand ethnic tensions and economic disparities in the nation. The article examines how ethnic identities and practices have evolved from the Tsarist era to the modern day. Archival research is combined with qualitative interviews and content analysis.

The work is well thought out and well written. It is clear that the author is an expert in the content, and I can only offer comments on the form of the paper, as the content is clearly well-researched. I look forward to seeing this in print and citing it one day. The author could use more signposting in their writing to guide the reader through the publication. Tell the reader what to expect in each section. At the end of the introduction section, a paragraph outlining the rest of the article would be helpful. The content analysis seems like it is a bit out of the blue and may not inform the wider point the author is trying to make. In fact, the qualitative findings could be built out more, and they could be the sole focus of the paper. It would be useful to present basic information about how many interviews took place and the demographic information about the sample in a table. How does who you asked shape the overall analysis? I would also caution against taking individual responses as a widespread fact and more likely situate them as a perception among some respondents.

The major concern is the detail in the quotes. The information may be identifiable to the individuals, and there should be less information associated with each quote (perhaps just the ethnic identity, gender, and age or the occupation and ethnic identity?).

I would also like to see the literature review at the beginning built out a little bit more to talk about what other studies have been conducted in similar Former Soviet, Central Asian, or Mountainous

contexts regarding ethnic identity. A couple of paragraphs highlighting the study's contribution to the literature would make it much more useful. See De la Croix: Iconic Places in Central Asia.

Finally, I would like some discussion at the end about what this means going forward. The practical significance of this work is clear to me, but the author should make their case to the reader a bit more. Should the new government be mindful of this going forward? How can this work help with achieving equity, economic security, and public safety in the country? Overall, this is valuable work, and I appreciate the chance to read and review it. Please do send along a final version; I will be using this to inform my work going forward, and I think others will too.

Declarations

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.