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“A View of Islam in Central Asia through Modern Turkic Literature”

Much has been written in English about Islam in Central Asia from a Western perspective. In order to obtain a Central Asian perspective, this paper will review three translations of modern works of Central Asian literature; two Uzbek works of Said Ahmad, one of which is translated by the author, and one Turkmen work by Nurmurat Sarykhamov. These works were written by Central Asians for Central Asians and so they provide a unique Central Asian perspective. Despite Soviet restrictions of religion, this paper will highlight the importance of religion and religious works to Muslims in Central Asia.