

## THOMAS J. BARFIELD

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### Graduate and Undergraduate Degrees

Harvard University, Cambridge, MA  
1978 - Ph.D. in Social Anthropology  
1974 - M.A. in Social Anthropology  
Minor Field of Concentration: Archaeology  
University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA  
1972 - B.A.

### Academic Positions

Boston University, Department of Anthropology  
Professor, 1989-present  
Chairman, 1989-2006, 2016-2019  
Harvard University, Department of Anthropology  
Visiting Professor, Spring 1992  
Associate Professor, 1986-89  
Assistant Professor, 1982-85  
Wellesley College, Department of Anthropology  
Visiting Assistant Professor, 1981-82

### Fellowships, Grants and Awards

Certificate of Appreciation: Herat Ministry of Culture, Museums, Herat, Afghanistan for *Splendours of Medieval Timurid Art in Afghanistan Exhibition* at Herât Castle, December 2017.  
Outstanding Academic Title in Middle East & North Africa, American Library Association for *Afghanistan: A Cultural and Political History (Choice)*, January 2011).  
Guggenheim Fellowship, 2006-07  
Fulbright Senior Specialist, Mongolia, August 2002  
Senior Fulbright Scholar: Samarkand, Uzbekistan, Spring 1997  
Senior Fellow: Boston University Society of Fellows, 1994-95, 1997-98, 2001-02  
Outstanding Academic Book in Art and Architecture, American Library Association for *Afghanistan: An Atlas of Indigenous Domestic Architecture (Choice)*, January 1993).  
Fellow of the American Anthropological Association, 1993  
Aga Khan Foundation Grant for completion of technical work on *Afghanistan: An Atlas of Indigenous Domestic Architecture*, 1988.  
Tozier Fund Research Grant, Harvard University, for survey of Kazakh nomads of the Altai region, Xinjiang, Peoples Republic of China, 1987.  
Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Grant for Afghanistan, 1975-76.  
Hagop Kervorkian Memorial Prize for Middle Eastern Archaeology, University of Pennsylvania, 1972.

### Academic Research and Advisory Positions

President: American Institute of Afghanistan Studies (AIAS), 2005-present  
Editorial Board: Economic and Social Transformations in Central and Inner Asia book series for Routledge Press, 2018-present.  
Editorial Board: *Afghanistan*, published by University of Edinburgh Press. 2018-present  
Committee member: The South Asia Council (SAC) of the Association for Asian Studies, 2013-2015  
Executive Committee: Board of Directors, American Institute of Afghanistan Studies (AIAS), 2003-present  
Director, Institute for the Study of Muslim Societies and Civilizations, Boston University, 2008-2014  
Member, Board of Directors, Mongolia Society, 2007-2009  
President: Central Eurasian Studies Society (CESS), 2004-05  
Corresponding Member: UNESCO International Institute for the Study of Nomadic Civilizations, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, 2004.  
Editorial Board: *Anthropological Theory*, published by Sage International, London, 1997-present.

Advisory Committee, *Inner Asia*, published by the Mongolia and Inner Asia Studies Unit at the University of Cambridge, 1998-present.  
 Executive Council & Secretary: Association for the Advancement of Central Asian Studies, 1994-97.  
 President, New England Council of the Association for Asian Studies, 1991-92.  
 Research Affiliate: Center for International Studies, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 1991-92.  
 Review Panel: "Grassland Science in China" for the National Academy of Sciences and the Committee on Scholarly Communication with the People's Republic of China, 1991.  
 Faculty Associate: Fairbank Center for East Asian Research, Harvard University, 1982-89.  
 Faculty: Committee on Higher Degrees in Inner Asian and Altaic Studies, Harvard University, 1985-89.  
 Associate in Research: Fairbank Center for East Asian Research, Harvard University, 1978-82.

## Publications

### Books, Monographs, Exhibitions

- In press *Shadow Empires*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- 2018 *King Babur's Kabul: Cradle of the Mughal Empire*. Exhibition at Babur's Garden, Kabul Afghanistan. Showcased 80 state-of-the-art reproductions of works of Mughal and Timurid art painted in Herât, Kabul and Delhi in the 15<sup>th</sup> through 18<sup>th</sup> centuries.
- 2017 *Splendors of Medieval Timurid Art in Afghanistan*. Exhibition at Herât Castle, Herât, Afghanistan. Showcased 100 state-of-the-art reproductions of Timurid art works painted in Herât in 15<sup>th</sup> century.
- 2010 *Afghanistan: A cultural and political history*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. [paperback edition 2012, Turkish translation 2019]
- 2003 (editor with Nikolay Kradin and Dmitri Bondarenko) *Nomadic pathways in social evolution*. Moscow: Center for Civilizational and Regional Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences.
- 1997 (executive editor) *The dictionary of anthropology*. Oxford and Malden, MA: Blackwell. [Spanish translation, 2001]
- 1993 *The nomadic alternative*. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall.
- 1991 (and Albert Szabo) *Afghanistan: An atlas of indigenous domestic architecture*. Austin: University of Texas Press.
- 1989 *The perilous frontier: Nomadic empires and China, 221 BC to AD 1757*. Oxford: Blackwell. [paperback edition 1992; Russian translation 2009, St. Petersburg; Korean translation, 2010, Seoul; Chinese translation 2012, Nanjing]
- 1982 (and Russell Barber) *The Amphitheater site: A late archaic settlement in Watertown, Mass.* Cambridge, MA: Peabody Museum Institute for Conservation Archaeology.
- 1981 *The Central Asian Arabs of Afghanistan: Pastoral nomadism in transition*. Austin: University of Texas Press. [Arabic translation, Riyadh: King Faisal Center for Research and Islamic Studies, 2002]

### Articles, Book Chapters, Reports and Commentaries

- 2021 (and Neamatollah Nojumi) "Bringing multilateralism back in: ending the war in Afghanistan is not a one-nation job." *USIP Afghan Peace Process Issues Paper*, March 2021. [https://www.usip.org/sites/default/files/Afghanistan-Peace-Process\\_Bringing-Multilateralism-Back.pdf](https://www.usip.org/sites/default/files/Afghanistan-Peace-Process_Bringing-Multilateralism-Back.pdf)
- 2020 "Supersize me: political aspects of monumental tomb building in early steppe empires." In *Masters of the steppe: the impact of the Scythians and later nomad societies of Eurasia*, edited by Svetlana Pankova and SJ Simpson. Oxford: Archaeopress Archaeology, pp 30-42.
- 2020 "Afghan political ecologies: templates past and present from the eastern Iranian world" In *The Limits of Empire in Ancient Afghanistan*, edited by Richard Payne and Rhyne King. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz Verlag, pp. 1-20.
- 2020 "Nomads and states in comparative perspective." In *Nomad-state relationships in international relations: Before and after borders*, edited by Jamie Levin. London: Palgrave, pp. 19-43.
- 2019 "Afghanistan, from mid-18th century." *The Encyclopaedia of Islam*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition.
- 2019 "On Nomads of South Persia." In *It happens among people: Resonances and extensions of the work of Fredrik Barth*, edited by Keping Wu and Robert Weller. New York: Berghahn, pp. 104-119.
- 2018 "Introduction: The American Institute of Afghanistan Studies" *Afghanistan* 1(1):1-3.

- 2016 “Afghanistan’s arduous search for stability” *Current History* 113 (780):136-143.
- 2016 “The Islamic State as an empire of nostalgia.” *Mizan* 1(1). <http://www.mizanproject.org/journal-post/the-islamic-state-as-an-empire-of-nostalgia>
- 2016 “State strengthening in Afghanistan: Lessons learned, 2001–14.” In *Statebuilding, Counterinsurgency, and Counterterrorism: Complementary or Contradictory Strategies?*, edited by Scott Smith and Colin Cookman. Washington DC: United States Institute of Peace, pp. 9-17.
- 2015 “Afghanistan.” *The Wiley Blackwell Encyclopedia of Race, Ethnicity, and Nationalism*. Malden, MA: Wiley. pp 1–4. DOI: 10.1002/9781118663202.wberen676
- 2014 “Compromise in Kabul: inside the deal that made Ashraf Ghani Afghanistan’s new president.” *Cairo Review* 15:32-37.
- 2014 “Weapons of the not so weak in Afghanistan: Pashtun agrarian structure and tribal organization” in *Culture, Conflict, and Counterinsurgency*, edited by Thomas H. Johnson, Barry and Scott Zellen. Stanford: Stanford University Press, pp. 95-119.
- 2013 “Continuities and changes in local politics in northern Afghanistan,” In *Local politics in Afghanistan*, edited by Conrad Schetter. London: Hurst & Co. pp 131-45.
- 2013 “Afghanistan in 2014.” *Caucasus International* 3(3): 13-21.
- 2013 “Two diverging roads for Afghanistan.” *YaleGlobal Online Magazine* January 11, 2013. <http://yaleglobal.yale.edu>
- 2012 “Shari‘a in Afghanistan” *The Review of Faith & International Affairs*. 10(4): 45-52.
- 2012 “What history can tell us about contemporary Afghanistan.” *Education in Asia* 12(2): 6-9.
- 2012 “Centralization/Decentralization in the dynamics of Afghan history.” *Cliodynamics* 3: 94–104.
- 2012 “Afghan paradoxes” In *Afghan endgames: Strategy and policy choices for America’s longest war*, edited by Hy Rothstein and John Arquilla. Washington: Georgetown University Press, pp. 39-58.
- 2012 “Afghans look at 2014.” *Current History*. 111(April):123-126.
- 2011 “Afghanistan’s ethnic puzzle: Decentralizing power before the U.S. withdrawal.” *Foreign Affairs* 90(5):54-65.
- 2011 “Afghanistan: the local and the global in practice of shari’a.” In *Shari’a Politics*, edited by Robert Hefner. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, pp. 179-206.
- 2011 “Nomadic pastoralism in Mongolia and beyond.” In *Mapping Mongolia: Situating Mongolia in the World from Geologic Time to the Present*, edited by Paula Sabloff. Philadelphia: Penn Museum Press, pp.104-124.
- 2011 “Nomadic pastoralism.” In *Oxford Handbook of World History*, edited by Jerry Bentley. Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 160-175. (reprinted 2014)
- 2011 (and Neamatollah Nojumi, Alexander Thier) “The clash of two goods: State and non-state dispute resolution in Afghanistan.” In *Customary Justice and the Rule of Law in War-torn Societies*, edited by Deborah Isser. Washington, DC: United States Institute of Peace Publishing, pp. 159-192.
- 2011 “Afghanistan is not the Balkans: Central Asian ethnicity and its political consequences.” In *Ethnicity, Authority and Power in Central Asia*, edited by Robert Canfield and Gabriele Rasuly-Paleczek. London: Routledge, pp. 95-109.
- 2011 “Rule of law in Afghanistan.” American Institute for Afghanistan Studies Report. [http://www.bu.edu/aias/reports/AIAS\\_ROL.pdf](http://www.bu.edu/aias/reports/AIAS_ROL.pdf)
- 2010 (and Neamatollah Nojumi) “Bringing more effective governance to Afghanistan: 10 pathways to stability.” *Middle East Policy* 17(4): 40-52.
- 2010 “Is Afghanistan 'Medieval'?” *Foreign Policy*. May/June [http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2010/06/02/is\\_afghanistan\\_medieval](http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2010/06/02/is_afghanistan_medieval)
- 2010 “Afghanistan: Six questions for Thomas Barfield.” *Harper’s Magazine* <http://www.harpers.org/archive/2010/05/hbc-90007078>
- 2009 “Frontiers and border dynamics: Introduction.” In *Monuments, Metals and Mobility: Trajectories of Social Complexity in the Late Prehistoric Eurasian Steppe*, edited by Bryan Hanks and Katheryn Linduff. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 235-240.

- 2009 "Fundamentals of governance in Afghanistan." American Institute for Afghanistan Studies Report. [http://www.bu.edu/aias/reports/governance\\_short.pdf](http://www.bu.edu/aias/reports/governance_short.pdf)
- 2009 "Afghanistan's other neighbors: Iran, Central Asia and China." American Institute for Afghanistan Studies Report. [http://www.bu.edu/aias/reports/aon\\_conference.pdf](http://www.bu.edu/aias/reports/aon_conference.pdf)
- 2008 "Nomadic pastoralists in Afghanistan: reconstruction of the pastoral economy." In *Present State and Perspectives on Nomadism in a Globalizing World*, edited by Jörg Janzen and Batboldyn Enkhtuvshin. Ulaanbaatar: Admon, pp. 189-204.
- 2008 "The roots of failure in Afghanistan." *Current History* 107 (December): 410-417.
- 2008 "Culture and custom in nation-building: Law in Afghanistan." *University of Maine Law Review* 60(2) 348-373.
- 2007 "The Durand Line: history, consequences, and future." American Institute for Afghanistan Studies Report. [http://www.bu.edu/aias/reports/durand\\_conference.pdf](http://www.bu.edu/aias/reports/durand_conference.pdf)
- 2006 "Informal Dispute Resolution and the Formal Legal System in Contemporary Northern Afghanistan," USIP: Washington, DC. [https://www.usip.org/sites/default/files/file/barfield\\_report.pdf](https://www.usip.org/sites/default/files/file/barfield_report.pdf)
- 2006 "Steppe nomadic culture and political organization." In *The Golden Deer of Eurasia: Perspectives on the Steppe Nomads of the Ancient World*, edited by Joan Aruz, Ann Farkas, and Elisabetta Fino. New Haven: Yale University Press, pp. 12-17.
- 2005 "An Islamic state is a state run by good Muslims: Religion as a way of life and not an ideology in Afghanistan." In *Remaking Muslim Politics: Pluralism, Contestation, Democratization*, edited by Robert Hefner. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, pp. 213-239.
- 2005 "First steps: The Afghan election." *Current History* 104 (March): 125-130.
- 2005 "Afghanistan is not the Balkans: Central Asian ethnicity and its political consequences." *Central Eurasian Studies Review* 4(4):2-8.
- 2004 "Pastoral nomadic societies." In *Berkshire Encyclopedia of World History*, edited by William H. McNeill, Jerry H. Bentley and David Christian. Great Barrington, MA: Berkshire Publishing Group, pp. 1432-1437.
- 2004 "Nomadic pastoralists in Afghanistan: Reconstruction of the pastoral economy", with Appendix: *The Afghan Pasture Law 10 March 1970*. Washington DC: Bank Information Service. [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/317972075\\_Nomadic\\_pastoralists\\_in\\_Afghanistan\\_Reconstruction\\_of\\_the\\_pastoral\\_economy\\_with\\_Appendix\\_The\\_Afghan\\_Pasture\\_Law\\_10\\_March\\_1970](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/317972075_Nomadic_pastoralists_in_Afghanistan_Reconstruction_of_the_pastoral_economy_with_Appendix_The_Afghan_Pasture_Law_10_March_1970)
- 2004 "Problems in establishing legitimacy in Afghanistan." *Iranian Studies* 37(3): 263-293.
- 2004 "Radical political Islam in an Afghan context." In *Political Transition in Afghanistan: The State, Islam and Civil Society*, edited by Wilson Lee. Washington, DC: Asia Program Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, Special Report #122, pp. 15-17.
- 2003 "Something new under the sun: The Mongol Empire's innovations in steppe political organization and military strategy." In *Chinggis Khan and the Contemporary Era*, edited by B. Enkhtuvshin and J. Tsolmon. Ulaanbaatar: 8<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Mongolists, pp. 20-35.
- 2003 "Conclusion." In *Nomadic pathways in social evolution*, edited by Nikolay Kradin, Dmitri Bondarenko and Thomas Barfield. Moscow: Center for Civilizational and Regional Studies, Russian Academy of Sciences, pp. 172-179.
- 2003 "Archaeology as anthropology of the long term." In *Archaeology Is Anthropology*, edited by Susan Gillespie and Deborah Nichols. Archaeological Papers of the American Anthropological Association, #13, pp. 41-50.
- 2003 "Architecture, Afghanistan." In *South Asian Folklore: An Encyclopedia*, edited by Margaret Mills, Peter Claus and Sarah Diamond. New York: Routledge, pp. 22-24.
- 2002 "Turk, Persian and Arab: Changing relationships between tribes and state in Iran and along its frontiers." In *Iran and the Surrounding World: Interactions in Culture and Cultural Politics*, edited by Nikki Keddie. Seattle: University of Washington Press, pp. 61-88.
- 2002 "Symposium: Reluctant nation building: securing the rule of law in post-Taliban Afghanistan: On local justice and culture." *Connecticut Journal of International Law* 17(Summer):437-443. (17 Conn. J. Int'l L. 437)

- 2001 "Steppe Empires, China and the Silk Route: Nomads as a force in international trade and politics." In *Nomads in the Sedentary World*, edited by Anatoly Khazanov and Andre Wink. London: Curzon Press, pp. 234-249.
- 2001 "An uneasy neighborhood: Thanks to the Taliban, Afghanistan is the odd-country-out." *Philadelphia Inquirer*, September 27, 2001, p. A14.
- 2001 "Idol threats." *Religion in the News* 4(2):4-7.
- 2001 "The shadow empires: Imperial state formation along the Chinese-nomad frontier." In *Empires*, edited by Susan E. Alcock, Terence N. D'Altroy, Kathleen D. Morrison, Carla M. Sinopoli. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 11-41.
- 2000 "A social science core text from the medieval Islamic world: Ibn Khaldun's *Muqaddimah* and its models of social change." In *Core Texts in Conversation*, edited by Jane Kelley Rodeheffer, David Sokolowski and Scott Lee. Washington, DC: University Press of America, pp. 91-101.
- 1997 dictionary entries: "age systems" (pp. 5-6), "cattle complex" (p. 51), "culture area" (p. 103), "ethnobotany" (pp. 154-5), "ethnographic present" (pp. 157-7), "material culture" (p. 311), "pastoral nomads" (pp. 348-50), "potlatch" (p. 372), "transactional analysis" (p. 472), "transvestism" (pp. 474-5), Whorfian hypothesis" (pp. 492-3), "world view" (p. 499); biographies: "Margaret Mead" (pp. 314-5), "Robert Redfield" (pp. 398-9), "Edward Sapir" (pp. 418-9), "Edward Tylor" (pp. 477-8), "Leslie White" (pp. 491-2). In *The Dictionary of Anthropology*, edited by Thomas Barfield. Malden, MA and Oxford: Blackwell.
- 1996 "The Afghan morass." *Current History* 95(597): 38-43.
- 1995 "Explaining crisis and collapse: Comparative succession systems in nomadic empires." In *Ethnohistorische Wege und Lehrjahre eines Philosophen*, edited by Dittmar Schorkowitz. Frankfurt: Peter Lang Verlag, pp. 187-208.
- 1994 "Prospects for plural societies in Central Asia." *Cultural Survival Quarterly* 18/2: 48-51.
- 1994 "The devil's horsemen: Steppe nomadic warfare in historical perspective." In *Studying War: Anthropological Perspectives*, edited by S.P. Reyna and R.E. Downs. Amsterdam: Gordon and Breach, pp. 157-182.
- 1993 "Kazakhs of Kazakhstan," and "Afghan nomads." In *State of the Peoples: A Global Rights Report on Societies in Danger*, edited by Marc Miller. Boston: Beacon Press, pp.119, 150.
- 1992 "'The centrality of Central Asia': A dialogue with Frank." *Studies in History* 8/1 (n.s.):101-106; reprinted in *Bulletin of Concerned Asian Scholars* 24/2:76-79.
- 1991 "Tribe and state relations: The Inner Asian perspective." In *Tribes and State Formation in the Middle East*, edited by Philip Khoury and Joseph Kostiner. Berkeley: University of California Press, pp. 153-185.
- 1991 "Inner Asia and cycles of power in China's imperial history." In *Rulers from the Steppe: State Formation on the Eurasian Periphery*, edited by Gary Seaman and Daniel Marks. Los Angeles: Ethnographics, pp. 21-62.
- 1984 "Weak links on a rusty chain: Structural weaknesses in Afghanistan's provincial government." In *Revolutions and rebellions in Afghanistan*, edited by Nazif Shahrani and Robert Canfield. Berkeley: Institute of International Studies, #57, pp. 170-183.
- 1984 "Introduction: NOMADS--Stopped in their tracks?" *Cultural Survival Quarterly* 8/1:2-5.
- 1983 "Nomads." *Symbols* Fall 1983.
- 1981 "The Hsiung-nu imperial confederacy: Organization and foreign policy." *Journal of Asian Studies* 41:45-61. [1984 in Chinese translation: *Hsi-tei: min-tsu hsueh-yan hsuah-pao* 4:154ff.]
- 1980 "Afghans fight old battles in new war." *Asia* 2/6:12-15, 40-47.
- 1979 "The impact of colonial disputes on isolated populations in the Upper Oxus: The case of the Central Asian Arabs." *Journal of South Asian and Middle Eastern Studies* 3/2:20-25.
- 1978 "The impact of Pashtun immigration on nomadic pastoralism in northeastern Afghanistan." In *Ethnic Processes and Intergroup Relations in Contemporary Afghanistan*. edited by John Anderson and Richard Strand. Occasional Paper of the Asia Society's Afghanistan Council, #15.

## Book Reviews

- In press *Afghanistan Rising: Islamic Law and Statecraft between the Ottoman and British Empires* by Faiz Ahmed for *The Historian*.
- 2016 *War and society in Afghanistan: From the Mughals to the Americans 1500–2013* by Kaushik Roy for *The Times Literary Supplement*, Issue (March 15, 2016) p. 27
- 2015 *Farewell Kabul: From Afghanistan to a more dangerous world* by Christina Lamb for *The Times Literary Supplement*, Issue 5870 (Oct 2, 2015), pp. 11-12.
- 2015 *The struggle for the Eurasian borderlands: From the rise of early modern empires to the end of the First World War* by Alfred J. Rieber for *American Historical Review* 120 (3): 973-974.  
DOI:10.1093/ahr/120.3.973
- 2015 *Tang China in multi-polar Asia: A history of diplomacy and war* by Zhenping Wang for *The Historian* 77(3) 591-592. DOI: 10.1111/hisn.12072\_41
- 2015 *The good war: Why we couldn't win the war or the peace in Afghanistan* by Jack Fairweather for *The Journal of Military History*, 79(2) 557-558.
- 2014 *An enemy we created: the myth of the Taliban-al Qaeda merger in Afghanistan* by Alex Strick van Linschoten and Felix Kuehan for *Diplomatic History* 38 (1): 228-231 doi:10.1093/dh/dht080
- 2014 *The Frontier Crimes Regulation: A history in documents* by Robert Nichols for *H-Asia, H-Net Reviews* <http://www.h-net.org/reviews/showrev.php?id=42007>
- 2013 *Afghanistan declassified: A guide to America's longest war* by Brian Glyn Williams; *War comes to Garmser: Thirty years of conflict on the Afghan frontier* by Carter Malkasian; *Afghanistan and Pakistan: Conflict, extremism and resistance to modernity* by Riaz Mohammed Khan; *Talibanistan: Negotiating the borders between terror, politics and religion* edited by Peter Bergen for *The Times Literary Supplement*, Issue 5765:12-13. <http://www.the-tls.co.uk/tls/public/article1318409.ece>
- 2012 *A long goodbye: The Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan* by Artemy Kalinovsky for *Nationalities Papers: The Journal of Nationalism and Ethnicity* 40(1): 151-153.
- 2012 *All in: The education of David Petraeus* by Paula Broadwell (with Vernon Loeb) for *The Washington Post*, January 27.
- 2011 *Connecting histories in Afghanistan: Market relations and state formation on a colonial frontier* by Shah Mahmoud Hanifi for *H-Asia, H-Net Reviews* <http://www.h-net.org/reviews/showrev.php?id=32974>
- 2010 *Imperial statecraft: political forms and techniques of governance in Inner Asia, sixth-twentieth centuries*, edited by David Sneath for *H-Net Book Reviews for H-Asia* <http://www.h-net.org/reviews/showrev.php?id=31246>
- 2009 *The headless state* by David Sneath for *Comparative Studies in Society and History*. 51(4): 942-943
- 2009 *Eurasian crossroads: A history of Xinjiang* by James A. Millward for *China Review International* 15 (2): 121-125.
- 2008 *How we missed the story: Osama bin Laden, the Taliban, and the hijacking of Afghanistan*, by Roy Gutman for *Middle East Journal*. 62(3): 519-520.
- 2008 *Frontiers of faith: Islam in the Indo-Afghan Borderland* by Sana Haroon for *Contemporary Islam: Dynamics of Muslim Life*. 3(2) 205-207.
- 2007 *War and migration: Social networks and economic strategies of the Hazaras of Afghanistan* by Alessandro Monsutti and *Conflict in Afghanistan: Studies in asymmetric warfare* by Martin Ewans for *International Journal of Middle East Studies*. 39:494-497.
- 2007 *Conflict in Afghanistan: Studies in asymmetric warfare* by Martin Ewans for *International Journal of Middle East Studies* 39(3): 494-497.
- 2007 *Afghanistan: a bibliography*, compiled by Heather Bleaney and Maria Ángeles Gallego for *The Journal of Asian Studies* 66(1): 238-40
- 2007 *Culture and customs of Afghanistan* by Hafizullah Emadi and *Afghanistan: A modern history* by Angelo Rasanayagam for *Journal of Islamic Studies* 18(1):139-142

- 2004 *Ancient China and its enemies: The rise of nomadic power in East Asian history* by Nicola Di Cosmo for *T'oung Pao* 90:458-466.
- 2004 *The Afghanistan Wars* by William Maley, and *The March of Folly in Afghanistan, 1978-2001* by Jagat Mehta for *The Journal of Asian Studies*, 63(1):186-188.
- 2001 *History of civilizations of Central Asia, Volume IV, The age of achievement: A.D. 750 to the end of the fifteenth century* by M.S. Asimov and C.E. Bosworth (eds.), and *The Bronze Age and Early Iron Age peoples of eastern Central Asia* by Victor Mair (ed.) for the *Journal of World History*, 12(2):462-464.
- 2001 *The end of nomadism?: Society, state and the environment in Inner Asia* by Caroline Humphrey and David Sneath for *China Review International*, 8(1):142-47.
- 2000 *Flexibility and limitation in steppe formations: The Kerait Khanate and Chinggis Khan* by Isenbike Togan for the *American Historical Review*, 105(5):1716-17.
- 2000 *The Taliban: War, religion and the new order in Afghanistan* by Peter Marsden for *Religious Studies Review*, 25:385.
- 2000 *Familiar strangers: A history of Muslims in northwest China* by Jonathan N. Lipman for *International Journal of Middle East Studies*. 32:164-166.
- 1995 *The art and architecture of Islam, 1250-1800* by Sheila Blair & Jonathan Bloom for *Harvard Middle Eastern and Islamic Review*. 2(1):112-114.
- 1995 *Nomads in Central Asia: Animal husbandry and culture in transition (19th-20th century)* by Carel van Leeuwen, Tatjana Emeljanenko & Larisa Popova for *American Ethnologist* 22(4): 1044-45.
- 1994 *The partition of the steppe: The struggle of the Russians, Manchus, and the Zunghars for empire in Central Asia, 1619-1758* by Fred W. Bergholz for *Slavic Review*. 53(4):1157-58.
- 1992 *Regime change in Afghanistan: Foreign intervention and the politics of legitimacy* by Amin Saikal and William Maley for *Middle Eastern Studies Association Bulletin* 26:216-217.
- 1992 *The land and people of Afghanistan* by Mary Louise Clifford for *Association for the Advancement of Central Asian Research Bulletin* 5(2):23.
- 1991 *Peace, war, and trade along the Great Wall: Nomadic-Chinese interaction through two millennia*, by Sechin Jagchid and Van Jay Symons for the *Journal of Field Archaeology* 18:241-243.
- 1987 *Law in Afghanistan* by Mohammad Hashim Kamali for *The Middle Eastern Journal* 41:314.
- 1987 *Economic structures of the ancient Near East* by Morris Silver for *American Anthropologist* 89:194-95.
- 1986 *Afghan alternatives* edited by Ralph Magnus for *Contemporary Sociology* 15:676-677.
- 1983 *The future of pastoral peoples* edited by John Galaty, Don Aronson, and Philip Salzman for *American Ethnologist* 10:794-796.
- 1982 *Nomads of south Siberia* by Sevyen Vainshtein for the *Journal of Asian Studies* 41:828-830.
- 1981 *The Kirghiz and Wakhi of Afghanistan* by M. Nazif Shahrani for the *Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies* 41:247-252.