GLOSSARY

Soviet Terms

- *hujum* - literally ‘attack’ in Tajik/Uzbek. Used for the Soviet attack on female seclusion and veiling in the late 1920s.
- *kolkhoz* - collective farm
- *Komsomol* - Young Communist League
- *oblast* - corresponds to the English state or province
- *stakhanovite* - Stakhanovism (named after the miner Aleksei Stakhano v who hewed fourteen times his quota of coal) was a movement to increase labour productivity to the point of encouraging maximum productivity (Buckley 1996: 199).
- *zhenotdel* - women’s division

Local Words

- *aryk* - irrigation canal, or ditch
- *atun-bibi* - female cleric, similar to *mullah*.
- *ayb* - shame - the opposite of *nomus*
- *babka* - ‘old woman’ (Russian), sometimes used to designate traditional birth attendants.
- *bai* - the rich
- *basmachi* - anti-Soviet Islamic rebels of the 1920s and 1930s in Central Asia and especially Tajikistan
- *bibi-atun* female religious leader
- *chachvan* - horsehair veil
- *dastarkhon* - table cloth laid on the floor on which the food is placed and from which one eats.
- *ezor* - women’s loose trousers, worn under a dress to hide their legs and instead of underwear.
- *faranja* - all enveloping cloak worn by Central Asian women together with veil.
- *haram* - unclean, bad, sinful - an Islamic term.
- *jadidism* - a movement that started in the late nineteenth century among the Crimean Tatars, for the defence of their culture against Russianisation and that was especially concerned with the modernisation of their educational system so that they could become competitive in the modern world. They started what were called ‘new method’ schools in Central Asia before the Revolution, where there were more secular subjects than in the traditional Muslim schools of the time (cf. Paksoy 1995).
- *kofir* - barbarian. That is someone who is not of one of the religions of the book - Islam, Christianity, Judaism.
- *kalym* - bride price

* All words given here in Italics are italicised also in the text.
• kelin - from the Uzbek word to come (in), thus literally the incomer. It carries the implication that that the new member is not a real part of the family but may be just temporarily there. She has at any rate not yet been accepted fully and still has to prove herself by bearing children, including hopefully sons. Furthermore, the term kelin does not specifically attach her to her husband but suggests she belongs to the entire family. There is no fixed point at which a woman stops being a kelin and becomes a member of a family although usually this happens some time before the time a woman is ready to welcome her own first kelin.

• mahala, mahalchigi - The cult of locality (mahalchigi) is so strong that it is a major factor in all aspects of life in Tajikistan. It brings much the same sort of problems there as ethnicity does in the Great Lakes Area of Africa or in the former Yugoslavia, but in Tajikistan the mahalas can be broken down into extraordinarily tiny groupings beyond the major ones and inter-mahala hostilities exist between parts of the same village. For instance, the boys from different groups will throw stones at each other and the girls will be frightened to venture into the other section.

• maktab - (Muslim) school.
• medressa - Muslim university.
• mujahaddin - Muslim freedom fighters, such as in Afghanistan fought against the Soviet invasion of the 1980's and continue to oppose the Taleban today.
• mullah - self-styled local religious leader. He does not necessarily have any religious education, nor has he perhaps even read the qur'an. Any man can call himself a mullah and then dictate to others how to live.

• nikoh - Islamic marriage ceremony
• nomus - honour - male/family honour through female honour
• non - flat round bread native to Central Asia
• plov - pulau/pilau (Asian dish of rice, meat and vegetables
• qadi/qazi - Islamic judge
• rumol - women's head scarf. Not the equivalent of a 'veil' - worn tied to the back of the head, exposing both neck and shoulders and considerable amounts of hair.
• sart - Tsarist period name for people from South Eastern Uzbekistan and the Tajik plains (Ostroumov 1908).
• sharaf - honour gained through one's own attributes or actions.
• shari'ah - Islamic legal code, especially family law
• taloq - repudiation (divorce).
• tui - party at a rite of passage, mostly wedding or circumcision.