REPUBLIC OF

UZBEKISTAN

and the New GREAT GAME
UZBEKISTAN & THE NEW GREAT GAME

- **GEOGRAPHY:** CENTRAL LOCATION, NORTHERN DISTRIBUTION NETWORK
- **ECONOMIC:** NATURAL GAS, WATER SECURITY, COTTON
- **SECURITY:** WAR ON TERROR, MILITANT ISLAMISTS
- **POLITICAL:** MILITARY BASES, HUMAN RIGHTS, CORRUPTION
- **REGIONAL COOPERATION:** COLLECTIVE SECURITY
BASIC FACTS

- **CAPITAL:** TASHKENT
- **POPULATION:** 30.1 Million
- **INDEPENDENCE:** 1991 (FROM SOVIET UNION)
- **LARGEST ETHNIC GROUPS:** UZBEK 80%, RUSSIAN 5.5%, TAJIK 5%
- **LANGUAGES:** UZBEK (OFFICIAL) 74.3%, RUSSIAN 14.2%, TAJIK 4.4%, OTHER 7.1%
- **LITERACY (AGE 15 AND OVER CAN READ AND WRITE):** 99.4%
NORTHERN DISTRIBUTION NETWORK
• Mix of Turkic and Persian ethnicities and a sizeable Russian minority

• Most common ethnic groups are Uzbeks and Kazakh

• Uzbek is the official language, mostly Tajik is used in the cities of Bukhara and Samarkand.
• Islam is the most common religion in Uzbekistan

• Most non-Muslims are ethnic Russians, who practice Russian Orthodoxy.

• Worship is tightly controlled by the government in Uzbekistan, and religion is used as a tool of political control.
The government of Uzbekistan is a major abuser of human rights.

Political participation and freedom of speech are almost nonexistent.

In 2005 Andijan Massacre, government forces opened fire on protesters in the city of Andijan.

Government repression and poor economic opportunities have led many Uzbeks to travel to Russia as migrant laborers.

It is estimated that 13% of Uzbekistan's GDP comes from money that workers in Russia send back to their families in Uzbekistan.
SECURITY

• RISE OF INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM AND SECURITY DEPENDENCIES

• COLLECTIVE SECURITY TREATY ORGANIZATION (CSTO): Uzbekistan joined in 2006

• NATO

• CSTO and NATO- Collective Security dilemma?

• WHY HAS CSTO ENDURED? Individual benefits through collective security

Key Concepts: NATO, CSTO, Terrorism Security Dependencies, Unilateral, Bi-Lateral Multi-Lateral, Collective Security
ANDIJAN MASSACRE

- MAY 2005- Uzbek government’s brutal crackdown on demonstrators in the city of Andijan.
ANDIJAN

• US RESPONSE: HUMAN RIGHTS VS. SECURITY

• CHINA & RUSSIA RESPONSE

• K2 MILITARY BASE

• AFTERMATH: RE-ALIGNMENT?
ECONOMY

• RELIANT ON EXPORTS: Notably cotton & natural gas
ECONOMY

• RELIANT ON EXPORTS: Cotton & natural gas

• PLANNED ECONOMY VS. MARKET ECONOMY

• CULTURE OF CORRUPTION

• ECONOMIC GROWTH vs. HUMAN RIGHTS

KEY CONCEPTS COMMAND ECONOMY, CENTRAL PLANNING, MARKET ECONOMY,
One of the greatest economic scandals of the Soviet Union was the "Uzbek Cotton Affair"

- 1976-1983, President Sharaf Rashidov
- Falsely reported harvest numbers
- Institutional corruption
- Patronage (patrimonialism)

**FORCED LABOR:** The Uzbek government forces millions of its own citizens – children and adults, including its teachers, doctors, and nurses – to harvest cotton in abusive conditions on threat of punishment.

Key Concepts: Corruption, Patronage, Patrimonialism
COTTON CONTROVERSY

Cotton - child labour & human rights abuses. Video

http://vimeo.com/1709378
ENERGY & RESOURCES: Natural Gas

- After the collapse of the Soviet Union, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan had ample supplies of gas but were limited by the old Central Asia-Center Soviet Pipeline.

- Central Asian gas will supply the development of growing Chinese cities.

- China's demand for gas has elevated the overall importance of Central Asia as the main source of imported gas.

- Central Asia-China Pipeline bypasses Russia and transports CA gas to China.
RUSSIA’S PIPELINES TO EUROPE
ENERGY AND RESOURCES

• CHINA JOINS THE GAME: Central Asia-China Pipeline
ENERGY & RESOURCES: WATER

Aral Sea

1989  2008
GOVERNANCE & POLITICS, & HUMAN RIGHTS

• Uzbekistan is a constitutional republic with a president, a Supreme Assembly (like our Congress), and a supreme court.

• In reality, President Islam Karimov exercises strong personal control over most aspects of the government. He has led Uzbekistan since its independence from the Soviet Union in 1991.

• Uzbekistan is one of the most authoritarian countries on Earth. Political repression, corruption, and major human rights violations are normal, and have caused tension between Uzbekistan and other countries.