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By Gary Hamburg, Thomas Sanders, Ernest Tucker



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This book presents two extraordinary texts - *The Shining of Swords* by Al-Qarakhi and a new translation for a contemporary readership of Leo Tolstoy's *Hadji Murat* - illuminating the mountain war between the Muslim peoples of the Caucasus and the imperial Russian army from 1830 to 1859. The authors offer a complete commentary on the various intellectual and religious contexts that shaped the two texts and explain the historical significance of the Russian-Muslim confrontation. It is shown that the mountain war was a clash of two cultures, two religious outlooks and two different worlds. The book provides an important background for the ongoing contest between Russia and indigenous people for control of the Caucasus.



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Review

This work will be especially useful in the classroom. Hamburg uses his commentary to address the implications of these alternative visions of similar events and experiences for the history of Christian-Muslim relations and colonial conflict..

–*Slavic Review*, Winter 2005

About the Author

Thomas Sanders is Associate Professor of Russian History at the U.S. Naval Academy.

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