

A Study of Muḥammad Āmīn Bughra's "Sharqī Turkistān Tārīkhi",
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This volume presents an annotated translation of a principal part of *Sharqī Turkistān Tārīkhi* (history of Eastern Turkistan), which was written by Muḥammad Āmīn Bughra, one of the representative Uyghur nationalists in Xinjiang. It also aims to shed light on the nature of this work as a historical description and its value as a historical source for modern Xinjiang.

In the history of Xinjiang, the period from the end of the Qing dynasty to the middle period of the Republic of China is extremely significant because the nationalism of the Uyghur people during this period resulted in independence from China. During this historical process, Muḥammad Āmīn Bughra played a very active role as a nationalist leader in political movements. Between 1933 and 1934, he organized the revolt of Khotan in order to establish his government in the Muslim rebellion taking place throughout Xinjiang. In the 1940s, he was on a political campaign to establish the ethnic autonomy of the Uyghur people, working in the government of the Republic of China in Chongqing and Urumchi. He also published periodicals and books to create awareness about the problems of "Eastern Turkistan" in Turkey—the land in which he settled following his exile from China after the formation of the People's Republic of China (PRC). His work *Sharqī Turkistān Tārīkhi* is an uninterrupted history of "Eastern Turkistan" from the prehistoric period to the time at which it was written. In it, he regards his nationality to be *Türk* and his country to be Eastern Turkistan. The framework of its historical descriptions is directly reflected through the standpoint of the author as a nationalist who promoted activities such as those mentioned above.

On considering the significance of *Sharqī Turkistān Tārīkhi* for historical study, we discover its remarkable importance. First, it would not be an overstatement to say that this work is evidence of the modernization of Uyghur society. This is because it is one of the few systematic historical descriptions written by a modern intellectual from a nationalist's point of view. Thus, it differs from the main historiographies of this region that were written by authors in earlier periods. Second, the great value of this work lies in its being a source of research material on the history of modern Xinjiang because it presents a first-hand account of the incidents that occurred during the Muslim rebellion in Xinjiang from the perspective of the leader himself. It also enables us to grasp the essence of the author's outlook on history as a nationalist leader.

However, as a historical source it has been barely been put to optimal use, partly because the difficulty of the language used in this work has prevented almost all researchers from using it. Therefore, in our volume, we present the Japanese translation of an important part of this work and investigate this work as a historical source. The Japanese translation presented in this volume describes the period that begins with the Qing reconquest of Xinjiang in the second half of the nineteenth century in the late Qing era and concludes just before the beginning of the large-scale Uyghur rebellion from 1931 to 1934 in the era of the Republic of China. This period can be regarded as an epochal one in the history of Xinjiang, during which the national consciousness of the Uyghur people awakened and developed. Hence, this translation contains important material for a study of the perception and opinion of the nationalists, and the political and social activities and mental processes of the Uyghurs, during this period.