Note on Transliteration

I used the Library of Congress system of transliteration for Russian. For Kräshen texts, I applied the same transliteration system as for Russian Cyrillic. For Tatar, texts I consulted were in either Arabic script or the Cyrillic alphabet. Because there is no standardized way to transliterate either alphabet for Tatar, I adopted the following method.

For titles and personal names in Cyrillic, I used Edward Allworth’s transliteration method as given in Nationalities of the Soviet East: Publications and Writing Systems (1971) with two major changes. With regard to consonants, I distinguished between q before a back vowel and k before a front vowel, and gh before a back vowel and g before a front vowel, except in Russian and international loan words.

For personal names in Arabic script, I used the standard English transliteration system for Persian as given in the International Journal of Middle East Studies (2001) but without diacritical marks in the text. However, diacritics appear in the text in the names of books and in the footnotes. Long vowels, however, appear only for words of Arabic and Persian origin, not for Turkic words and Russian loan words. In most cases, the vocalization of Tatar personal names and book titles is given as reported in modern Tatar.

In general, for the spelling of Islamic terms I used the classical Arabic-script spelling and gave their standard Romanized transcription without diacritics. Arabic words that are commonly used in English and listed in Merriam-Webster’s Dictionary were not italicized.

Names of villages are usually reported in Russian, except when the Tatar name has some relevance in the text and differs completely from the Russian name. In general, the Tatar name of a location is placed in parentheses after its Russian name the first time it appears.

Dates are given according to the Julian calendar, which in the nineteenth century was twelve days—and in the twentieth century, thirteen days—behind the Gregorian calendar.