

Foreword

Kazakhstan is an important Central Asian country whose cultural, political, military, and economic potential is enhanced by its historical background. Being the ninth largest country in the world by area and quite rich in underground resources, Kazakhstan has come to the fore regionally and internationally due to its increasing international influence. In addition, the Kazakh language and culture have drawn considerable interest, particularly in the last 25 years.

Despite its ethnic, religious and linguistic diversity, Kazakhstan has succeeded in preserving peace and political stability within its borders. Peace, harmony, and dialogue among the cultures and languages of Kazakhstan is a noteworthy example for the rest of the world. Being intrigued by Kazakh language and culture, academics from around the world have studied it from various aspects. The Institute of Oriental Studies at Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań, is an institution where Kazakh is taught at undergraduate and graduate levels within the curriculum of Turkology. In addition to the teaching of Kazakh, various dimensions of Kazakh culture and the cultures of Central Asian peoples are taught at our institute.

In 2019, we celebrated the 10th anniversary of the Section of Kazakh Studies. It was originally part of the Department of Asian Studies, but in 2020 it was merged with the Department of Oriental Studies, which is now known as the Institute of Oriental Studies. Since its inception, a number of studies on the Kazakh language and culture have been published and twenty-five undergraduate and master's theses on numerous subjects related to Kazakh language, culture, and society have been defended. We have also hosted many scholarly and social events. The ongoing collaboration between our department and Kazakh universities and research institutions plays a key role in supporting our educational and therefore cultural partnership. Unfortunately, due to the new Polish education law coming into force this year and the subsequent new university regulations, the Kazakh Section has been incorporated into the Department of Turkic Studies, though teaching and research continue.

This book consists of articles that approach Kazakh language and culture from different aspects, such as linguistics, culture, education, and law. One article is devoted to political issues. We hope that the studies in this book offer valuable insights and contribute to future research.

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The editors