

Third, the book also helps illustrate the place of Crimea in Russian state mythology, a great deal of which actually comes from this war. Much of the prewar propaganda constructed an image of “the holiness of Crimea’s Christian antiquities” which, combined with the “anti-Islamic rhetoric of the war,” contributes to explaining Russia’s unique national identity (p. 203). Finally, the broader scope of the war (“only Moscow had burned in 1812” [p. 180]) changes our thinking about the great importance of this conflict. The biggest flaw of the book is that the historical maps provided are not very helpful, and so familiarizing oneself online with the map of Crimea may be required. That said, this timely, erudite, and highly readable book deserves a place on the bookshelves of scholars both of Russia’s past and present.

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Andreyev, Alexandre, Mikhail Baskhanov, and Tatiana Yusupova. *The Quest for Forbidden Lands: Nikolai Przhevalskii and his Followers on Inner Asian Tracks*. Eurasian Studies Library, Vol. 10. Leiden: Brill, 2018. 392 + xviii pp. \$159.00. ISBN 978-90-04-30398-0.

Internationally known and even lionized explorer of the isolated region of Tibet, Nilkolai Przhevalskii, became a symbol of Russia’s emerging role in nineteenth-century Asia. His expeditions, and his connection to the identification of what became a symbol of Inner Asia, the Przhevalskii horse, imply perhaps general knowledge of his role in exploration and the structure in which it occurred. While Przhevalskii’s exploits certainly acquired international attention, his four expeditions encompassed merely fifteen years (1870–85). Nevertheless, the efforts of his forty-nine-year life in fact had profound impact on a number of explorers whose work continued for another half century into the Soviet era.

Established scholars Alexandre Andreyev, Mikhail Baskhanov, and Tatiana Yusopova created *The Quest for Foreign Lands* to bring a broader view of Przhevalskii’s expeditions and influence on Inner Asian exploration to a Western audience. To this end each author wrote on their special interests. Chapters on Przhevalskii and those he influenced, including M. V. Pevtsov, V. I. Roborovskii, P. K. Kozlov, B. L. Grombchevskii, and G. R. Grumm-Grzhimailo, provide basic information on their expeditions. The authors did not limit their attention to these explorers but introduced the roles of a variety of explorers. For example, although P. P. Semenov Tian-Shanskii did not have a separate chapter, his roles as geographer, explorer, and administrator in the Imperial Russian Geographic Society are introduced to expand understanding of his impact on the work of Przhevalskii and those who followed him.

For nearly half of the work, Andreyev presents an extremely useful introduction to the broader place of Przhevalskii’s explorations. In doing so, Andreyev interweaves the roles of the Imperial Russian Geographic Society and the Russian Academy of Sciences, both as sources of finance as well as reflecting Russian governmental interests in Asia. The Russian army played a visible role as well. Not only Przhevalskii, but all of the explorers who followed him were officers in the army. While given the locations and the times this might not seem surprising, in the context of Russian exploration in Asia it was unique.

The Quest for Forbidden Lands admirably succeeds in its stated mission of introducing to a wider audience the influence of Przhevalskii on the expeditions of a range of scientists and geographers, while simultaneously placing his expeditions in a greater context. Seven maps of expeditions, along with countless pertinent drawings and photographs, richly enhance this volume.

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