

The dissolution of Tamerlane's Empire & the rise of the Russian Empire

- Tamerlane appointed his sons and grandsons to the main governorships of the different parts of his empire, and outsiders to some others. After his death in 1405, the family quickly fell into disputes and civil wars, and many of the governorships became effectively independent. However, Tamerlane-linked rulers (aka “Timurids”) continued to dominate Persia, Mesopotamia, Armenia, large parts of present-day Azerbaijan, Afghanistan, Pakistan, minor parts of India, and much of Central Asia (including Tajikistan), though the Anatolian and Caucasian territories were lost by the 1430s.¹

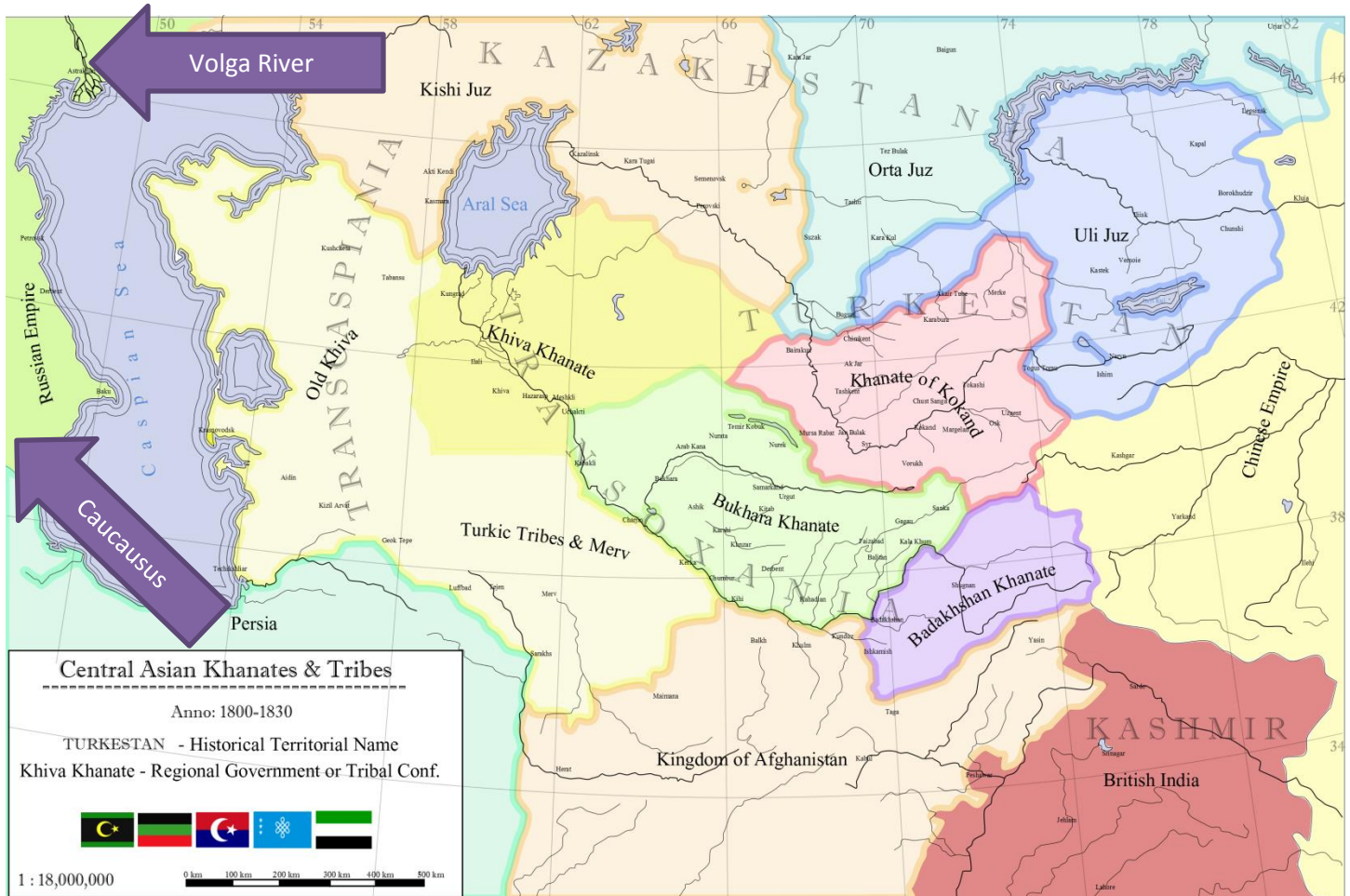


Muhammad Shaybani

- The power of Timurids declined rapidly during the second half of the 15th century, largely due to the **timurid tradition of partitioning the empire** and by 1500, the divided and wartorn-Timurid Empire had lost control of most of its territory, and in the following years was effectively pushed back on all fronts.
- From our class activity, which model (Cora Khan, Alex Khan or Miar Khan) does Tamerlane's Empire follow?
- Much of the Central Asian lands were overrun by the Uzbeks of **Muhammad Shaybani** who conquered the key cities of Samarkand and Herat in 1505 and 1507, and who founded the Khanate of Bukhara (now part of the Shaybanid Dynasty).
 - Bukhara became a powerful state and lasted in some form until the 19th century.
- In the mid-sixteenth century Russian forces began expanding eastward from Europe, taking over several Mongol khanates in Central Asia.

¹ En.wikipedia.org. (2018). Timurid Empire. [online] Available at: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timurid_Empire#Fall [Accessed 26 Nov. 2018].

- These acquisitions resulted in Russian control over the Volga River and offered opportunities for trade with the Ottoman Empire, Persia and even India via the Caspian Sea. Because of its strategic location on the Volga delta where the river flows into the Caspian Sea, the city of **Astrakhan** became a bustling commercial centre, home to a community of several hundred foreign merchants from as far away as northern India.²



- The Russians extended their presence in the Caspian Sea during the 18th century by absorbing much of the Caucasus, a vibrant multi-ethnic region embracing the modern-day states of Georgia, Armenia & Azerbaijan.³
- The Emirate of Bukhara was officially created in 1785, upon the assumption of rulership by the Shah Murad. As one of the few states in Central Asia not ruled by descendants of Genghis Khan, it staked its legitimacy on Islamic principles rather than Genghisid blood, as the ruler took the Islamic title of Emir instead of Khan.

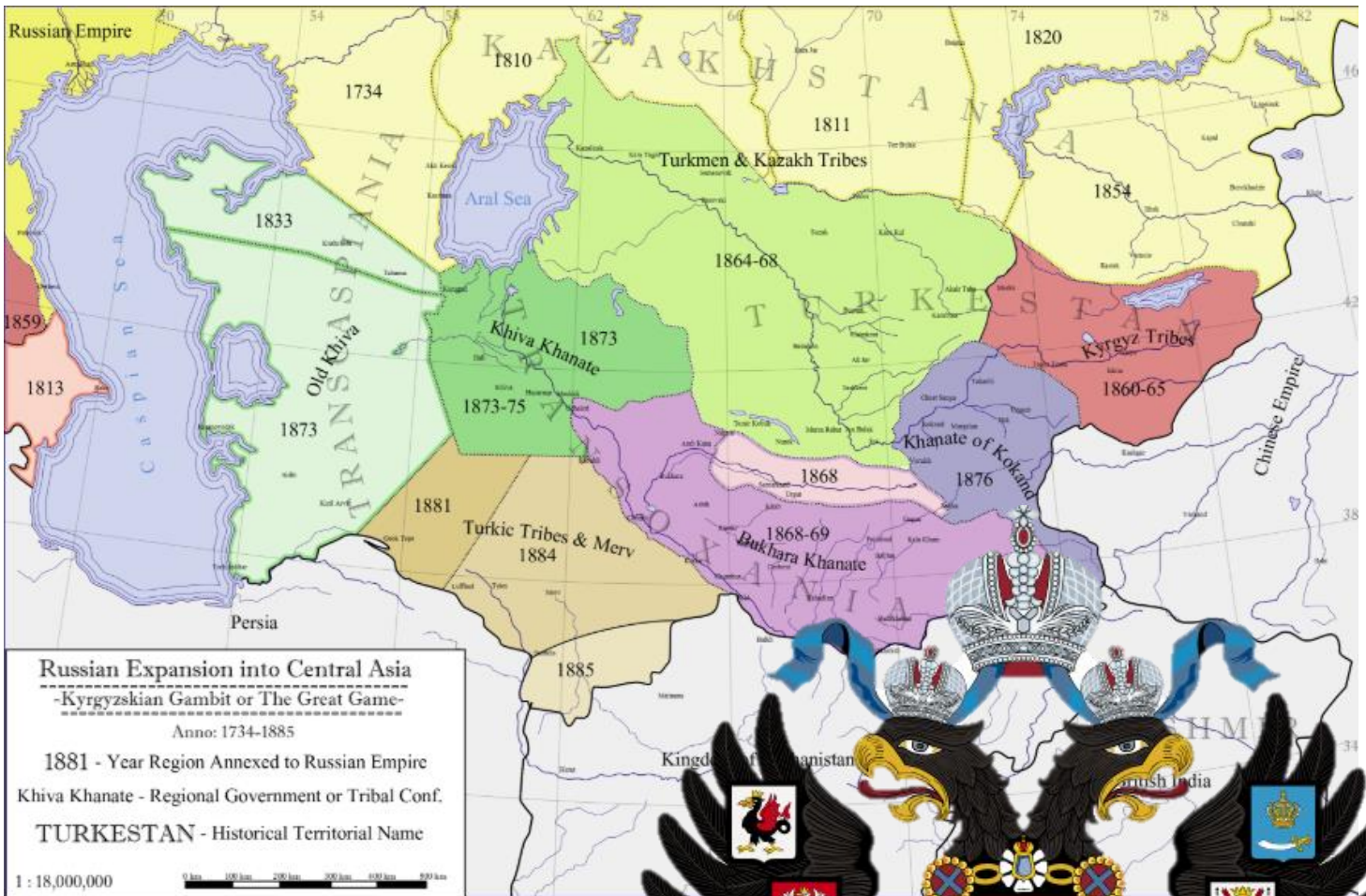
² Jerry H. Bentley and Herb F. Ziegler, *Traditions and Encounters: A Global Perspective on the Past*, (Toronto: McGraw Hill, 2006), 616.

³ *Ibid*, 617.



Banner of the Emirate of Bukara.

- In 1868, the emirate lost a war with Imperial Russia, which had colonial aspirations in the region. Russia annexed much of the emirate's territory, including the important city of Samarkand. In 1873 the remainder became a Russian protectorate.



Arms of the Russian Empire