Review of the book *Historical Dictionary of Kyrgyzstan*

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Beginning with a chronology (2000 BCE-2003 CE) and an introductory essay, the author provides some 460 articles covering people, political parties, places, events, and institutions in Kyrgyzstan, past and present. Topics range from well-known politicians (President Askar Akayev) to more specialized subjects (entries for both sheep and snow leopards), and timely entries like “Islam” and “Wahhabism.” Most articles are brief; only a few (“Education,” “Foreign Policy”) exceed two pages. Cross-references are indicated by boldface, and there are see and see also references, but no index. Although Abazov supplies entries for several prominent writers, there is no overall article on Kyrgyz literature, nor any entry for Joseph Stalin (although he is mentioned in the introductory essay). The 40-page bibliography, which covers a wide range of scholarly articles and monographs in English, Russian, and Kyrgyz, is well chosen. Appendixes include the text of the Constitution of the Kyrgyz Republic (as of 2003), as well as 13 tables of economic statistics. There is no comparable, up-to-date reference book for Kyrgyzstan. Summing Up: Recommended. All academic and public libraries.—J. A. Drobnicki, Turk College, CUNT