

Authors and Contributors

S. Frederick Starr, Ph.D., is the founding chairman of the Central Asia-Caucasus Institute and Silk Road Studies Program Joint Center, and a Distinguished Fellow at the American Foreign Policy Council. He is a former President of Oberlin College and Provost at Tulane University, and is a member of the Board of Trustees of Nazarbayev University. His research on the countries of Greater Central Asia, their history, development, internal dynamics, as well as on U.S. policy towards the region has resulted in twenty-two books and 200 published articles. He is the author of *Lost Enlightenment: Central Asia's Golden Age from the Ara*, published by Princeton University Press in 2013.

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H.E. Dr. **Erzhan Kazykhan** is a career diplomat who serves as Special Envoy of the President of Kazakhstan for International Cooperation. Prior to this appointment, Dr. Kazykhan has served as Kazakhstan's Ambassador to the United States of America (2017-2021) and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (2014-2017). Before his assignments to Washington D.C. and London he held the positions of

Assistant to the President (2008, 2012-2014), Minister of Foreign Affairs (2011-2012), Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs (2007-2008 and 2011), Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Austria, Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the International Organizations in Vienna (2009-2011), Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the United Nations (2003-2007). He previously served in a number of other senior posts at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan. Ambassador Kazykhan earned his bachelor's degree in Oriental studies from St. Petersburg State University in 1987 and holds a Ph.D. in History from Al-Farabi Kazakh National University.

Ambassador **Richard E. Hoagland** was U.S. Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs from October 2013 to August 2015. Before returning to Washington in September 2013, he spent a decade in South and Central Asia. He was U.S. Deputy Ambassador to Pakistan (2011- 2013), U.S. Ambassador to Kazakhstan (2008-2011), and U.S. Ambassador to Tajikistan (2003-2006). He also served as U.S. Charge d'affaires to Turkmenistan (2007-2008). Prior to his diplomatic assignments in Central Asia, Ambassador Hoagland was Director of the State Department's Office of Caucasus and Central Asian Affairs. During the course of his career, he received multiple Presidential Performance Awards, State Department Meritorious and Superior Honor Awards, as well as the Distinguished Honor Award.