

**Author's note**

Due to different transliteration styles some of the names of clans, cities and regions of Tajikistan can be confusing. However, I have utilized the most common names that I found in the existing literature. The most common confusion is between the Khujandi and Kulyabi clans. Khujandis come from the city of Khujand located in northern Tajikistan in the valley of Ferghana and were the dominant clan during the Soviet times. Khujand is the capital of the former Leninabad oblast nowadays known as the Soghd province. On the other hand, Kulyabis come from the city of Kulyab located to the Southeast of Dushanbe. Kulyabis were empowered during the communist era and took over the ruling elite at the beginning of the country's independent life. Imomali Sharipovich Rakhmonov, current president of the republic, is native from Kulyab.