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BOOK INFORMATION SHEET (11.17.22)

Author (as it should appear on the book): Kevin Bubriski

Title: *The Uyghurs*

Subtitle: *Kashgar Before the Catastrophe*

Bilingual edition: English and Uyghur

Contributors: with text and poems by Tahir Hamut Izgil and an essay by Dru C. Gladney

Partner: Published in association with the Scanlan Family Foundation, Henry Luce Foundation, Furthermore, a program of the J. M. Kaplan Fund, and Center for the Study of Place

Book pages: 248

Number and type of illustrations: 126 photographs by the author and 4 historic maps = 130

Trim size: 10.875" x 12.0" portrait/upright

List price: \$60.00

Discount: Trade

ISBN (book): 978-1-938086-99-1

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Edition: Hardcover

E-book? TBD

Interactive e-book? N.A.

Jacket: Yes

Edition size: 1,250

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To warehouse: May 2023

Printed in: Italy

Distributor: Casemate/IPM

Bookstore categories (list three): Photography/China/Current Events

Audience: Those interested in superior photography; the current plight of the Uyghurs; and the history of Kashgar on the Old Silk Road in China since Mao and Xi.

Selling points (list three): The plight and persecution of the Uyghurs in western China is of worldwide concern and has garnered widespread attention (described as potentially a crime against humanity by the UN Human Rights Commission): (1) This is the most formidable and comprehensive photographic book about Kashgar, the center of Uyghur history and culture in the Xinjiang region on the old Silk Road, before the Chinese state's

decimation of religion, language, culture, and personal freedom; (2) Kevin Bubliski is a revered artist whose photographs capture Kashgar and its people as no one previously has; and (3) the book is bilingual (English and Uyghur) and features insightful texts drawn from the memories of Tahir Hamut Izgil, a prominent Uyghur poet, filmmaker, and activist from Kashgar, and a historical essay by the late Dru Gladney, a renowned scholar on Asia and Muslims in China.

Tagline: An unforgettable portrait of the Uyghurs and of the ancient Silk Road city of Kashgar before the Chinese government's decimation of religion, language, culture, and personal freedom.

Description of the work:

In 1998, Kevin Bubliski was fortunate to spend time with the Uyghurs in Kashgar, their ancient city on the old Silk Road in the Xinjiang region of China. While there, he made unforgettable photographic portraits and street scenes that reveal a haunting beauty and sense of the city's deep past. Bubliski was drawn to the faces of ordinary people and their daily lives, with the intent that through photographs mutual understanding between people might be fostered.

Although 1998 was an uncomfortable time of rapid transformation for the Uyghurs, their oasis city in the high desert was still vibrant, even as the Chinese government's brutal crackdown on religion, language, culture, and personal freedom in Xinjiang was about to commence. In the last few years, Chinese state authorities led by Xi Jinping have investigated at least 4.7 million people and up to a million Uyghurs have been detained in "re-education camps" while others have been subjected to forced sterilizations, forced labor, and family separations. The vibrancy, beauty, and grit of Kashgar and its people that Bubliski witnessed and photographed more than two decades ago has irrevocably changed, making his images all the more significant.

The Uyghur cultural, economic, familial, religious, and spiritual traditions are captured in Bubliski's images, and the incisive prose and poetry from Kashgar poet and activist Tahir Hamut Izgil and a historical essay by the late Dru Gladney add depth and understanding to the Uyghurs' plight. Longstanding religious and cultural traditions, interwoven in Uyghurs' lives and community for more than two millennia, have been severely impacted by the overt and disastrous policies of the Chinese government's colonization of Uyghur civil, religious, and cultural life. The Uyghur community, a group of around 12 million, is now fractured and split due to widespread surveillance, mass detentions, and incarcerations. Downloading the *Quran* can be grounds for interrogation.

Since innumerable Uyghur families are now separated due to mass detentions, forced labor, residential schools, and flight to asylum elsewhere, *The Uyghurs* is an enduring gift for the Uyghur people and those who wish to understand better Uyghur culture and history. The book is also presented in a bilingual edition so that it is accessible to Uyghur people living in non-English-speaking regions of the world, offering a way for Uyghurs around the world to reaffirm their cultural and social identity wherever they now live. Bubliski's book is a stunning work of art and conscience that reveals a time when Kashgar, beloved city of the Uyghurs, retained

much of its traditional life and charm.

Blurbs:

“Kevin Bubliski’s images from Kashgar on the brink of the millennium are nothing short of fantastic. They achieve what every documentary photographer hopes to achieve: journalistic precision and visual poetry. They are less than a quarter of a century old but beautifully tell the story of a place like no other in Asia. On my repeated viewings, I was engulfed by a mix of emotions, from nostalgia of an ancient city I hold dear in my heart but could only visit too briefly to jealousy of not making such images during my first trip to the region, despair caused by looking at a rich heritage that has recently been destroyed to anger when thinking of the violence that many among these people had to go through in the last few years, many of them locked in Chinese reeducation camps. *The Uyghurs* is an important photographic testament to a place not so far away from us that is already long gone.”

—Patrick Wack, photographer and author of *DUST*

“Kevin Bubliski’s photographs capture a Kashgar before the Chinese government’s crackdown that is a window into humanity and tradition, a world that few of us got to know but many dream of. His photographs hold that dream like a fragile locket. With captivating texts and poetry by Tahir Hamut Izgil and a historical essay by Dru Gladney, this book can help one understand just how rich and filled with warmth, depth, and history this important and magical city once was. *The Uyghurs* is a testament to the resilience of Uyghurs whose voices, culture, and memory must carry on.”

—Lisa Ross, photographer and author of *Living Shrines of Uyghur China*

“*The Uyghurs: Kashgar before the Catastrophe* should stop you in your tracks. With its haunting narrative, evocative photographs, and poignant texts and poems, this volume illuminates and inspires. Perhaps most important: At a time when Chinese authorities seek to erase Uyghur identity, this book also preserves.”

—Sophie Richardson, China Director at Human Rights Watch and author of *China, Cambodia, and the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence*

“Kevin Bubliski’s photographs offer a glimpse back into the ways and dreams of the people of Kashgar before the disasters of the twenty-first century. More than an echo of a vanished past, they suggest an alternative future: what it might look like for Uyghurs to live with dignity in the magnificent city they built themselves over the centuries.”

—James A. Millward, Professor of Inter-societal History at Georgetown University and author of *The Silk Road: A Very Short Introduction* and *Eurasian Crossroads: A History of Xinjiang*

“We often associate photographs with a feeling of loss, since they present the illusion of connecting to a person, place, or time that we know is already gone. This sense of loss is amplified in Kevin Bubriski’s *The Uyghurs: Kashgar before the Catastrophe*, because the disappearances that were imposed on Uyghur communities since these images were made are so severe and so full of trauma. As Tahir Hamut Izgil attests in the story of his childhood in Kashgar, the persecution of Uyghurs was already taking place clandestinely while Bubriski’s vivid images of Uyghur life were being recorded on the street. Two realities: one seen, one kept hidden. Bringing the two together in this book serves as a reminder that there is always more to imagine than what meets the eye in a photograph. The loss is real, but so is the life.

—Carolyn Drake, photographer for Magnum and author of *Two Rivers* and *Wild Pigeon*

About the Author:

Kevin Bubriski is a documentary photographer whose photographs are in the permanent collections of the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, Museum of Modern Art, Metropolitan Museum of Art, and Bibliothèque Nationale de France in Paris, among others. He has received Guggenheim, Fulbright, National Endowment for the Arts, and Robert Gardner Peabody Museum Fellowships. Bubriski’s other books include *Portrait of Nepal* (Chronicle, 1993), *Pilgrimage: Looking at Ground Zero* (powerHouse, 2002), *Nepal 1975–2011* (Radius Books/Peabody Museum Press, 2014), *Legacy in Stone: Syria before War* (powerHouse, 2018), *Our Voices, Our Streets: American Protests 2001–2011* (powerHouse, 2020), and *Nepal Earthquake* (Himal Books 2022).

About the Contributors:

Tahir Hamut Izgil is a prominent modernist Uyghur poet, filmmaker, and activist who grew up in Kashgar, in China’s Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region. He is recognized as one of the foremost poets writing in the Uyghur language. Additionally, he has directed numerous documentaries, music videos, advertisement campaigns, and feature films. Fearing persecution from Chinese authorities, he and his family sought asylum in the United States in 2017. His poetry has been translated into English, Japanese, Swedish, Turkish, and other languages. He is the current Chair of the World Uyghur Writers Union.

Dru C. Gladney (1950–2022) was Professor of Anthropology at Pomona College where he also served as President of the Pacific Basin Institute. Gladney was the author of more than 100 academic articles and book chapters on topics spanning the Asian continent, and his books include *Dislocating China: Muslims, Minorities, and Other Subaltern Subjects* (Chicago, 2004), *Ethnic Identity in China: The Making of a Muslim Minority Nationality* (Wadsworth, 2003), *Making Majorities: Constituting the Nation in Japan, China, Korea, Malaysia, Fiji, Turkey, and the U.S.* (Stanford, 1998), and *Muslim Chinese: Ethnic Nationalism in the People’s Republic* (Harvard, 1991).