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**Reflections on Experiences of Socialist Era in Soviet Central Asia:  
Oral Sources and Archival Photo-documents**

This paper focuses on reflections of everyday experiences of Soviet times in the Central Asian countries of Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan by using two main sources: narratives which resulted from the lengthy interviews of 50 elders in both countries, and then contrasting and supporting these narratives with photographs of Socialist times obtained from the Uzbek national state archives. By doing so, it expands our understanding of the region's socialist and post-socialist history and political processes. It will challenge our understandings of the socialist life-styles and modernization of these societies, by offering detailed life-stories as remembered by people of Soviet times and their “live” narration of it through extended usage of texts of interviews and pictures, thus offering first-hand information of “lived” history. It will also shed light on fundamental transformations in almost all areas of cultural, political, and social life, and on how people remembered, made sense of, reacted to, and even tried to control these changes.