

# Russian-Muslim Confrontation in the Caucasus: Alternative Visions of the Conflict between Imam Shamil and the Russians, 1830-1859 (SOAS/Routledge Studies on the Middle East)

Gary Hamburg, Thomas Sanders, Ernest Tucker



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This book presents two extraordinary texts - *The Shining of Swords* by Al-Qarakhi and a new translation for a contemporary readership of Leo Tolstoy's *Hadji Murat* - illuminating the mountain war between the Muslim peoples of the Caucasus and the imperial Russian army from 1830 to 1859. The authors offer a complete commentary on the various intellectual and religious contexts that shaped the two texts and explain the historical significance of the Russian-Muslim confrontation. It is shown that the mountain war was a clash of two cultures, two religious outlooks and two different worlds. The book provides an important background for the ongoing contest between Russia and indigenous people for control of the Caucasus.

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