

## **Ethnic Uzbek Grievances in Post-Tulip Revolution Kyrgyzstan: Issues of Political Representation and Religious Freedom**

Kristina Scholz

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Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

This paper is a study of issues related to nationality and ethnic identity in contemporary Kyrgyzstan, focusing mainly on political representation and religious freedom of the Uzbek minority group. As the second largest ethnic group in the country, the Uzbeks face institutionalized discrimination and marginalization thus relegating them to second class citizenry. Written after the Tulip Revolution in 2005, the paper contextualizes Uzbek grievances in a changing political and social environment where oppression of minorities is still the norm. Considering President Bakiev's ouster and the ethnic violence in the southern city of Osh during 2010, the issues raised in this paper are just as urgent as Kyrgyzstan struggles to sustain its legacy of being an island of democracy in Central Asia. Accordingly, this paper investigates issues related to nation building, ethnic identity, citizenship, and the freedom of minority political and religious expression in a post-soviet republic.