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H. B. Paksoy
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Paksoy... is absolutely right about the value of the oral, "folk" records like the dastans for preserving ethnic identity... I am also impressed by Paksoy's insistence (contra a rash of superficial contentions recently) that a fundamental unity of Turks persists across all artificial Soviet divisions, without, however, necessarily having political implications.

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It's an impressive achievement and a valuable contribution to an area which has rarely received such meticulous examination as Dr. Paksoy has carried out.

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I have only the highest praise for its scholarship. It combines a solid examination of the dastan with an illuminating case study of the importance of the collective memory for the maintenance of ethnic and community identity.

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This is one of those rare books which offer the Western reader a Central Asian perspective on the Russian conquest of the non-Slavic territories in Asia. I found Professor Paksoy's translation and commentary on Alpamysh to be informative and inspiring.

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Dr. Paksoy has done a beautiful job with the dastan Alpamysh. The work is meticulously and exactingly done, and presented clearly.

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