

**Simon Reeve - Meet the Stans
Uzbekistan - 20 Oct 14
Episodes 3 & 4 - 00:00 - 39:45**

Dictatorship under Karimov

Alot of publicity for Karimov - nothing is true

Private security firms - rich don't trust the police

Many champions of Greco-Roman wrestling

**Rahkimov? - successful businessman accused of connections with
organized crime**

Good friend of Karimov

Rakhimov sponsors orphanage

Interviewed Karimov - could discuss nothing except orphanage

Tashkent appears a relaxed - repression behind closed doors

**Karimov invented national hero - Amir Temur - Uzbek version of
Gengis Khan - very cruel person**

Struggling economy

**Everyone wants to leave Uzbekistan - marriage agency sets up Uzbek
girls with wealthy Westerners - Girls want good life in another
country.**

Government bans snooker and pool halls - just one day out of the blue.

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Parliament meets just twice a year - no discussion before decisions

80% of population is Muslim - Karimov government banned call to prayer speakers

Mosques closely monitored by government agencies - a lot are opposition to Karimov

Government provides guidelines to Muslim leaders (Imam) for prayer services - closely monitored - nothing that criticizes government

Many are jailed without proper charges

Fergana Valley - old and new Islamic groups - Ben Ladin was there - Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan = IMU

IMU is militant group

Talk to militant nephew - security forces told him to talk to them

Not allowed to talk to anyone without informing police first and a policeman has to be present

Confrontation with police - security police - local administration

Uzbek pop singer- Minerva - was blacklisted, but popular opinion got them to back down - outspoken - Member of Parliament

Talking about politics not recommended

Restrictions about what she can say and include in her songs

Silk Road - weavers - silk - make soap from dead worm - cover used for chicken feed

Restaurant - party for graduating high school students

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**Enclave of Kazaks in Uzbekistan - sell things and cross border
Uzbeks and Kazaks not get along - Uzbeks going to Kazakhstan to
work**

**Samarkan - city inhabited mostly by Tajiks - arbitrary borders put in
by Stalin - Amir Temur headquartered there - visited grave**

Goats milk yogurt

Bukara - given to Uzbekistan by Stalin - upset Tajiks - holiest city in

Central Asia - beautiful mosaics

**Fortune tellers - frowned on by Islam - still practiced around
Uzbekistan**

**Pessimistic about the future because country's problems not being
addressed by government**