Contents

Foreword by Stevan Harrell xi
Characters xiii
A Note on Language xv
Maps xvii

Introduction 1

Part I Local Identities of Space and Place / 7
1 The Blessed Home: Residence and Identity in a Uyghur Neighborhood 11
2 Yining’s Mehelle as Suburban Periphery 32
3 Desettling the Land: The Destruction of Uyghur Chthonic Identity 48

Part II Gender and the Life Cycle / 61
4 Gleaming Eyes, Evil Eyes: Cradle and Cure in Uyghur Child Rearing 67
5 At Play in the Mehelle: The Language and Lore of Uyghur Childhood 92
Contents

6 Marriage, Mistresses, and Masculinity: Gender and Adult Social Life  114
7 The Pretty Oltunash: Masculinity and Moral Order in Adult Play  143
8 “Women have hair, men have nicknames”: Uyghur Nicknaming Practices  168

Part III Markets and Merchants on the Silk Road / 199
9 Merchants and Markets in the Mebelle  203
10 Yining’s Border Trade: Trader-Tourism and Uyghur Sojourning  228

Part IV Islam in the Mebelle: The Social Dimensions of Uyghur Religious Practice / 251
11 The False Hajim and the Bad Meshrep: Piety and Politics in Uyghur Islam  255
12 The Hungry Guest: Rhetoric, Reverence, and Reversal in a Uyghur Ramadan  283

Epilogue  305

Reference Matter

Glossary  313
Notes  315
Works Cited  329
Index  339