

If you haven't given a talk recently, please volunteer to give one and tell us about anything!

\* i had very little time for preparation so it can't be worse than my upcoming talk anyways, dw 😊

# *Kazakhstan*

THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE UGLY

by Alex Kim

# Disclaimer

This presentation is not sponsored by the government of Kazakhstan.

P.S.: In fact, they'd probably not like my presentation much.

# Rough breakdown of people I meet

“What? Kazakhstan... Where is it?” - 40%

“Oh... But you look Korean!” - 20%

“You are from Kazakhstan! Did you watch the movie *Borat?*” - 15%

“That’s cool!” - 10%

“Oh, do you mean *Kazakhstan?*” - 10%

“Are you maybe from Astana or Almaty?” - 5%

# Facts

Area: 2 724 902 km<sup>2</sup>

Obtained independence: in 1991

Population: ~18 million

Capital: Astana (~1 million)

Neighbors: Russia, China, Kyrgyzstan,  
Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan



# Ethnic groups and languages

Official state language: Kazakh

2nd official: Russian

Percentage of Kazakh ethnic group grew from 39.69% in 1989 to 66.48% in 2016.



Ethnic group	Percentage (%)
Kazakhs	66.48
Russians	20.61
Uzbeks	3.11
Ukrainians	1.64
Uyghurs	1.45
Tatars	1.15
Germans	1.03
Koreans	0.61
Turkish	0.61
Others	3.31

\* as of 2016

# Flag and coat of arms



# A few (useless but) interesting facts

- 9th largest country
- largest landlocked country
- 2nd longest border is between KZ and RU
- place where apples originated from
- place where horses were first tamed
- home to the first and largest space launch facility (Baikonur)
- 2nd (sometimes 1st) coldest capital in the world





# The Good



downtown of Astana

# The Good



# The Good (?)



KZ generates 60% of Central Asia's GDP, mainly through oil&gas

# The Bad



Corruption is a common problem. From teachers to police to governmental structures.

# The Bad - Conservatism (LGBT)

Homosexual marriages are prohibited

Not allowed to adopt

Not allowed to serve in ministry of internal affairs

Often shamed by the general public

Discriminated



# The Bad - Conservatism

“You live in Kazakhstan, therefore your mother tongue **must** be Kazakh”.



## The Bad - Conservatism (extreme!)



Bride kidnapping, ~5000 occurrences per year

The ???



The only president in the history  
of the Republic of Kazakhstan -  
Nursultan Nazarbayev



# The Ugly - Failing to obtain international recognition



**Almaty 2017**

28<sup>TH</sup> WINTER UNIVERSIADE



**Astana - Almaty**  
7<sup>TH</sup> ASIAN WINTER GAME  
**2011**



**EXPO 2017**

• **Future Energy** •  
Astana Kazakhstan



DISPATCH

# Kazakhstan Spent \$5 Billion on a Death Star and It Doesn't Even Shoot Lasers

The Central Asian country built a futuristic city to host the World's Fair and polish its own brand. One small problem: it forgot to invite guests.

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BY **JAMES PALMER** | JUNE 15, 2017, 11:33 AM

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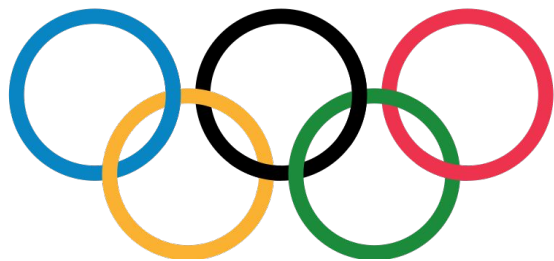
**ALMATY 2022**

CANDIDATE CITY





***BEIJING 2022***



*Thank you!*



Almaty (Apple city)