

## The Khoja of West Siberia and Central Asia

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**ABSTRACT** The paper examines the existence of Khoja. Khoja is a sub-ethnic group, which is not genealogically related to the people of Central Asia and Kazakhstan. Khoja was an honorary religious priest in the Muslim culture. Also, this paper establishes, that Khoja was a direct descendant of Prophet Muhammad and the propagator of Islam. The main idea and aim of this paper is to show the ethnic history of Khoja and distinguish their location on the territory of Russia and Central Asia. The objectives of this work are to characterize the origin and development of Khoja on the bases of historical evidences and ethnographical information taken from the people; to appreciate the peculiarities of Islam by the ethnographical evidences on the regions of Khoja location. Authors have tried to describe the origin of the people of Khoja, their historical formation and spread on the territories of Russia, Kazakhstan and Central Asia.