

## My bio

**Victoria Martynov**, journalist and researcher.

I was born in Ukraine, grew up in Tajikistan (Central Asia), received my MA in journalism at St. Petersburg University (Russia), and did my PhD at Ariel.

I have been fortunate to work with foreign embassies in Israel on important projects such as the Czech Film Festival; 1,700 years of Jewish presence in Germany; the presidential elections in Kazakhstan; and the International Music Festival Sharq Taronalari in Uzbekistan.

I was the first to bring Hebrew-speaking journalists to Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan to expose the Israeli public to these countries by writing about their unique history, showing their presence, and dispelling stereotypes.

I am working diligently in the pioneering field of studying the impact of Israeli nationalism on the formation of nationalism in the new states of Central Asia including preserving the Jewish heritage.

I enjoy finding interesting new scientific ideas and to work intensively to implement them.

## My research

Currently I am working on the research on the following topics:

### **1. The immediate and long-term consequences of the phenomenon of the departure of Jews from Central Asia in the 1990s.**

The study examines the effects that the disappearance of Jews had on national identity, and the economic, cultural, and educational situation in these countries. The subject of the disappearance of the Jews and its implications has not been investigated in depth in the research on the FSU countries.

Today, we can already consider the immediate and long-term consequences of the phenomenon of the departure of Jews from Central Asia. There was the immediate response, such as the awareness of the resulting lack of Jewish doctors, teachers, musicians, engineers... which was possibly a trigger to turn to Israel as a kind of replacement. The application of the leaders of the five independent Central Asian states to Israel in the 1990-s is widely known.

### **2. "Jews in the Nuclear Enterprises in the Soviet Central Asia"**

Opening archives paves the way to study Soviet documents tagged "Top Secret" for seven decades. The issue of the role of Jews in establishing the Soviet nuclear power institutions in Central Asia certainly belongs to this category. I recently published an article "Participation of Jews in the Creation of Nuclear Enterprises in Central Asia" on this subject, based on the experience of my childhood in Chalovsk, a small town in Tajikistan with a nuclear facility. The



research was presented on the scientific conference under the umbrella of the Mitzva organization and Assembly of the people of Kazakhstan in Almaty in 2024. Interviews I conducted in preparing the article confirmed that many senior positions were held by Jews.

