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On the Cover. Photo Taken by Hélène Thibault: The photo shows the yet-to-be-unveiled statue of Ismoil Somoni meant to replace a 24-meter high Lenin statue in Khujand, Tajikistan. Called Leninabad in Soviet times, this northern city is the country's second largest. When I first visited Khujand for my fieldwork in 2010, a gigantic statue of Lenin was still standing on this square. When I came back a year later in 2011, Lenin was relocated to Victory Park, on the outskirts of the city, and a new square with fountains was being built where Lenin was once standing. The statue of Ismoil Somoni, considered to be the founder of the first Tajik state, was unveiled a few days after this photo was taken. The veil confers a mysterious, phantomatic look to the imposing character. More than anything, this change in the urban landscape tells a story about the reevaluation of the city's historical symbolism and a move towards asserting a distinct national identity separate from its Soviet past. Khujand, Tajikistan, 2011.

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