

**SOVIET ECONOMIC POLICY IN UZBEKISTAN, ITS COLONIAL NATURE**

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**Annotation:** By the beginning of the 1920s, the life of the country, the domestic and lifestyle of the local population were in a desperate state. The consequences of World War I, the consequences of the Bolshevik rulers' policy of coercion against the local population when establishing the new Soviet system were evident at every step. Industry was in disarray, transport and communication facilities were out of order, and arable land was lying fallow. Worst of all, hunger, poverty, and mass unemployment reigned in the country.

**Keywords:** Soviet system, means of transport and communication, food distribution, new economic policy (NEP), Turkestan, RCP (b), Central Executive Committee of the Turkestan ASSR.

**Introduction.** In addition, the food rationing developed and forcibly implemented by the Soviet authorities and the policy of "war communism" combined with it put the life of the country in an even more difficult situation. This extraordinary policy, carried out in order to preserve Soviet power, deprived the population of its resources, severely limited its freedom and independence, did not allow trade and market relations, and as a result, caused the socio-political and economic situation here to become even more complicated.

The situation posed a challenge to the Soviet leaders to rectify the situation, overcome the crisis, and set new tasks for economic policy. These tasks found expression in the New Economic Policy (NEP) defined by the Tenth Congress of the RCP (b) held in March 1921. Important elements of this policy were replacing food extortion with food taxes, liberalizing trade, allowing private entrepreneurship in industry, small crafts, and other sectors, regulating the market, and abolishing restrictions on hired labor.

**Research methods and materials.** Most importantly, this policy served to establish relations between the city and the countryside, to strengthen the union of workers and peasants, which was the basis of the new government, and economic ties. One of the main goals of the new economic policy was to restore and develop the peasant economy. After all, without this, it was impossible to develop either industry or other sectors of the national economy and create a sufficient raw material base. According to the requirements of the food tax, an agreement was concluded between the individual peasant economy and the state before the sowing season on the obligation to deliver products. This encouraged the peasants to work hard to get more from the land. Thus, the new economic policy determined that the peasant would benefit from his labor. Now the peasant's surplus grain could not be confiscated, and he was given the right to freely sell the surplus product he grew on the market.

The new economic policy had a number of specific features for Turkestan. First, Turkestan was a backward, predominantly agricultural country. Therefore, it was necessary to rebuild modern agriculture and industry here. Second, it was necessary to form a national working class in the country. Third, Turkestan was a multinational country, and when transitioning to a new economic policy, it was necessary to take into account the characteristics

of the values, traditions, and customs of the local peoples. However, the RCP (Bolsheviks) and the Soviet government acted in their own interests in introducing a new economic policy in Turkestan. In April 1921, the Central Executive Committee of the Turkestan ASSR adopted a resolution to replace the excise tax on food, fodder, and raw materials with a product tax. It determined the amount of tax for 1921-1922. Unlike the central regions, the tax levied on Turkestan workers was not based on the amount of harvest at the end of the year, but on each desyatyn of sown land, as well as on cattle and small animals. This represented a discrimination against the Turkestan peasant.

**Results and discussion.** In addition, the Soviet government paid special attention to the development of industries that were primarily necessary for the country, such as cotton, sugar beets, tobacco and other technical crops. Under the pretext of providing assistance, more than 300,000 workers and peasant families were brought to Turkestan from the central regions of Russia and settled there. On the basis of the new economic policy, the process of transferring industry to the economic account was carried out. This led to a slight revival of the production of industrial enterprises. Small and medium-sized industrial enterprises, large cooperative organizations and their associations were leased to entrepreneurs. New industrial enterprises and railways were built in the country. These include the Khilkovo cement plant, the Fergana cocoon factory, the Tashkent rice factory, the Kyzylqiya, Khilkovo railway stations.

In the country, especially cotton growing and the cotton ginning enterprises directly related to it grew rapidly. This was largely due to the increasing demand for Uzbek cotton by the Central textile industry. As a result, the area under cotton cultivation increased threefold in 1924 compared to 1921. The number of operating industrial enterprises reached 144. Gross output in the cotton ginning industry alone increased from 23.9 million soums in 1923 to 57.8 million soums in 1924. This shows that, on the basis of the new economic policy, the industry of Turkestan was restored and began to develop significantly.

However, the party and the Soviet government intensified ideological agitation and propaganda against them, saying: "The new economic policy is leading to an intensification of the class struggle in Turkestan, the local rich, the remnants of the national bourgeoisie, large merchants, Muslim clergy and other exploitative elements are reviving," and intensified ideological agitation and propaganda against them. For example, at the 12th Congress of the RCP(b) (1923), it was even noted that there was "Uzbek chauvinism" against the Turkmen and Kyrgyz in Bukhara and Khiva. These unfounded claims and objections were nothing more than arousing national conflicts in the country. This gradually led to a retreat from the path of the new economic policy in the country. The privileges granted to the peasants were withdrawn. They began to be united into agricultural artels. The process of nationalization of industry was accelerated. Especially by the end of the 1920s, as a result of the strengthening of the administrative-command management system in the socio-political and economic-cultural life of the Union, including Uzbekistan, the new economic policy increasingly lost its meaning and essence.

Since the mid-1920s, the Soviets have focused all their attention on the industrialization of the country. The main reason for this is that industrialization was considered one of the main tasks of the program plan for building socialism in the USSR. At the XIV Congress of the CPSU (b) (1925), the industrialization of the country was defined as the main strategic task of building socialism. The ruling Center mobilized the people to fulfill this main task, and this work began to be carried out at an accelerated pace in all regions of the country, including Uzbekistan. The Soviets had high hopes for industrialization in Uzbekistan. Most importantly, they aimed to use

the country's rich natural and mineral resources, use cheap labor, and ultimately generate more profit for the Center by creating many industrial enterprises and industries in this country.

**Conclusion.** By order of the center, the republic's raw materials and natural resources were ruthlessly exploited, without any consideration for its specific economic interests. A large part of the industrial enterprises built in Uzbekistan were completely subordinate to the will of the union. Consequently, the products they produced and the income from them also served to enrich the treasury of the center. Thus, during the years of industrialization, there was no unanimity and harmony between the words and practical work of the party and the Soviet government. The ideas about the superiority of socialism over capitalism, about a radical improvement in the well-being of the working people, about a profound change in their living conditions, turned out to be in vain in practice. The sweat of the brow, the tireless work, the hard work, and the self-sacrifice of the masses of the people for decades did not bring them prosperity.

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