

## STRUCTURE OF POPULATION IN UZBEKISTAN DURING THE SOVIET PERIOD

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### Annotation

In the Soviet state, the priority goal of strengthening the social structure of the population was considered to be the achievement of social "equalization" and the way to end the differences between social classes was pursued. This process was carried out naturally through violence, violence and artificial borders. Emphasis was placed on aligning the needs, goals and tasks of different segments of the population. This led to a reduction in the forms and types of organization of work and life, recreation among different classes, and to an end to the diversity of views and opinions in social and political life.

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The basis of the natural social stratification of society was broken and social strata were divided into workers, collective farmers and "socialist" intellectuals. For example, according to the 1959 census, the total population of Uzbekistan was 8,119,000, of which 2,729,000 lived in cities and 5,390,000 in villages. 39.8% of the population were workers, 17.3% were servants, and 42.6% were collective farm farmers<sup>1</sup>. In this period, the total population of Kashkadarya region was 508 thousand people, of which 67 thousand people lived in cities and 441 thousand people lived in rural areas. 422,000 people lived in Surkhandarya region, of which 65,000 lived in cities and 357,000 in villages<sup>2</sup>.

As a result of the policy of stratification of the population of the Soviet state, the social structure of the rural population changed and the population was divided into collective farm peasants and agricultural workers. Peasants were completely under the influence of the state, and they lost their historical and traditional characteristics.

Quantitative increase of the working class was one of the main goals of the Soviet state. For example, the total number of workers in Uzbekistan increased from 492 thousand people in 1940 to 1815 thousand people in 1970<sup>3</sup>. In 1953, there were 66,100 workers and servants in Kashkadarya and Surkhandarya regions, and by 1963, their number reached 153,700 people<sup>4</sup>.

In 1956, the total number of workers engaged in industrial production in Kashkadarya region was 3.8 thousand, in Surkhandarya region 4.7 thousand, in Tashkent 161.7 thousand, in Fergana 38.9 thousand,

<sup>1</sup> Narodnoye zozyaystvo Uzbekskoy SSR za 70 let sovetskoy vlasti. –Tashkent: Uzbekistan, 1987. –S. 5-8.

<sup>2</sup> This work.

<sup>3</sup> Narodnoye zozyaystvo SSSR za 60 let. Yubileyniy statisticheskiy yejegodnik. –M.: Statistika, 1977. –S.467.

<sup>4</sup> Sovetskiy Uzbekistan za 40 let. St.sb. –Tashkent, 1964. –S. 267.

and in Samarkand 26.4 thousand. In Uzbekistan, this indicator consisted of 284,400 people<sup>5</sup>. Therefore, Kashkadarya and Surkhandarya regions were in one of the last places in the republic regarding the establishment of industrial production. That is why the number of workers in Kashkadarya and Surkhandarya regions was small compared to other regions of the republic. Among the workers, there was also a minority of local ethnic groups. For example, in the 50s of the 20th century, Uzbek workers in heavy industry made up 10-12 percent, in the 60-70s, this figure increased to 20-25 percent<sup>6</sup>. In 1958, Uzbeks made up 36.4 percent of the workforce in Uzbekistan<sup>7</sup>. In 1959, Uzbeks made up 26.7 percent of the workers in the republic's industry, and in 1967, this figure reached 32 percent<sup>8</sup>.

Although increasing the number of workers remained one of the main goals of the state policy during the 1960s and 1970s, the growth rate of the number of workers in this period was far behind compared to previous years. For example, in 1946-1950, the growth rate of the number of workers was 11.4 percent, in 1954-1958, this indicator decreased to 4.7 percent, in 1961-1965, to 5.8 percent, and to 3.4 percent in 1966-1970. The reason for the increase in the number of workers in the post-war years was that the industrial enterprises relocated from the central regions of the Union were transferred to peaceful construction, and attention was paid to increasing the volume of production<sup>9</sup>.

The development of the industry in Uzbekistan was carried out in accordance with the task of providing the cotton needs of the industrially developed regions of the former union. Also, the introduction of new technologies, modern science and technology achievements in the development of the industry was neglected. This had a negative impact on the working conditions of workers and caused low labor productivity.

The development of the light and food industry was considered a secondary task. The main attention was focused on the rapid development of strategically important mechanical engineering, chemical, oil and energy industries. 66.3% of the population employed in industrial production worked in machine-building factories<sup>10</sup>. Mechanization and automation of production was at a low level, and the share of workers engaged in manual labor was on average 48.7 percent.

The industry of Kashkadarya and Surkhandarya regions was mainly focused on the processing of agricultural products. Enterprises such as cotton ginning, pilfering, and oil production formed a significant aspect of the network. 51% of industrial enterprises in Kashkadarya region and 56% of industrial enterprises in Surkhandarya region were of this type<sup>11</sup>. There was also a discrepancy in the location of large industrial enterprises in the republic. For example, 65% of its industrial enterprises were concentrated in 5% of the territory of Uzbekistan<sup>12</sup>. In 1958, the total number of workers employed in industrial production in Uzbekistan was 299.8 thousand people, of which 4.2 thousand people were in Kashkadarya region, and 5.2 thousand people were in Surkhandarya region<sup>13</sup>. The share of workers in the southern regions was not even 4% of the republic's workers. However, according to the 1959 census, a total of 8,261,000 people lived in Uzbekistan, so 930,000 people belonged to Kashkadarya and Surkhandarya regions<sup>14</sup>.

<sup>5</sup> Istoriya rabocheho klassa Uzbekistana. Tom. III. –Tashkent, 1966. –S. 64.

<sup>6</sup> Shister T.A. Promishlenniye rabochiye Uzbekistana. Izmeneniye v chislennosti i sostave. (1959-1970 gg). –Tashkent, 1975. –S. 79.

<sup>7</sup> Kamilov T.R. Razvitiye rabocheho klassa v Uz SSR // Razvitiye rabocheho klassa v natsionalnix respublikax SSSR. –M., 1962. –S. 286.

<sup>8</sup> Izmeneniye klassovoy strukturi obshchestva v Uzbekistane za godi sovetsoy vlasti. –Tashkent, 1984. –S. 85.

<sup>9</sup> Sovetskiy Uzbekistan za 40 let. –Tashkent, 1964. –S. 264.

<sup>10</sup> O'zbekistonning yangi tarixi. 2-kitob. O'zbekiston sovet mustamlakachiligi davrida. –Toshkent: Sharq, 2000. –B. 522.

<sup>11</sup> O'zbekistonning yangi tarixi. 2-kitob. O'zbekiston sovet mustamlakachiligi davrida. –Toshkent: Sharq, 2000. –B. 530.

<sup>12</sup> Xazratkulov A. Sotsialniye problemi Uzbekistana i puti ix resheniya. Spetsifika, opit, perspektivi: Avtoref. diss. ...d-ra.ist.nauk. –Tashkent, 1993. –S. 17.

<sup>13</sup> Istoriya rabocheho klassa. Tom. III. –Tashkent, 1966. –S. 64.

<sup>14</sup> Sovetskiy Uzbekistan za 40 let. St.sb. –Tashkent, 1964. –S. 12.

In the 60s of the 20th century, due to the fact that the development of the Karshi desert became an urgent task of the republic's economy, new workplaces were created in the Kashkadarya oasis. An educational complex was opened under the "Karshikurish" department, which was established for the development of the Karshi desert, and 2 thousand workers were trained in it per year. In 1968, the number of employees of the "Karshikurlish" department was increased to 15 thousand<sup>15</sup>.

During the years of Soviet rule, collective farmers-peasants also occupied a special place in the social structure of society. In the Soviet state, efforts were made to get as much income as possible from the countryside, but due attention was not paid to the issue of strengthening their infrastructure and improving social living conditions. According to the 1959 census, 5,390,000 people lived in the villages of Uzbekistan, and in 1970, their number reached 7,478,000<sup>16</sup>. In Kashkadarya region, this indicator increased from 441 thousand people to 669 thousand people, and in Surkhandarya region, it increased from 357 thousand people to 556 thousand people<sup>17</sup>.

In 1950, the number of collective farm farmers in Uzbekistan was 1,353,8 thousand, and in 1966, their number reached 1,992,5 thousand. In 1959, 42.6 percent of the republic's population belonged to collective farmers, and in 1970, this figure was 34.0 percent<sup>18</sup>.

In the years under review, there were enough problems in providing villages with experts in various fields in the republic. For example, in 1953, 45.5% of directors of Machine Tractor Stations (MTS) and 36.2% of chief engineers had no special education. In 1954, 20 percent of all highly educated agronomists and 46 percent of zootechnicians in the republic were working in MTS and collective farms<sup>19</sup>.

In 1953, out of 2414 collective farm heads in the republic, only 84 had higher education and 512 had secondary education.

In the years under review, there were also certain problems with the training of intellectuals of various fields. In Uzbekistan in 1950-1953, only 30% of graduates of higher educational institutions and 33% of graduates of secondary special educational institutions were young people of Uzbek nationality. There were specific reasons for this situation. For example, as a result of the unjustified involvement of young students in public-political activities, agriculture and other work in secondary schools, they did not have the opportunity to acquire the knowledge required to enter higher educational institutions. The fact that the entrance exams to educational institutions are mainly conducted in Russian also led to a decrease in the weight of representatives of local nationalities among the intelligentsia. In 1950-1953, 16,600 young specialists were trained in republican higher education institutions, 5 thousand of them, that is, 30 percent, belonged to the local nationality<sup>20</sup>. In 1960, there were 241,600 intellectuals in Uzbekistan, their number increased to 358,100 by 1968, and to 531,100 in 1970.

In 1970, the number of intellectuals in the southern regions of Uzbekistan increased significantly compared to 1960. In 1960, 10,900 intellectuals were registered in Kashkadarya region, and by 1970, they reached 28,800 people. Over the years, the number of people in Surkhandarya region has increased from 8,900 to 23,400.

Most of the intellectuals were teachers. For example, in the 1951-1952 school year, there were 3,686 teachers in public education in the Kashkadarya region, and only 172 of them had higher education<sup>21</sup>.

In the southern regions of Uzbekistan, 50 percent of rural workers were women. Also, during this

<sup>15</sup> Xudoyqulov M. Qarshi cho'li. –Toshkent: Sharq, 1998. –B. 46.

<sup>16</sup> Vsesoyuznaya perepis naseleniya 1970 g. –M., 1976. –S. 163.

<sup>17</sup> Narodnoye xozyaystvo Uzbekskoy SSR za 70 let. St.sb. –Tashkent, 1971. –S. 7.

<sup>18</sup> Izmeneniye klassovoy strukturi obshchestva v Uzbekistane za godi sovetskoy vlasti. –Tashkent, 1984. –S. 180.

<sup>19</sup> Sovetskaya intelligentsiya Uzbekistana. Tom. II. –Tashkent, 1979. –S. 88.

<sup>20</sup> Sovetskaya intelligentsiya Uzbekistana. Tom. II. –Tashkent, 1979. –S. 89.

<sup>21</sup> O'zbekiston Respublikasi Prezidenti Devoni arxivi Qashqadaryo viloyati filiali. 1-fond. 2-ro'yxat, 852-ish, 8- varaq.

period, the main work in agriculture was done by hand. Mainly women's manual labor was used in spinning and spinning cotton and in leather. Women mechanics, tractor drivers, combine harvesters were encouraged in every way. But the physical work they were doing was very hard. There were no comments on this matter. In 1965, there were 833,000 female workers and servants in Uzbekistan, and in 1970, they were 1,091,000. However, there were not many women of Uzbek nationality among the highly educated women. For example, in 1960, only 23.2 percent of women with higher education in Uzbekistan were local women<sup>22</sup>.

In Uzbekistan, the share of women in manual labor in industry, construction, and agriculture was higher than the union index. Women have been working mainly in the textile, tailoring, and food industries, but the low level of technical equipment and continuous improvement of working conditions for workers has had an impact on work productivity and quality.

It can be observed that the laws adopted in this way during the Soviet period, the established measures were aimed at attracting women to social work, and were aimed at praising advanced workers and peasant women. Attention was paid to the issues of easing the living conditions of women, providing them with household appliances necessary for them in the family. In 1964, 265,000 working women in Uzbekistan did not work for various reasons<sup>23</sup>.

At the same time, in this period, certain works were carried out in Kashkadarya region to attract women to study and work. For example, in the 1952-1953 academic year, 120 girls were admitted to the Karshi paramedic-midwife training school. In the following years, this number remained largely unchanged.

Certain measures were also taken to involve women in cultural education work. In 1953, 168 women worked in various positions in cultural and educational institutions in Kashkadarya region<sup>24</sup>.

As a conclusion to the issue, it should be noted that the Soviet government tried to strengthen the social-political base by involving women of local nationality in socio-political affairs, filling the ranks of the party with them. Also, in order to rapidly develop the industry in Uzbekistan, the center involved women in large-scale production and involved them in jobs that require hard work, regardless of their physical capabilities. As a result of working in such conditions, it is observed that women move away from national and traditional living conditions.

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<sup>22</sup> Zezina M.R. Sovetskaya intelligentsiya v usloviyax razvitogo sotsializma. –M., 1982. –S. 58.

<sup>23</sup> Mulladjanov Z.I. Narodonaseleniye Uzbekskoy SSR. –Tashkent, 1967. –S.312.

<sup>24</sup> O'zR PDAQVF 1-fond, 2-ro'yxat, 26- ish, 160-varaq.