

THE ROLE OF THE JADIDS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PRESS IN OUR COUNTRY

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Abstract: This article presents information about the significance of the Jadid movement in the development of the press in our country. The Jadidism movement, which emerged in the early 20th century in the Muslim world—particularly in the Turkestan region—was a reformist and educational movement. Its goal was to awaken the people through the opening of new schools, and the promotion of science, culture, literature, and the press.

Keywords: Information, press, Jadidism, newspaper, magazine, Taraqqiy, Shuhrat, Sadoi Turkiston, Hurriyat, article.

Information plays a vital role in society. It serves as the essential foundation for making accurate and timely decisions. In any sphere—politics, economics, education, or healthcare—reliable and current information determines the quality of decisions. Moreover, the basis of scientific, technological, and social development lies in the collection, analysis, and sharing of information. New technologies and scientific discoveries are all results of information exchange.

It is through the press that information is delivered. The press provides members of society with timely and trustworthy information about current events, news, and political, economic, and social changes. This helps citizens make informed decisions.

The press refers to all printed materials, but in a narrow sense, it denotes periodicals, mainly newspapers and magazines (a synonym: the press). As a sharp and influential tool of social consciousness, the press continuously and actively influences human society. It shapes public opinion and serves as a powerful ideological means for instilling certain views into the minds of the masses. The press covers various aspects of social life—including socio-political, economic-productive, scientific-technical, and others¹.

At the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century, the Turkestan region experienced a deep crisis in all spheres of society. As a result of colonial policies, illiteracy, social inequality, lack of culture, and ignorance became widespread among the population. In such circumstances, the Jadid movement emerged with the goal of awakening the people and promoting the development of science, culture, and social life. This movement marked a significant turning point in the history of Turkestan and laid the foundation for national revival.

The term Jadidism comes from the Arabic word *jadid*, meaning “new,” and it reflects ideas of change, reform, and renewal. The Jadid movement was formed on the basis of enlightenment, and its representatives aimed to develop society through modern science, education, and secular knowledge.²

¹ O‘zME. Birinchi jild. Toshkent, 2000-yil.

² <https://oyina.uz/uz/teahouse/1172>.

The Jadid movement aimed to awaken the people through the establishment of new schools, and the promotion of science, culture, literature, and the press. One of the key directions of the Jadids' activities was guiding the population toward a modern worldview through the publication of newspapers and magazines. The first issue of the Turkestan Jadids' newspaper *Taraqqiy* was published on June 14, 1906, under the motto: "Najot: maslakda sabot; to'g'rilikni ijobat" ("Salvation: steadfastness in principle; adherence to truth"). In the article titled *Turkiston – August 12*, the editor began by discussing the glorious history of Turkestan³.

With the rise of the Jadid movement, the Uzbek press also entered a new stage of development. The following newspapers and magazines became key platforms for this movement:

"Taraqqiy" (1906) – Founded by Mahmudkhoja Behbudi, this newspaper was one of the first socio-political publications in the Uzbek language.

"Shuhrat," "Sadoi Turkiston," "Hurriyat," and others – Through these publications, the Jadid intellectuals promoted ideas of enlightenment, progress, justice, and patriotism.

It was written that the 19th century brought many troubles upon humanity and that oppressed nations were subjected to imperialist tyranny. Beginning in March 1917, the newspaper *Najot*, which was the voice of the Sho'roi Islam organization, started publication. Its motto was **"Equality, freedom, justice,"** and it addressed Uzbeks, Tatars, Kazakhs, and Kyrgyz as "compatriots" and "fellow nationals." The editor of the publication was Munavvar qori Abdurashidkhanov. The newspaper called on all the people of Turkestan to unite in a common alliance without class divisions.

In his article **"Be Silent! The Cry of the Wealthy"**, Salohiddin Muftizoda called for lowering market prices and for the urgent resolution of the people's most pressing issues.

On **June 25, 1917**, the newspaper *Kengash* began publication in place of *Najot*. Another well-known newspaper of the Turkestan Jadids was *Hurriyat*, which was published in Samarkand and edited by Mardankul Shohmuhammadzoda. The newspaper *Ulug' Turkiston* was launched on **April 25, 1917**, by the Ittifoq society of Tatar reformists. In the city of Kokand, the newspaper *El Bayrog'i* also began publication on **September 8, 1917**, under the slogan **"Long live the United People's Republic"**, in a press office affiliated with the G'ayrat library⁴.

The following important topics were addressed in Jadid publications:

- The fight against illiteracy;
- Women's emancipation and education;
- School reform (new-method schools);
- National awakening and self-awareness;
- Achievements in science, technology, and Western progress.

During the Jadid era, the truth spoken through the press had a strong impact on daily life, people, and society. The periodical press became a necessity to ensure that people were actively engaged in social life and stayed informed about world affairs. Initially, newspapers were rarely published—perhaps once a month—but gradually, weekly and daily publications began

³ *Taraqqiy*. _ 1906. _12-avgust. _ 17-son.

⁴ *El bayrog'i*. _ 1917. _ 8-sentyabr. _ 1-son.

spreading rapidly among the population. The articles and information in their pages took on the role of spiritual necessities.

Mahmudkhoja Behbudi – founder of the newspaper Taraqqiy, and one of the fathers of the national theater and press.

Abdurauf Fitrat – promoted the ideas of Jadidism through his scholarly and journalistic works.

Munavvar qori Abdurashidkhanov, Abdulla Avloniy, Cho'ipon, and Qori Niyoziy – actively contributed to the press with their articles and writings.

The Jadids clearly understood how effective the press could be in promoting their ideas and principles, and they never ceased their efforts in the field of journalism. Alongside newspapers such as Tujjor, Osiyo, Samarqand, Sadoi Turkiston, Sadoi Farg'ona, and Tirik So'z, Mahmudkhoja Behbudi also founded the magazine Oyina. Between 1913 and 1915, a total of 68 issues were published.

At the beginning of the 20th century, the fact that national reformist forces in Tashkent managed to publish several newspapers was a significant event in the social life of the region. Alarmed by the revolution of 1905–1907, the government was forced to make concessions in the sphere of the press as well. However, it should be especially noted that the newspapers published by national reformists—Taraqqiy (1906), Xurshid (1906), Shuhrat (1907), Osiyo (1908)—were strictly monitored and persecuted by the authorities. Each article in these newspapers was translated and tracked by the government⁵.

In the national newspapers established by the Jadid reformists, the primary focus was on saving the nation from ignorance and achieving progress. They contributed to the development of national consciousness. As we list the press outlets founded and operated during the Jadids' activity, we must try to deeply understand the difficult conditions in which they worked and the many obstacles and problems they faced.

In particular, the nationally-minded reformist forces were for a long time deprived of the opportunity to have their own press due to intense repression. One of the national reformers, Rauf Muzaffarzoda, wrote about this:

"After 'Taraqqiy', many newspapers were published, but they were shut down shortly after. If we were to gather all the newspapers that were launched and then closed at that time, it would make for a very large press graveyard." ⁶

Despite the aforementioned obstacles, the Jadid press had a significant impact on broad segments of the population in its time. Its main achievement was the promotion of national identity, culture, enlightenment, and modern thinking. The Jadid movement marked a profound turning point in the history of the press in our country. It laid the foundation for the development of modern journalism, literary criticism, publicistic writing, and political thought. The Jadids' activities in the press served as a cornerstone for the formation of today's national media

⁵ ЎзР МДА. 1-жамғарма, 28-рўйхат, 779-иш, 10-20 – бетлар.

⁶ Рауф Музаффарзода. Бизда зиёлилар ва миллий матбуот, Садои Туркистон. 1914. -№ 44.

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