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## INDUSTRIALIZATION AND THE FORMATION OF THE WORKING CLASS IN UZBEKISTAN DURING THE SOVIET PERIOD

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### Abstract

The Soviet practice of industrialization in Uzbekistan during the Soviet period and the work done for its effectiveness, the formation of workers in industrialization, experience and problems of their training and provision are highlighted based on archival documents and sources.

### Keywords

industrialization, workforce, party, center, administrative-command system, social life, local technical personnel, specialist, communist ideology, communist morality, chauvinism, authoritarian regime, economic organizations, intelligentsia, localization.

After the formation of the Uzbek SSR, in December 1925, the XIV Congress of the All-Union Communist Party (Bolsheviks) announced the intensification of the path of "socialist industrialization." I. Stalin emphasized that..."real industrialization consists in the development of heavy industry sectors, manufactured products, primarily mechanical engineering," emphasizing the focus on creating various branches of heavy industry throughout the Union. Simultaneously, the center carried out certain work on the centralization of the republic's economy.

The policy of centralization aimed to hinder the full development of the economy of the Uzbek SSR and turn it into a raw material-producing republic. In the policy of industrialization, although a powerful production and industrial sphere was created throughout the Union, as can be seen from the research period, it also led to the weakening of industries that serve to increase consumer demand and the standard of living of the population.

Industrialization in Uzbekistan was initially implemented gradually. Because craftsmanship was a priority area. The issue of funds for the accelerated industrialization of the country caused heated debates. Supporters of accelerating industrialization put forward a plan to obtain funds from agriculture, while the opposing side, supporting the policy of industrialization, proposed to combine it with the improvement of the material situation, living conditions of the population, and the gradual voluntary implementation of cooperation in agriculture[2]. After heated political debates, it was decided to withdraw funds from the agricultural sector. The economy of Uzbekistan at that time was agrarian in nature.

Centralization hindered the consideration of economic opportunities and created the opportunity for the creation of one-sided economic complexes in the form of instructions. One of the experts on economic issues of that time, I. Krilsov, noted that "the issue was resolved directly



according to the rule of national delimitation, closely related to the economic character of the newly created individual states"[3]. High representatives of the Bolshevik party, after consultation, decided that "Uzbekistan will be only an agricultural republic, Karakyrgyzstan (Kyrgyzstan) - an agricultural-livestock republic, Turkmenistan - a wine-livestock republic, and Kyrgyzstan (Kazakhstan) - a livestock republic"[4]. In the years under study, the Soviet government made every effort to strengthen its political and economic position.

The industrialization policy implemented in Uzbekistan in 1925-1940 was an integral part of the chauvinistic, colonial policy of the Soviet government and the Communist Party. The jurisdiction of the industrial sector included the Union, Union-Republic, and Republic People's Commissariats[5].

The most important direction of the policy of industrialization in Uzbekistan was aimed at solving the following tasks:

- Development of productive forces in Uzbekistan;
- Achieving a certain speed in the development of the national economy compared to the Union;
- Industrialization of the Uzbek SSR by all means;
- Raising the cultural level of the population during industrialization;
- Continuous increase in the share of the socialist sector in the national economy of the Uzbek SSR[6].

The industrialization center's comprehensive program encompassed the creation of new sectors and large industrial centers in the republic's economy, the training of skilled workers, the creation of new jobs, and the solution of social problems. However, in the conditions of Uzbekistan, industrialization was supposed to ensure the development of certain sectors of the economy, freeing the USSR from the most essential products imported by the center.

At the heart of the Center's policy was the integration of all the Union republics into a single all-Union national economic system with their specialization. Uzbekistan, not deviating from the instructions of the center, at the II Congress of Soviets of Uzbekistan (March 1927), based on the Union's industrialization program, developed plans and programs for the formation of the textile industry in the republic, the creation of new branches of the agricultural processing industry, the development and implementation of an electrification plan, the establishment of the production of agricultural equipment, and the development of the construction industry[7].

I.J. Stalin emphasized, "Without training new specialists, industrial and economic personnel, it is impossible to implement the grand tasks of socialist industrialization. From the ranks of workers and the Soviet intelligentsia, it is necessary to train a large number of personnel for the construction of industry. The tasks of socialist industrialization can be realized as a result of increased activity of the working class. It is necessary to further strengthen the alliance of the working class with the peasantry"[8]. "Training personnel by sending not only Uzbek specialists, but also workers, farm laborers, and those who have come out of poverty from the center is a matter of industrial construction. It is and should be the main issue in our further work"[9]. Also, at the III Congress of the Communist Party of Uzbekistan (November 1927), it was noted that "the main goal of industrializing the Uzbek SSR is, on the one hand, the need for the direct construction of industrial facilities, and on the other hand, the active participation of the USSR in the industrialization process"[10]. For the industry of Uzbekistan, a large part of the funds



intended for all the republics of Central Asia has been allocated. If we take this as 100%, then during 1925-1928, Uzbekistan received 56%, Turkmenistan - 28%, Kyrgyzstan - 14%, Tajikistan - 2%[11].

Production councils and commissions, created in the early days of industrialization, became a proven school for workers to approach specific issues of production at their enterprises from the point of view of the state[12]. The Central Committee of the All-Union Communist Party (Bolsheviks) discussed personnel issues at the plenums held in April and July 1928, as well as in November 1929. For socialist industry, the task was to train scientific and technical intelligentsia and managerial personnel from workers and peasants[13]. The Center's policy of "attempting to end illiteracy" towards peoples was also connected with the issue of personnel serving the interests of the country[14]. This, in turn, led to the subsequent promotion of the idea that in personnel training, it is necessary to select people from the "working" segments of the population, reliable from a class perspective. The promotion of leading workers to leadership positions was widely carried out by trade unions and Komsomol organizations. Thus, if in 1925 the trade union of workers of the Tashkent food industry appointed 21 people to leadership work in production, then by 1926 this number reached 24 people[15].

According to archival data, in 1925, medium and small landowners, that is, representatives of the petty bourgeoisie, occupied an important place in the social structure of the urban population of Uzbekistan. This class included artisans, craftsmen, small traders, urban farmers, coachmen, barbers, laundresses, and others. Their share among the working-age urban population increased by 5% and amounted to 51% in total[16]. In general, according to the results of the 1926 All-Union Population Census, 100.3 thousand people were employed in crafts and handicrafts among the working-age urban and rural population of all of Uzbekistan.

Personnel sent from the center and various regions of the Union, unwilling to understand the mentality of the republic, acted on the basis of a disregard for the national values of the population. To cover up such a policy, the idea of a unified economic complex of the USSR was put forward. Moscow centrally managed the development of which sector of the national economy in Uzbekistan. This direction of development was reflected in the directives of the "Stalinist Five-Year Plan." In 1924 alone, about 600 highly qualified workers were sent to Uzbekistan from the most industrially developed central regions of the USSR, and these figures subsequently increased year by year. In Russia itself, the main focus was on the construction of heavy industry enterprises in Ukraine, Belarus, and other republics, while in Uzbekistan, initially, industries related to the development of cotton growing were created, such as light industry enterprises for the production of food, clothing, etc., related to the living conditions of the population[17]. The growth of industry also gradually became noticeable. In 1925, 118 enterprises were divided into 21 industrial sectors, and by 1928, 166 enterprises were divided into 35 industrial sectors. Of these, 13 were in the cotton ginning industry. The remaining enterprises included the repair plant of the Main Cotton Committee in Tashkent, Asaka oil and soap factories in Andijan, and silk factories in Samarkand[18]. One of the large-scale works to meet the needs of agriculture was the construction of a plant for the production of synthetic fertilizers on the Chirchik River, the cost of which was about 100 million rubles[19]. Certain enterprises intended for industrial production were created in the region, funds were allocated from the budget, including efforts to form a working class with the help of the central industrial districts[20]. During the preparation of the first five-year plans, 173 million rubles were allocated for the construction of industrial enterprises in Uzbekistan, later 226 million rubles, and finally, based on the demand for industry, a total of 350 million rubles were required.

The conclusion is that Uzbekistan, like the Union republics, has joined the ranks of



industrialized republics specializing in raw material production. But all this was directed towards the imperial interests of the ruling center, and then the union circles. The national natural resources of the Uzbek people, their labor, were constantly subordinated to the service of the imperial regime.

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