

NATIONAL-TERRITORIAL DELIMITATION: HISTORICAL NECESSITY AND SOCIO-POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE

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Abstract: This article examines the historical essence of national-territorial delimitation, its role in the lives of Central Asian peoples, and its socio-political significance. In particular, the policy of national-territorial delimitation implemented during the Soviet era in the early twentieth century, as well as its goals and consequences, are analyzed. Furthermore, the formation of the territorial structure of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the development of national statehood, and the impact of delimitation on ethnic and political relations in the region are discussed. Based on historical sources, scientific literature, and modern approaches, the relevance of the topic is revealed.

Keywords: national-territorial delimitation, Central Asia, national statehood, ethnic processes, political reforms, territorial administration, Soviet policy, history of Uzbekistan.

Introduction

National-territorial delimitation is considered one of the most important political processes in the history of Central Asia. This process was implemented by the Soviet government in the early twentieth century and aimed to reorganize political and administrative territories in the region according to national criteria. As a result, the territorial boundaries of present-day Central Asian states were formed.

The study of national-territorial delimitation is important not only from a historical perspective but also for understanding modern political and social processes. This is because the territorial divisions created during this period contributed to the emergence of ethnic and political issues in some regions.

The Concept and Essence of National-Territorial Delimitation

National-territorial delimitation refers to the process of defining administrative and political boundaries based on the historical, cultural, linguistic, and ethnic characteristics of peoples living in a particular region. The primary goal of this policy was to establish national republics and strengthen political administration and control.

In Central Asia, national-territorial delimitation was officially implemented in 1924. During this process, the territories of the Turkestan Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic, the Bukhara People's Soviet Republic, and the Khorezm People's Soviet Republic were reorganized, and new союз republics were established.

As a result, the Uzbek Soviet Socialist Republic, the Turkmen Soviet Socialist Republic, the Tajik Autonomous Republic, and other territorial entities were formed. This significantly transformed the political governance system of the region.

The Process of National-Territorial Delimitation in Central Asia

The process of national-territorial delimitation in Central Asia was carried out under complex political and ethnic circumstances. The peoples of the region had historically lived in close economic, cultural, and social interaction.

The division of territories according to national criteria led to numerous disputes and challenges. In several regions, mixed ethnic populations complicated the clear determination of borders. In particular, the ethnic diversity of the Fergana Valley made territorial division highly difficult.

The Soviet government also considered economic interests, transport systems, natural resources, and strategic concerns in the delimitation process. Consequently, ethnic boundaries were not always fully taken into account.



The Socio-Political Significance of National-Territorial Delimitation

National-territorial delimitation had important historical significance for the peoples of Central Asia. First, this process laid the foundation for the development of national statehood. The establishment of Uzbekistan as a separate political entity later created favorable conditions for the emergence of an independent state.

Second, processes of national identity formation and cultural development accelerated. Opportunities for the development of national languages, literature, education, and cultural institutions expanded significantly.

Third, certain negative consequences also emerged. Artificially established borders contributed to territorial disputes and ethnic tensions. Even today, some border-related issues remain important factors in political relations among Central Asian countries.

The Role of National-Territorial Delimitation in the Formation of Uzbek Statehood

National-territorial delimitation played a significant role in the history of Uzbekistan. The establishment of the Uzbek Soviet Socialist Republic in 1924 contributed to the formation of the country's administrative and territorial foundations. This process influenced governance systems, economic development, and national policy formation.

During the years of independence, the Republic of Uzbekistan has focused on strengthening territorial integrity, promoting good-neighborly relations with neighboring countries, and resolving border issues through peaceful means.

In the context of globalization, studying historical experiences deeply remains an important factor in protecting national interests and ensuring territorial stability.

Conclusion

In conclusion, national-territorial delimitation was one of the most complex yet significant political processes in the history of Central Asia. While it created opportunities for the formation of national statehood, it also contributed to the emergence of territorial and ethnic challenges.

Today, studying the history of national-territorial delimitation on a scientific basis and analyzing its positive and negative consequences remain among the important tasks of historical research. Strengthening regional cooperation and peace based on historical experience continues to hold great importance.

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