

FORMATION AND HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF SPORTS IN THE UZBEK SSR**Zokir Ghanisherovich Nurmanov**Second-Year Undergraduate Student, Department of History, University of Information Technologies and Management
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Abstract. This article provides a scientific analysis of the formation and historical development of sports in the Uzbek SSR. The study examines the emergence of the physical education and sports system, its institutionalization within the framework of state policy, the development of the mass sports movement, and the achievement of high-level sports results. It also analyzes the activities of sports societies, the establishment of sports infrastructure, and the system of training sports specialists. The article evaluates the socio-political significance of sports and its role in the life of the republic.

Keywords: Uzbek SSR, sports history, physical education, mass sports, Soviet period, sports societies, sports infrastructure, state policy, competitions, Olympic movement.

Introduction. During the period of the Uzbek SSR, physical education and sports were elevated to the level of state policy. The Soviet government regarded physical culture as a means of improving public health, increasing labor productivity, and strengthening military-patriotic education. Consequently, sports organizations, stadiums, sports schools, and physical culture societies were gradually established throughout the republic.

Beginning in the 1920s and 1930s, the mass sports movement started to take shape in Uzbekistan. In subsequent decades, athletes from the republic participated in both Soviet and international competitions and achieved remarkable results. Therefore, studying the formation and development of sports in the Uzbek SSR from a historical perspective is of considerable scientific importance.

Literature Review. Research on this topic is primarily based on Soviet statistical data, party and government resolutions, official documents related to physical education and sports, and specialized scholarly works. Publications devoted to the activities of sports societies, republican competitions, and the development of sports infrastructure constitute important sources for the study.

At the same time, general studies on the history of Uzbekistan have addressed sports only partially as a component of socio-cultural life. However, there remains a need for a comprehensive historical analysis of the institutional development of sports and its social significance.

Research Methodology. The research is based on the principles of historicism, objectivity, and a systematic approach. Archival documents, official resolutions, and statistical data were examined through source analysis methods.

Using comparative analysis, sports development indicators from different periods were compared. Socio-historical analysis was employed to assess the role of sports in society and its relationship with state policy.

This methodological framework makes it possible to provide an objective and comprehensive scientific account of the formation and historical development of sports in the Uzbek SSR.



Research Results and Discussion. The sports sector in Uzbekistan experienced significant development during the Soviet era. Within the framework of the USSR's development programs and Five-Year Plans, substantial investments were directed toward sports infrastructure. During this period, 8 stadiums, 17 swimming pools, 145 sports halls, 232 shooting ranges, and hundreds of football fields were constructed and put into operation [1].

In 1952, Soviet athletes participated in world-level competitions for the first time. They won 22 gold, 30 silver, and 15 bronze medals. Two athletes from Tashkent also took part in these competitions. Sergey Popov, a former student of School No. 50 in Tashkent, finished fourth in the 100-meter hurdles event. Another representative from Uzbekistan, Galina Shamray, a former student of the Tashkent State Pedagogical Institute, was awarded a gold medal as a member of the victorious gymnastics team [2].

Representatives of Uzbekistan also participated successfully in the XVII Olympic Games, which were held in 1960. At these Games, the USSR national team won 43 gold, 29 silver, and 31 bronze medals. A significant contribution to this achievement was made by the sisters Tamara and Irina Press, who were raised and trained in the republic [3].

At the XX Olympic Games held in Munich in 1972, athletes representing the Soviet Union outperformed competitors from 121 countries and won 50 gold, 27 silver, and 22 bronze medals [4]. Three athletes from Uzbekistan achieved remarkable success at these Games: gymnast Elvira Saadi, volleyball player Vera Duyunova, and Greco-Roman wrestler Rustam Kazakov, all of whom were awarded gold medals [5].

In addition, various sports disciplines developed in Uzbekistan, including fencing, chess and checkers, football, Greco-Roman wrestling, and swimming. Greco-Roman wrestling began to develop in Uzbekistan at the beginning of the twentieth century. Rustam Kazakov became the first Olympic champion from Uzbekistan in this sport.

In 1933, the Third All-Uzbek Spartakiad was held in Tashkent. Its program included competitions in athletics, football, basketball, volleyball, wrestling, and other sports. According to data from 1934, there were approximately 57,000 physically active athletes in the republic. They had access to 18 stadiums, 43 sports halls, and 385 sports grounds. In 1935, the first Physical Education Technical School was established in Tashkent [6].

During this period, chess also developed significantly in Uzbekistan. Chess has long been one of the most ancient and popular games among the Uzbek people. The foundations of the national chess school are associated with Mikhail I. Chigorin (1850–1908) and later with Alexander A. Alekhine (1892–1946). Alekhine regarded chess as an art and devoted his entire life to the game. Throughout his career, he played 1,264 games in official tournaments and matches.

At that time, there were more than 300,000 chess players in the republic, including masters, master candidates, and thousands of first-category players. By the nineteenth century, scholarly studies devoted to chess theory had begun to emerge in the country [7].

Talented female chess players also emerged in Uzbekistan during this period. Among them were Alla Mkrtychan, Sharifa Berdiyeva, Flyura Xasanova, Aziza Rasulova, and Svetlana Pinchuk, all of whom achieved significant success in national and international competitions [8].

By 1920, chess had begun to develop actively in Uzbekistan and in several cities of Central Asia. In that year, the First Central Asian Chess Olympiad was held in Tashkent with the participation of nineteen players. In August 1921, the Second Central Asian Chess Olympiad took place in Samarkand.

In February 1923, a tournament for the Tashkent city championship was organized. Master Freyman won first place, Geyler finished second, and Lichtenstein secured third place. In 1924, a meeting of chess players was held in the old part of Tashkent. During this gathering, a decision was made to replace traditional local rules with internationally recognized chess regulations. The



talented Uzbek chess player Azmiddin Khojayev played a major role in implementing this reform.

In the same year, chess organizations and chess bureaus began to be established within trade unions [9].

The chess movement gained further momentum in Uzbekistan in 1928. In 1929, the first championship among higher educational institutions was held in Moscow, and a team of students from Uzbekistan participated in the competition. By that year, there were approximately 50 chess clubs in Tashkent, where around 1,200 people improved their chess skills. In 1930, the First Chess Championship of Uzbekistan was held in Samarkand [10].

Conclusion. The formation and historical development of sports in the Uzbek SSR constituted one of the important directions of Soviet state policy. Physical education and sports were regarded as effective instruments for improving public health, educating the younger generation in the spirit of military patriotism, and strengthening discipline and social cohesion within society.

Beginning in the 1920s and 1930s, sports organizations, physical culture societies, and systems of competitions were established throughout the republic. In subsequent years, stadiums, sports complexes, and children's and youth sports schools were created, while the training of qualified specialists was systematically organized. As a result, athletes from the republic successfully participated in both Soviet and international competitions, achieving notable sporting accomplishments.

At the same time, the development of sports was carried out within the framework of a centralized administrative system and a planned economy. On the one hand, this facilitated the large-scale construction of sports infrastructure and the expansion of mass sports activities. On the other hand, it limited the opportunities for the independent development of the sector.

Overall, the formation and historical development of sports in the Uzbek SSR became an important component of the republic's socio-cultural life and made a significant contribution to social progress, public health, and the physical development of the population.

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