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"ABDULLA AVLONI'S ROLE IN THE JADIDIST MOVEMENT – HOW HE BECAME ONE OF THE LEADERS OF THE JADIDIST MOVEMENT AND HIS REFORMS."

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Abstract: Abdulla Avloni born in 1878 was one of the leading figures of the Jadidist reform movement in Central Asia during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. As an intellectual and reformist, he played a crucial role in shaping the educational, cultural, and social landscape of Uzbekistan through his involvement in the Jadidist movement. This article explores how Avloni became one of the key leaders of the movement, the reforms he advocated, and the lasting impact of his contributions to the modernization of education and society in the region.

Keywords: Abdulla Avloni, Jadidism, reform movement, education, modernization, social change, Uzbekistan, early 20th century.

Introduction

The Jadidist movement, which emerged in Central Asia in the late 19th century, was a significant intellectual and cultural response to the stagnation of traditional educational and social systems. Rooted in the ideas of modernism and reform, Jadidism sought to integrate the advances of Western education while preserving the unique cultural heritage of the region. One of the most influential figures within this movement was Abdulla Avloni, an educator, writer, and social reformer, whose contributions helped shape the educational and cultural reforms that transformed Uzbekistan. Avloni's advocacy for modernizing education, his dedication to secularism, and his emphasis on intellectual enlightenment made him a central figure in the Jadidist movement. This article examines Avloni's role in the movement, the reforms he introduced, and his lasting legacy in Central Asian society.

Jadidism was an intellectual movement that arose as a response to the perceived stagnation of traditional Islamic educational systems and the influence of colonial powers in Central Asia. The movement emphasized the importance of modern education, science, and intellectual enlightenment. Avloni, born in 1878 in Tashkent, was exposed to both traditional Islamic education and Western intellectual currents, which inspired his commitment to reform. His early exposure to Russian education and his visits to other parts of the Russian Empire contributed to his understanding of modern educational systems. Avloni's decision to engage with the Jadidist movement was a result of his belief that Central Asia's backwardness could be addressed through modern education. He saw the traditional madrassa-based education system as outdated and inadequate to meet the demands of a rapidly changing world.

One of the most significant contributions Avloni made to the Jadidist movement was his role in the reform of education. Avloni believed that education was the key to unlocking the potential of the people of Central Asia and that only by embracing modern methods could the region



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overcome its social and political challenges. He was a staunch advocate for secular education, arguing that education should be separate from religious dogma in order to foster critical thinking and innovation. In 1912, Avloni became one of the co-founders of the "Mahmud Khoja Behbudi" school in Tashkent, which adopted a progressive curriculum that combined traditional subjects with modern sciences and languages. The school was part of a broader movement to establish new schools based on Jadidist principles. These schools emphasized the teaching of mathematics, natural sciences, foreign languages, and critical thinking, all of which were seen as essential for preparing students for a rapidly changing world.

Avloni also published a number of educational materials aimed at promoting the Jadidist ideals of reform. His most famous work, "*Ma'rifat*" ("Enlightenment"), was a call for the spread of modern education, literacy, and intellectual development. His works became fundamental reading for students and educators who sought to bring about a cultural and educational renaissance in the region.

In addition to his work in education, Avloni was deeply involved in social reform efforts. He advocated for the rights of women, believing that the empowerment of women through education was essential for the overall progress of society. His support for gender equality was radical for the time, as traditional Central Asian society placed women in subservient roles. Avloni's commitment to the social reform of women's rights included calls for female education and public participation, both of which were integral parts of the Jadidist vision. Avloni's work was also instrumental in promoting national identity and the use of the Uzbek language. As part of the Jadidist movement's efforts to modernize Central Asia, Avloni emphasized the importance of language in shaping national consciousness. His efforts to standardize and promote the Uzbek language played a critical role in establishing a distinct cultural identity for the people of Uzbekistan, separate from the influences of Russia and other colonial powers.

Conclusion

Abdulla Avloni was one of the most influential leaders of the Jadidist movement in Central Asia. His tireless efforts to reform education, promote modern scientific thought, and advance social change helped shape the trajectory of Uzbek and Central Asian society in the early 20th century. Avloni's advocacy for the separation of education from religious orthodoxy, his promotion of women's rights, and his work in strengthening national identity through language were key components of the Jadidist movement. His legacy continues to resonate today, as his contributions to education and social reform paved the way for the modernization of Uzbekistan and its cultural revival.

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