
CONFERENCE ARTICLE

Socio-Economic Status Of The Amudarya Region

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ABSTRACT

This article analyzes the socio-economic status of the Amu Darya region in the first quarter of the twentieth century. The study examines the impact of the establishment of Bolshevik rule and the implementation of the policy of military communism on agriculture, livestock breeding, irrigation systems, and the overall economic life of the region. Special attention is paid to changes in land ownership, agricultural production, and the living conditions of the local population. Based on historical sources and scholarly research, the article highlights the socio-economic transformations that occurred in the Amu Darya region and evaluates their consequences for the local community.

Keywords: Amu Darya region, socio-economic development, Bolshevik rule, military communism, agriculture, irrigation system, cotton production, land reform, Turkestan ASSR, local population, economic transformation, Soviet policy.

INTRODUCTION

It is natural that the territorial-geographical location, natural conditions, climate, and conditions of peoples and nations in different regions of the world affect the origin and mentality of the population living there. In the history of Central Asia, as in many regions of the world, the socio-economic life, lifestyle, and place and role of the peoples living around the Aral Sea in different periods are extremely important. Therefore, it is an urgent issue to objectively study the processes that took place in this region during this period in the Amu Darya region through historical sources and research. In the period under study, agriculture was the main occupation and source of income in the socio-economic life of the population of the Amu Darya region.

In the first quarter of the 20th century, the strengthening of Bolshevik rule in Turkestan, and in particular in the Amu Darya region, had a negative impact on its economic life as a territorial-economic and administrative-political unit. This can also be seen in the negative consequences of the policy of "Military Communism" implemented in the region. In particular, during this period, the total area of the Amu Darya region under cultivation decreased from 57,950 dessiatines in 1917 to 47,000 dessiatines in 1920; the gross cotton yield decreased from 433,000 poods in 1917 to 88,000 poods in 1920; grain crops decreased by almost 3 times, fodder crops by 3.5 times, and the number of livestock decreased from 500,000 to 201,000 heads [3, - 56 p.]. Also, during this period, 71 percent of the land suitable for farming in the Amu Darya region was artificially irrigated using the chughir method, and out of the 25,000 chughirs previously used in the region, only 9,145 were usable by 1921 [5, - 309 b]. As a result, it can be seen that the decrease in the economic income of the population in the region had a very negative impact on the social situation of the population.

According to the research of the historian R. Balliyeva, by this time the economic life of the region had four main stages, or in modern terms, the state, private, small merchant and patriarchal sectors of the economy. At the same time, the territory of the region was surrounded by deserts and had a sharply continental

dry climate, which, on the one hand, allowed for artificial irrigation of fields, creating favorable conditions for the development of plants [2, - 6 p.].

The economy of the Amu Darya region within the Turkestan Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic (Turkestan ASSR) was sharply different from the economy of the main regions within the Turkestan ASSR in the 1920s in the depressed state of industry and agriculture. During these years, the economic principles of military communism were implemented in the region. Large private houses, factories and land plots were nationalized. In the city of Tortkul, these lands were transferred to the Soviet of National Economy (sovnarkhoz). Small (cottage) crafts played an important role in the regional economy. In 1920, there were 537 craft enterprises. There were mechanical mills in Tortkul and Chimboy, which were also nationalized [4, - p. 178].

At the beginning of the 20th century, agriculture in the Amu Darya region was in an extremely difficult situation. This is evident from the fact that the arable land in 1913 decreased from 62,132 dessiatines to 57,950 in 1917 and 47,000 dessiatines in 1920, and cotton cultivation in the region was displaced by grain and melon crops, with cotton cultivation decreasing by 4 times, grain crops by almost 3 times, and fodder crops by 3.5 times [5, - p. 309].

In the early 1920s, the Council of People's Commissars of the Turkestan Republic (CPC of the Turkestan Republic) took a number of measures to improve the economic system in the Amu Darya region in its own interests. In particular, it was only after the decree was issued on the exemption of cotton growers in the region from the obligation to own horses and labor that cotton growing gradually began to develop. A state monopoly was declared on cotton raw materials and fiber, and private trade in it was abolished.

During the Soviet period, a number of measures were taken to implement a number of works in the agrarian sector in the Amu Darya region. One of these was work on land ownership, and in

1922, 277 landless peasants in Shurakhon and Tortkul districts and the Sariboy volost of Tortkul district were distributed land with a total area of 1,249.5 tanabs. The peasants were given a mandate granting them ownership of the land they cultivated. Preparations for providing land to landless peasants in individual volosts were carried out simultaneously with the regulation of land on a regional scale, and by March 20, 1922, 35 million rubles, although not large in terms of the value of that time, were allocated for these measures [1, – C. 129].

In general, the establishment of Bolshevik power in the Amu Darya region in the first quarter of the 20th century radically changed the socio-economic life of the region. The sharp changes in the region had a negative impact on the social life of the local population, which was previously difficult. At the same time, the situation in agriculture, one of the most important sectors that formed the economic income of the region's population, also deteriorated, and by the 1920s the situation in the region had worsened compared to 1913, which had a negative impact on the lifestyle of the population .

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