

Some reflections on the history of administrative-territorial division in Central Asia

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ABSTRACT

This article, based on various historical sources, highlights changes in the administrative-territorial division of Uzbekistan on the eve of regionalization in Central Asia, the general situation and processes. In particular, it says that national-territorial delimitation will be carried out in the republics of Central Asia, the formation of the Uzbek SSR, the zoning policy in Uzbekistan will enter a new stage, and the Soviet authorities will seriously prepare for the implementation of the zoning policy in Central Asia.

INTRODUCTION

The draft of national-territorial delimitation created by the Central Territorial Commission served as the basis for defining the territory of the new Soviet republics formed in Central Asia. During 1925, the Union government continued to diligently study the above-mentioned draft with the participation of the highest authorities of the republics of Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan, the autonomous socialist Soviet republics of Tajikistan and the autonomous region of Kirghizia, as well as the Central Asian region. Committee on completion. The Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics sent its special commission to the republics of Central Asia, which examined the proposed borders of the newly formed republics on the ground. On May 4, 1925, the All-Union Central Executive Committee reviewed the joint project of the Central Asian Termination

Committee and the USSR MIC Commission on Zoning. This project was added to the project of borders between the RSFSR and the Uzbek SSR, on the one hand, and between the RSFSR and the Turkmen SSR, on the other hand, and submitted for approval to the USSR Central Executive Committee.

As a result of national demarcation, the following territories became part of the Uzbek SSR:

a) From the former Turkestan ASSR: it includes 41 volosts of the Samarkand region, Jizzakh, Kattakorgan and Khojend districts, 24 volosts of the Tashkent and Mirzachol districts of the Syrdarya region, 70 volosts of the Andijan, Kokon, Namangan, Farg regions of the Fergana region and 7 rural communities (Shakhimardan, Vodil, Yordon, etc.)

b) from the former Bukhara SSR: Baysun, Bukhara, Guzor, Karshi, Karmana, Nurata, Shakhrisabz, Sherabad and partially Saryasi districts;

c) From the former Khorezm SSR: 23 shuras (district volosts), which later formed the Gurlan, Novourgench and Khiva districts. The Tajik ASSR, which was part of the Uzbek SSR until November 1929, was formed at that time from several regions of Turkestan and Bukhara. It includes:

a) from the former Turkestan ASSR: 12 volosts of the Samarkand and Khojent districts of the Samarkand region and the Pamir district of the Fergana region;

b) From the side of the Bukhara SSR: almost all of Eastern Bukhara, consisting of the Garm, Hisar, Kolob, Kurgantepa, Dushanbe and partially Saryasy regions [1].

At the time of the initial formation of the Uzbek SSR, its territory was 312,394 km², including the Tajik ASSR - 135,620 km² (the territory of Tajikistan, except for the Khojent region) [2]. By this time, the population of the Uzbek SSR numbered 3,963,285 people (excluding the population of Tashkent), or half of the entire population of Central Asia [3]. In the early period of the formation of the Uzbek SSR, its capital was the city of Samarkand, located in the center of the republic (in February-May 1925, the first capital was the city of Bukhara). In those years, it was appropriate for Samarkand to be the capital of the process of unifying all parts of Uzbekistan into a single whole, activating the work of the Soviet apparatus [4]. After Soviet local governments improved their work and strengthened ties with central government institutions, on September 20, 1930, the capital of Uzbekistan was moved to the city of Tashkent, which is an important economic, political and cultural center not only of the republic, but of the entire region [5].

The Turkmen SSR was formed from the Turkmen region of the Turkestan ASSR, the Cherdzhoy and Karki districts of the Autonomous Turkmen region of the Bukhara SSR, the Kalif district of the Sherabad district, and the Turkmen region consisting of 8 councils of the Khorezm SSR.

The Kirghiz Autonomous Region included the Karakol, Norinsky and Pishpek districts of the Yettisuv (Semirechensk) region (except for 3 Pishpek regions), 14 regions of the Syrdarya region and 38 regions of the Fergana region of the Turkestan ASSR.

The Karakalpak Autonomous Region was formed on the basis of the Amu Darya region of the Turkestan ASSR and three shuras of Khorezm. Administratively, it is divided into 4 districts: Tortkol, Chimboy, Khodjalily and Kungirov districts. The territory of the Kirghiz ASSR [Kazakh ASSR] (formed in August 1920) included from the Syr Darya region of the Turkestan ASSR, Kazalinsky, Okmachitsky, Turkestansky, Shymkentsky districts, the majority of the volosts of the Avliyotinsky district (24), 10 Tashkentsky district and volost, 2 volosts of the Mirzacholsky district; Almaty, Zharkentsky, Lepsinsky, Toldikurgansky districts and 3 volosts of the Pishpeksky district of the Yetisovskiy region; 6 nomadic volosts of the Jizzakh district entered from the Samarkand region [6].

In addition to defining the territories of the newly formed republics and regions in Central Asia, economic (economic) demarcation was also carried out, that is, factories, plants, cultivated fields in the hands of the former republics of Turkestan, Bukhara and Khorezm. Livestock, joint-stock companies, cultural and educational institutions, etc. were distributed among these republics. The Central Asian Liquidation Commission calculated all the valuables in the hands of the former Central Asian republics. On this basis, economic demarcation was carried out. In 1925-1926, in various articles published by him in scientific journals in Tashkent, he touched upon the basic principles that were followed when carrying out economic demarcation. According to him, the population of the newly formed republics and autonomous regions of Central Asia was adopted as the main principle for dividing state property. Real estate (factories, plants, etc.) is divided according to territorial features. Agrobank's targeted loans are distributed according to specific crop areas and types of products. The properties of the raw materials of the raw material preparation shop are distributed according to the number of livestock [7].

The economic restriction was mainly carried out in March 1925. The Plenum of the Central Asian Bureau of the Central Asian Bureau of the Central Asian Committee of the All-Union Communist Party (Bolsheviks) on March 14-16, 1925 discussed the results of economic zoning and, after demarcation, sufficient

materials necessary for the successful development of the national economy of each new republic noted that it has resources and an economic base [8]. The economic construction of the national Soviet republics and autonomous regions of Central Asia should develop on the basis of this economic base. In 1924-1925, the main branch of the national economy of the Uzbek SSR was agriculture, which employed 85 percent of the republic's population. Uzbekistan received 1 million 195 thousand dessiatines [9] of irrigated land [10]. About 10 million poods (almost 70 percent) of the 14.2 million poods of cotton grown under the Union in 1923-1924 fell to the share of Uzbekistan. The fertile valleys of Fergana and Zarafshan, Samarkand, Bukhara, Khorezm and most of Tashkent were cotton fields. Fergana, Tashkent, Samarkand, Bukhara and other regions of the republic were famous for their gardens, vineyards and cocoons.

The Uzbek SSR also had grain and livestock regions. After the national-territorial demarcation, almost 2 million 600 thousand heads of 10 million 321 thousand heads of livestock registered in Central Asia were transferred to Uzbekistan. On this basis, livestock breeding, especially cattle breeding, was further developed in Bukhara, Samarkand, Kashkadarya and Surkhandarya. The livestock regions annexed to Kazakhstan occupied first place in terms of livestock numbers [11].

The industry of Uzbekistan consists of 185 factories and plants with a total gross output of 106.9 million rubles, which was the share of the republic. These enterprises employed 8.7 thousand workers (35 thousand people, including local industrial enterprises). The leading sectors of the economy in the period under review were still considered to be the cotton ginning (39 plants) and food (35 plants) industries. The policy of zoning and national-territorial demarcation, carried out in Central Asia in late 1924 - early 1925, was closely linked to the administrative division of the Uzbek SSR. Since June 1924, the activities of the Central Asian Zonal Commission, created under the leadership of I. Magidovich, have intensified.

At its meeting on December 28, 1924, the Revolutionary Committee of the Uzbek SSR established the Zoning Commission of the Uzbek SSR under the State Planning Committee. The commission, chaired by the head of the Central Statistics of the USSR Vasiliev, included the organizational department of the Revolutionary Committee, the State Planning Committee, the NKVD, the People's Commissariat of Land Affairs, the Water Management Department. Representatives of the People's Commissariat of Finance, the People's Commissariat of the Workers' and Peasants' Inspection of various commissariats and departments were included, and he instructed them to develop the administrative division of his SSR. After the formation of the Uzbek SSR (February 1925), the representative of the organizational department of the Revolutionary Committee was replaced by a representative of the organizational department of the Central Executive Committee of the Soviets of the Uzbek SSR [12]. At its meeting on January 13, 1925, the Central Revolutionary Committee of the Uzbek SSR considered the issue of the administrative separation of Uzbekistan and made the following decision:

"1. The question of administrative division should be considered justified.

2. Create a commission with the participation of the following representatives: Rubinstein from the NKVD, Davlat Rizaev from Khorezm and a representative of the Main Statistical Administration of Bukhara and Khorezm to collect all materials in the hands of the authorities of Bukhara and Khorezm and complete the administrative division of the SSR.

3. Let this commission be instructed to issue its conclusion together with the zoning commission.

4. Let the commission complete its work within two weeks" [13]. Within the specified period, the administrative commission of the NKVD and the zoning commission of the State Planning Committee prepared a draft of the administrative division of Uzbekistan and submitted it for approval to the Revolutionary Committee of the Uzbek SSR.

It is known from history that the Uzbek SSR was formed from three republics: Turkestan, Bukhara and Khorezm, which had their own specific system of administrative division. The

Turkestan ASSR into regions, counties, volosts and village councils; Regions, districts, cities, regions and village elders of the Bukhara Republic; The Khorezm Republic was divided into regions, districts, shuras and elders. The diversity of the administrative system in the newly formed republic made it difficult to organize the management and regulation of the national economy. To eliminate these obstacles to the development and progress of the republic, it was necessary to establish appropriate measures and take measures. At the same time, in the first days of the formation of the Uzbek SSR, the task was to implement the only way of administrative division of the republic. It was necessary to achieve such an administrative division that would bring the Soviet apparatus closer to the working masses. On this basis, on January 29, 1925, the Presidium of the Central Committee of the Uzbek SSR adopted a preliminary decision, which laid the foundation for the introduction of a single system of administrative division throughout the territory of Uzbekistan. It was decided to unify the administrative division throughout the territory of Uzbekistan. As a result of this decision, from March 1925 until the new zoning, the following division was in effect in the Uzbek SSR. It was necessary to divide the entire territory of the republic into regions (governorates), districts, volosts and village councils, as was the case in the former Turkestan ASSR. As already mentioned, on the basis of this decision, 23 districts, 7 regions consisting of 240 volosts were formed in the Uzbek SSR: Tashkent, Fergana, Samarkand, Zarafshan [Bukhara], Kashkadarya, Surkhandarya and Khorezm regions and the Konimekh Autonomous Kazakh Region. [14]. During this period, there were 1,163 village councils on the territory of the Uzbek SSR[15].

At that time, the division into regions was temporarily preserved in the Tajik ASSR, which was part of the Uzbek SSR. In 1925, the Tajik ASSR consisted of 7 regions (Garm, Dushanbe, Kolob, Kurgantepa, Gorny Badakhshan, Penjikent, Oratepa), 39 districts or volosts, 63 cities and had 4,603 villages. Of particular importance in organizing and strengthening the work of governing bodies and the further development of the republic was the introduction at the end of January 1925 of a single system of initial administrative division in the Uzbek SSR. However, the steps in this area were preliminary, they were not strict and complete. Because at this stage of regionalization, the diversity of various sectors of the national economy of Uzbekistan and the economic life of the republic were not yet fully taken into account [16]. Therefore, such initial zoning of the Uzbek SSR could not satisfy the growing political and economic needs of the newly formed republic. Moreover, in 1925, a unified zoning policy had not yet been fully implemented in the Central Asian republics neighboring Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan, and even in the RSFSR.

The administrative and economic division of Uzbekistan in accordance with the zoning of January 1925 did not fully take into account the mutual economic ties, political and cultural development of some regions. During the zoning, many village councils and volosts were located too dispersedly, various errors and confusions were made in determining their boundaries. Often, the administrative region and the economic region did not correspond to each other [17]. According to archival documents, in the Zarafshan region, there were 25 villages (populations) per village council territory, with 6,050 residents living in each. The situation was even worse in the Kashkadarya and Surkhandarya regions, where some village councils had 80-90 villages [18]. For example, in the Sultanabad village council of the Zarafshan region, there were more than 90 villages [19]. Such an administrative division did not meet the needs of the rural population and complicated the work of the lower Soviet apparatus with the workers.

During this period, the provisional government of Uzbekistan created a special committee for national minorities living in the territory of the republic. This commission, created on December 13, 1924 under the Revolutionary Committee of the Uzbek SSR, included 3 people, including Akhmadbek Mavlombekov (chairman), Bogoda (deputy chairman), Aronson (member of the commission and executive secretary) [20]. This committee was renamed in honor of the First Constituent Congress of Soviets of

the Uzbek SSR. It was transformed into the Central Commission for National Minorities under the Central Executive Committee of the Soviets of the Uzbek SSR. The Central Commission was granted extensive rights and powers. As a result of the commission's activities in the first months after the formation of the Uzbek SSR, the management of some special districts, for example, the Konimekh district, whose population is predominantly Kazakhs and Karakalpaks, was carried out directly by the Central Executive Committee of the Uzbek SSR [21]. The Kanibadam district of the Fergana region was under the jurisdiction of the executive committee of the Fergana region. The Presidium of the Soviets of the Central Executive Committee of the Uzbek SSR adopted a special decision on this issue on April 15, 1925[22].

On July 31, 1926, the Presidium of the Central Executive Committee of the Soviets of the Uzbek SSR heard the report of the Central Commission for National Minorities[23]. On August 14, 1926, a decision adopted based on this report ordered the regional executive committees to conduct business in the language of the local population living in such areas for a month, to produce reference books and various business papers in these languages, the police, finance, village councils and other departments were tasked with communicating with the population in these languages. Regional and district executive committees were ordered to issue various appeals, petitions, decisions and other documents issued to the population in the language of the population living in these regions[24]. As a result, many national village councils were created in Uzbekistan. Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars of the Uzbek SSR Faizulla Khodjaev in his report to the III Congress of Soviets of the Uzbek SSR spoke about the deficit of the national budget, and in the part of the report entitled "The situation of small nations", he spoke about it as follows: Tadi: "Even if we do not talk about Russians and other European nationalities, the Tajiks are the main small nation living within the borders of Uzbekistan; then there are the Kazakhs, Kyrgyz, Uighurs, Arabs and the local Jewish population... Over these years, the Tajik ASSR has managed to quickly raise its national economy with the help of Uzbekistan and the Union. The construction of the Termiz-Dushanbe road should further enhance this growth and open up new prospects and opportunities for Tajikistan..."

The creation of a district called the Khojand region, the fact that affairs in this district are conducted in the Tajik language, can serve as an example of service to other small nationalities, as well as Tajiks within Uzbekistan (Uighurs, Arabs, Russians and other regions) and an example of this can be the creation of about 300 national village councils" [25]. Thus, in 1925-1926, much attention was paid to the preparation and implementation of the last stage of zonal policy in the republics of Central Asia, including the Uzbek SSR. At the Second Congress of the Communist Party of Uzbekistan (Samarkand, November 22-30, 1925), it was said to seriously study the existing regions of the republic and carefully develop a regionalization plan. It shows that the economy is lagging behind in some remote regions of Uzbekistan (Khorezm, Surkhandarya, Kashkadarya, Tajik ASSR): "Many economic, domestic and political reasons (the separation of these regions from the rest of our republic, the lack of roads) prevent these regions from successfully developing along the path of socialism" [26]. Since the spring of 1926, organizational work in the field of zoning of the Uzbek SSR became increasingly intensive.

The Chairman of the Presidium of the Central Executive Committee of the Uzbek SSR (since February 17, 1925) and a member of the Zoning Commission of the Uzbek SSR (since July 16, 1925) shows its necessity and its difference from the old departmental division and how zoning is carried out in Uzbekistan. The following comments by Yu. Okhunboboev on previous and subsequent cases of zoning are noteworthy:

"One of the shortcomings of the departmental structure in the old days was that the place where the state courts of the departmental or district center were located was not built according to the economic center (market) of this place. We have villages that are located outside the departmental structure in such a way that they consist of 5-6 villages, and

even if they have only one source of water, these villages themselves are divided into two districts.

One of these cities will be the economic center (i.e. the market), and the other - the administrative center (the government court) ...

Zoning cannot be done from above ...

Small countries are also given broad rights in the field of regionalization. For example, in many places where Kazakhs, Tajiks, Uyghurs, etc. live, national village councils and national districts are created ...

The work on zoning is done and carried out so that our workers and farmers can live peacefully and peacefully, develop their economy in a new way and live in such a way as to get a lot of harvest without much effort [27].

In short, after the formation of the Uzbek SSR, the issue of zoning was put on the agenda as a pressing political and economic issue. Despite the fact that during this period, along with the newly formed Soviet republics of Central Asia, a number of changes were made in the administrative division, they did not meet the requirements of the time, the economic situation and political changes. The first administrative division of Uzbekistan in January 1925 was not without errors and confusion. A similar situation developed in the sphere of economic and economic zoning. That is why serious preparations were made for the last stage of zoning in 1925-1926 in the Uzbek SSR along with all the Central Asian republics.

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