

# ESTABLISHMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN UZBEKISTAN SSR (1925–1927)

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## ABSTRACT

*This article covers the organization and activities of local government bodies of Uzbekistan from regional, uyezd, village soviets in the Uzbekistan SSR. It analyzed the role of local Soviets in the movement "land-water reform", "Hujum", carried out by Soviet power. The electoral system in the local government area, their structure has been revealed.*

**Keywords.** *local Soviets, Region, District, village, electoral system, armed movement, Soviet power, land-water reform, the "Hujum" movement, uyezd, volost, "Qo`shchi", OGPU (Unified State Political Administration), revolutionary committees, executive committees, basmachi, "alien elements".*

## 1. Introduction

In 1925, the Uzbek SSR was divided into 7 regions and a separate Nurota uyezd. The regions are divided into 32 uyezd, and the uyezd is divided into 312 volost. As a result of the national-territorial borders implemented, the territories, which make up the majority of the population of the Uzbeks, were not included in the composition of the Uzbek SSR. And the Bolsheviks realized the goal of becoming Central Asia, and this policy made it easier for them to manage this region in the future. Because there were borders between separate republics, in each of them a separate system of asylum was formed, in which if a problematic situation arose in one republic, it would not spread to the whole region, but would be solved within the framework of that Republic.

Declaration on the establishment of the Soviet Socialist Republic of Uzbekistan" was adopted at the first constituent Congress of the All-Russian Soviets on February 17, 1925. At this Congress, the central governing bodies of the Uzbek SSR were formed. The supreme legislative and supervisory body was established as the Central Executive Committees of the Uzbek SSR. Yuldash Akhunbabayev was elected its first Chairman. At the head of the Faizulla Khodjaev was organized by the Executive power of the Uzbek Soviet Socialist Republic - the Council of People's Nazirs.

## 2. Main part

On March 15, 1925, Tajikistan ASSR was declared as part of the Uzbek SSR. Its composition included almost all the regions of Eastern Bukhara, consisting of 12 volosts of Samarkand and Khujand uyezd of the former Samarkand region and Pamir Rayon of Fergana region, Garm, Hisar, Kohlab, Kurgantepa, Dushanbe, and partly Sariasian regions of the former Samarkand region, from Turkistan ASSR [1].

The local government bodies of the Uzbekistan SSR consisted of regional, uyezd, volost, and city Soviets and their executive offices, and in the villages-village Soviets. In this respect, the system of local government in the Republic was the same as the system in Turkistan ASSR. To the newly formed republic, there were many problems for the formation of local government. The armed action against Soviet power in Kashkadarya, Khorezm, and other regions of Uzbekistan SSR, the legal basis for the establishment of local Soviets, the issue of personnel, the bad economic situation in the lower Soviets, and other similar problems can be said. Practical actions were taken by the centre and the leadership of the Republic to solve the above issues.

The Soviet government, as in previous times, tried to constantly take full control of the territories in which the armed action against them was ongoing, and this issue was on their constant agenda. He used various supervisory bodies and methods to formulate and obscure local government bodies in these areas. The Unified State Political Administration (OGPU), founded in the 1923 year, was one of such bodies.

OGPU also analyzed the activities of Soviet governing bodies at the end of the struggle against Soviet power.[2; 560] As a result of the observations and analysis of the organization, it concluded that Soviet power in the villages does not exist at all. Because in many villages occupied by the cowards at this time, civil and military power was directly exercised by them. In such territories did not apply the rules ranging from those introduced by Soviet power. Representatives of Soviet governing bodies on the ground were elected nominally, except for. Another of his

role in the liquidation of the armed movement by the OGPU is that he constantly studied the social origin of workers in Soviet rule.

The issue of determining the existence of "alien elements" in the management personnel was considered a priority task. That is, in the Soviet administration, methods of purification were used as an "alien elements" from the rank and office that occupied them as much as possible to take into account the dangers of former officials and to prevent them from having relations with the basmachi. For example, according to OGPU in December 1925, 60% of the members of the "Qo`shchi" union were rich in the Samarkand region's Kattakurgan uezd. In the Surkhandarya region, the chairman of the "Qo`shchi" union is also one of the officials of the former emir and is registered as he contacts the "basmachi" [2; 721-722].

At the same time, on March 11, 1925, the Soviet government sends to the regions of Kashkadarya and Surkhandarya, where the armed movement continues, a special commission with broad powers to clean up the rural Soviets from groups that recognize them as helping the rich, mullahs and the armed movement [3; 58]. During his activity, the commission inspected the organs of the lower Soviet of the above regions and carried out cleaning work from "alien elements", as they were told in the Bolshevik sight there.

On September 23, 1925, the IV plenum of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Uzbekistan considered the issue "work devoted to the current state and prospects of improving the work of Soviets in Uzbekistan". In it, the party entrusted the authorities with the unification of citizens from batrak to the middle layer around the Soviets and the mobilization of all forces to counter the violence of the rich, the rapprochement of the lower Soviet apparatus with the peasants.[4; 1925 September 29]

Another reason why the local Soviets did not work stably was the material condition of these offices, especially the volost executive branch and the rural Soviets, which were subordinate bodies. As stated in the previous paragraph of the study, the budget of the rural Soviets was not available. They were financed from the uyezd budget account, which also received salaries from the chairman of the volost presidium and the village council. To ensure the material independence of these offices, which were directly in contact with the people and were the main base for their deviation from the Soviet government, and to increase their loyalty to the Soviet government on account of granting them more powers, the organization of budgets of volosts as an experiment began in Turkistan ASSR from the 1924 year. By 1925, there were only 6 volosts: the Kokandkishlak, Asaka and Chortok volosts of the Tashkent region's Piskent, Chinoz, Gayibota, and Fergana region had their budget. The government of the Uzbekistan SSR appoints the number of such volosts to the people's Commissariat for financial affairs. But, due to the economic situation, only in all respects well-formed volosts are instructed to organize budgets [5]. Then this issue will also not reach the end. Because as a result of the economic zoning of Uzbekistan, the volosts will be liquidated, and in the Republic will be formed a three-stage system of administrative management: Regional, rayon (district), city and village soviets.

Before the adoption of the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan SSR Central Executive Committees approved the "regulation on village soviets" on December 16, 1925, and the "guide on elections to Soviets", which will define the electoral system of Uzbekistan SSR to determine the legal status of local government bodies[3; 69].

According to this provision, the following citizens living in the territory of the Uzbekistan SSR have the right to elect and be elected::

1. workers and servants employed in the state, society, private offices and institutions, industry, trade, agriculture;
2. military and personnel of the Red Army, Navy, state political department(GPU), worker-peasant militia;
3. peasants engaged in agriculture who do not use the labour of others;
4. craftsman, who also works on his own, the owners of Mills, the owners of Metallurgical shop;
5. retailers who have received a patent for the first category.

The following persons were deprived of the right to elect and be elected: 1) persons who receive benefits as a result of the work of others, 2) persons who live in income they find without labour (judges), 3) officials of the old system of governance, 4) mentally unhealthy persons, 5) All Religious servants(Mullah, Imam, Monk, etc.))[3; 69].

Analyzing the above rights, we can say that if the Soviet government gave electoral rights to representatives of Trade, Industry, crafts, they were still limited to Rich, large landowners, judges, and representatives of the religion.

The Central Election Commission of Uzbekistan established under the Central Executive Committees Uzbekistan SSR NOC determines the composition of local government bodies according to the decree on elections to the Soviets as follows: district executive bodies up to 25 - 35 people, uyezd executive bodies up to 15-25 people, volost executive bodies up to 7-15 people, the praesidium of the village Soviet was formed from 3-5 people [6].

The local elections, held in the 1925 year, were distinguished by two important features. In the first elections to the village soviets, mainly peasant, poor and middle-class representatives took part, and 23,9% of the electorate, 35,7%

of the low-land peasants, and 37% of the representatives of the middle-class[7]. This was a good result from previous election campaigns. Secondly, Soviet power gave electoral rights to middle-class people, and they became the central figurehead of peasants in the village.

Now the main focus of the Bolsheviks lay not only on the dictation of the poor, as in previous years, but also on the formation of the dictation of the middle-class peasants and workers. This is because, first of all, the Soviet government came to the idea that not the poor in the state, but the middle-class people should occupy the main place, and this was one of the main conditions for the ideology of socialism. Secondly, the Bolsheviks wanted to promote the fact that the worker in the city and the peasant in the village belonged to the middle class and to show the people that all people live well.

Directly looking at the electoral process, in April and July of 1925, elections to local Soviets were held in Jizzakh, Samarkand, and Mirzachul uyezds. Elections were held in 39 village soviets and volost soviets in Mirzachul uyezd. 30% of the representatives of the middle class took part in the elections. In the Jizzakh uyezd elections, 83% of peasants and 17% of urban residents were elected as part of the uyezd executive branch, up to 56% of urban residents were elected. 52% batracks, 18% low-income peasants, and 30% of middle-aged people have elected in the village soviets of Samarkand uyezd [8].

50% of local Soviets were renewed in the elections held in the Fergana region[9]. A total of 9589 deputies were elected to the village soviets, which was three times more than in the previous elections [2; 1926 February 5].

The first stage of land-water reform was held in the Turkestan SSR in 1921-1922 years. After the establishment of the Uzbek SSR, the second stage of land-water reform was held by the Soviet government. In the second session of the Communist Party of Uzbekistan in November 1925, the political leadership of the Republic stated that "until now, private ownership of the land preserved in the villages is one of the feudal attitudes, and 1/3 of all arable land in the hands of a group of landowners and rich-ear elements in the cities and villages has led to goes on." In the emergency session of the USSR on December 2, 1925, the decree "on the nationalization of land and water" and "on the reform of land and water" were adopted. These documents remained the normative basis for the mandatory implementation of land-water reform [10].

This reform was carried out in 3 stages, depending on the conditions and the level of preparation in the areas. The first stage was in Fergana, Tashkent, Samarkand regions in 1925-1926. At the second stage, land-water reform was carried out in the 1927 year in the Zarafshan region (Bukhara and the Middle Zarafshan districts). The third stage was carried out in 1928-1929 in the districts of Kashkadarya, Surkhandarya, Khorezm. Based on the adopted description, more than established lands, working animals, and labour weapons were seized. The lands and entire property of the rich, large merchants, scribes, and other owners were confiscated. As a result of the conducted land-water reform, the Bolsheviks put the people of different strata in the villages against each other, during the time of the fast-growing company, not only large landowners but also middle-class peasants were seized by land. As a result, protests against this reform were held in places, many people joined the ranks of representatives of the armed movement. On August 1, 1928, by the decision of the Communist Party of the Uzbekistan SSR, the lands of the waqf were also liquidated [11; P 71].

To carry out this reform, the service of the local Soviets and the Union "Qo`shchi" was widely used. The Union of "Qo`shchi" was formed in the 1919 year in the place of the committees of the poor, who served to strengthen Soviet power in the ASSR of Turkistan and to impregnate the ideas of the Soviet government to the people in the villages. During the land-water reform, the union was engaged in tasks such as the identification of large landowners in the villages, participation in the confiscation of their land, the unification of the confiscated land to the landless poor peasants-peasants-the poor, poor peasants, charikar (who work for 1/4 of the goods) and the middle class, controlling the non-inclusion of a layer of "alien elements" in local soviets, conducting propaganda work among the local population against the armed movement. By the end of 1926, the number of members of the Union "Qo`shchi" increased by 120,7 thousand people or by 51.5 per cent compared to the beginning of the same year [11; P 76].

After the establishment of the Uzbek SSR, the issue of increasing the role of women in society was firmly established. In this respect, their role in local government bodies has also increased. Women's clubs, artels, schools, meetings, conferences began to be held in the districts, cities, and villages. Women participated in the land-water reform as a promoter. The liberties given to the women brought about changes in the mahalla system. For example, in 1926, the women's Department of the Old City of Tashkent demanded the inclusion of a representative of the women of this mahalla in the composition of the Mahalla Commissions. So, for the first time in the elections to the Mahalla Commissions, women began to participate [12].

Also in the village soviets, the ranks of women increased. For example, if in 1925 6,4 per cent of women were a member of these Soviets, by 1926 this figure increased by 12,8 per cent or two [11; P 53].

During this period, there were many problems and difficulties for the local Soviets.

For example, Fayzula Khujaev, the chairman of the Council of People's Nazirs of the Uzbekistan SSR and Yuldash Akhunbobayev, the chairman of the Central Executive Committees of the Uzbekistan SSR, in 1925, in a special document prepared by the results of the inspection of the lower Soviet offices in Zarafshan and Kashkadarya regions, stalled on the issue of personnel: "the situation of the lower soviet organizations are in our Soviet apparatus, there are not enough trained personnel. Not only central and high but also there is no current contact with the uyezd and oblast organs. The main drawback of the lower soviet organization is the lack of material supply [13; P 148].

Also, in Nanai volost, the uyezd of Koson (now Kosonsoy), the local soviet administration worked in a very difficult situation. He had no reputation among the peasants. The staff of the commission, who examined this territory, will give the following information: to the local Soviet apparatus neither the farmworker nor the teacher. No one is interested in cooperatives and markets. The situation with the Uychi volost is even worse, here the Soviet power is much weaker. Although there was re-election, a moderate illiterate person presided over him. The hardware is completely in bad condition. The "Qo`shchi" union does not stay from him either. In volosts, moderate peasants were not involved in the Soviet apparatus at all. They were not involved not only in Soviet offices but also in the ranks of cooperative organs and troops. Soviet organizations have come to a situation where the orders of the top are executed dry, but there is no live connection with the poor and peasants. Also, protests against everyday life to Soviet institutions begin [13; P 137].

### 3. Conclusion

In conclusion, it can be said that as a result of the policy of national-territorial borders in Central Asia, the Soviet government achieved its set goals. These consisted of a solid foundation for the non-establishment of a single Turkistan state, the non-proliferation of the armed movement against them in Kazakhstan and other places outside the territory of Central Asia, the termination of the possible protests in the republics against the Bolshevik policy within the framework of a separate republic, etc.

After the establishment of the Uzbek SSR, problems in local government bodies were preserved. These are armed actions, class struggle, economic problems, lack of personnel, etc. The Soviet government and the Communist Party took various measures against their elimination, as in the Turkistan ASSR, BXSr, and XXSR. But these did not give the desired effect. The reason for this was the continuation of the national liberation movement in the region, the lack of support from some segments of the local population for the wrong policy of the Soviet government (land and water reform, injustice in the electoral system, injustice in society, attitude to the religion of Islam, etc.), the severity of the economic situation on the ground, etc.

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