

On the Trade Relations of Uzbekistan during the Years of Soviet Authority

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ABSTRACT

The years of Soviet power in Uzbekistan occupy a special place in the history of our country. This period, although historically short, is distinguished by its complexity, full of contradictions. During this period, although Uzbekistan was a part of the Soviet Union, it was developing economically and culturally. Trade grew in our country during that period as well. Since the 20s of the 20th century, a number of economic reforms of the Soviet state ensured the development of the domestic market and the rapid development of industry in the country. The article analyzes some points about the state of trade in our country at the same time.

The national economy of the Turkestan region was experiencing unprecedented destruction and famine as a result of the First World War and the October coup. The decline of agriculture was exacerbated by the 1917 crop failure. At this time, only 52 million bushels of grain were grown in the whole country. However, the need for grain was 111 million poods. The devastation did not spare the industry either, as a result of the decrease in industrial production and the import of industrial and food products from Russia, prices were constantly increasing.

The economic policy of the Bolshevik regime aimed at the loss of private property, total control over the national economy, and at the same time working not by economic methods, but by administrative orders, deepened the destruction caused by famine.

The Soviet government implemented emergency economic measures in 1918, which went down in history under the name "policy of military communism". On the surface, this policy appears to be aimed at providing food to a starving population. In fact, this policy is aimed at the direct exchange of products between the city and the countryside outside the market, but this event is carried out with economic and military violence. aimed at providing food to the working class, which had a support. The policy of "Military Communism" reflected the old Marxist vision that, with the victory of the proletarian revolution, the "law of value" would lose its importance, as well as the end of commodity-money relations and the market, to be replaced by direct product exchange.

The results of the "Military Communism" policy quickly showed themselves. The introduction of this policy led to the collapse of the country's centuries-old economic system. This forced the Soviet government to reconsider its economic policy. In 1921, a new economic policy (YaIS, Russian. NEP - Novaya ekonomicheskaya politika) was adopted. The important aspects of the

new economic policy were: replacing the food tax with a food tax, trade liberalization, allowing private entrepreneurship in industry, service and small crafts, and market regulation [5.256-257]. This meant the partial use of mechanisms of market relations.

In the process of implementing the new economic policy, deep contradictions were revealed. This was clearly visible in Turkestan. Cooperation has played a significant role in Turkestan agriculture. The establishment of strong economic relations between tens of thousands of separate peasant households and industry should help improve the material condition of peasants and provide enterprises with the necessary raw materials. In the early years, credit cooperation became more popular in Turkestan [8.15]. Lending in rural Turkistan was one of the weakest sectors at that time. That is why usury and trade capital took the main position here.

Other types of cooperatives were also popular in Turkestan. For example, in 1923 there were 877 different cooperatives here, which employed 155,500 people [8.16].

In connection with the transition to the new economic policy, the bodies engaged in the commercial preparation and sale of agricultural raw materials began to be established. Among such trade and economic structures were the Union of Press Societies of Turkestan (Turksoyuz), the Union of Turkestan Cotton Growers and others. They exchanged products using market mechanisms to the best of their ability. For example, in accordance with the decision of the Turkestan State Committee on October 19, 1921, Turksoyuz was given the right to exchange products within the republic, as well as with other regions of Russia, using any of the forms of exchange, such as natural and mixed exchange, buying and selling products with money.

In November-December 1922, Turksoyuz bought 100,000 meters of raw soap, 560 bags of tableware, 2,500 pounds of iron, 569 samovars, 195 bags of window glass, and 60 pounds of aluminum containers from the Nizhegorod fair.

The Deputy Chairman of the Turkish Commission, V. Kuybishev, entrusted the Foreign Trade Department with the centralization of all calculations related to this field, financial support of the operation to be carried out, and other tasks. Therefore, trade affairs in Turkestan were concentrated in the hands of Turkkomissiya, which is managed by the center.

In the early years, the commercial work in Turkestan was carried out by prestigious state organizations such as "Tsentrokoj", "Tsentroperst", "Glavkhlopkom", "Turktekstil", "Turkkhlopkom", and then the preparation, transportation and sale of raw materials were integrated into one system.

In his speech at the 1st Economic Conference of Central Asian Republics in Tashkent on March 5-9, 1923, F. Khojaev stated that the economic income and wealth of Bukhara before the revolution came mainly from trade. The trade turnover of Bukhara at that time was 45-50 million gold soums [5.258]. That's why he demanded more attention to trade.

Because local agricultural products were worthless compared to purchased industrial products. Such "inconsistency" of prices brought farmers to a dead end and seriously undermined their ancient values. For example, in 1919, 36 arshins of chit or 88 pounds of iron could be obtained for the money received from the sale of 1 pound of cotton, while in 1923, only 10 arshins of chit or 39 pounds of iron could be bought for this money [5.262].

Most of the industrial products sent from the center were of poor quality. As a result, rural workers were given worthless products in exchange for the part of the valuable agricultural raw materials grown in the "matlubot cooperative" that they had to produce for the state after paying the food tax. The villagers were obliged to receive these goods because they had signed contracts in advance. According to the participants of the Turkestan MIK plenum held in July 1922, as a result of this action, "the peasant became an organization that takes away products from the peasant society and uses his labor" [1.362].

On January 11, 1924, the Council of Labor and Defense established the Central Asian Commercial Bank. His duties included:

- ✓ providing loans for cotton production in the republics;
- ✓ to provide them with factory-factory products of the USSR;
- ✓ Implementation of internal commodity exchange in TASSR, Bukhara and Khorezm republics.

A distinctive feature of the new economic policy was the revival of commodity-money relations, the liberation of the classic forms of trade and exchange from the restrictions typical of "military communism". Free trade began to develop in 1921 and quickly became an influential engine of the economy. Its recovery was helped to some extent by the monetary reform carried out in 1922-1924. The state put an end to disturbances in money circulation, currency - chervonets was issued for circulation. As a result, the domestic market and the purchasing power of the population began to recover. In connection with the opening of markets and fairs, a network of banks was formed, and credit and insurance services were established. At the same time, the state put obstacles to the free development of the economy and the strengthening of the position of groups of entrepreneurs. The conflicts that arose as a result of "disagreements" between them weakened the possibilities of new economic policy reforms and emerging new commodity-monetary relations. The economic revival that occurred in Turkestan at the beginning of the 20s of the 20th century covered the entire industry, crafts, and agriculture, and found its expression in commodity-money relations. As early as 1924, the total volume of product turnover was one million soms. The number of retail trade enterprises has exceeded one thousand. In the economic year 1924/25, the share of the state and cooperatives in the field of wholesale trade was 59.4 percent, 48.4 percent of the total product turnover [1,365].

Mediation and trading companies, artels established on the basis of private capital came under strict ideological control.

The positive side of the realities of the new economic policy was that the state's relationship with private capital, tenants, various district property owners and farms was established through taxes. But even in this, the class approach prevailed. Private trade owners were often heavily taxed, and the free activity of entrepreneurs was completely restricted. This can be seen in the example of Khorezm People's Republic (XSR). Here, in 1922, 90 percent of local trade volume was still in the hands of private traders. The leaders of the national government of Khorezm tried to conduct independent domestic and foreign policy. The Soviet government in Russia strongly opposed the authorities of the USSR in this regard. The Soviet power exerted serious pressure not only politically, but also in the economic sphere and created artificial obstacles. Despite this, the government of Khorezm tried to establish independent trade relations with Western and Eastern countries. On July 29, 1922, in a new economic agreement with the RSFSR, the Khorezm Republic gained the opportunity to conduct trade relations with foreign countries. S.Safoev, the autonomous ambassador of the trade representative of the USSR at that time, M. Madyorov, the commercial director of the trade representative Yu.

When Russian companies lowered the price of purchased cotton, the First Secretary of the Central Executive Committee of the PRC, the supervisor of Khorezm Cotton Company, Hanif Kaniev, and the supervisor of trade and industry of the PRC, Muhammadrakhim Nurullaev, in order to raise the purchase price of cotton and, on this basis, increase the income of farmers, introduced free trade in cotton trade, that is, a new economic policy. they demanded to conduct trade on the basis [4]. However, by the instructions of the center, H.Kaniev and M.Nurullaev were accused of being "enemies of the people" and sentenced to death.

The Republic of Khorezm initially tried to establish trade and economic relations with such countries as the RSFSR, the USSR, Turkestan ACCP, Finland, Sweden, Germany, Turkey,

Afghanistan, and Iran. However, in Article 6 of the agreement concluded with the RSFSR on June 29, 1922, it was specifically noted that Khorezm could establish trade relations with foreign countries only with the permission of the Russian government [4]. In this way, the USSR gained the opportunity to establish foreign trade relations, but these relations were directly controlled by Russia, and a trade representative office of the USSR was established in Moscow.

The first trading partner of the USSR in Western Europe was Finland. "Transbaltic" trading company was chosen from among the big Finnish companies of that time as an intermediary and partner in the implementation of trade operations with Western European countries. "Transbaltic" trading company was quite famous in the West and had its branches in countries such as England, Germany, Denmark and France. Trade relations with "Transbaltik" soon began to bear fruit. Product exchange between Khorezm and Finland began to grow steadily. Finland, with the help of the Western European market, Khorezm began to meet the needs of its domestic market for finished products. In 1923-1924, the Republic of Khorezm exported cotton, alfalfa seeds, cowpeas, woolen products, local handicrafts, wheels, fish products, local watercolors, etc. to Finland and through it to Western countries. But the dissolution of the USSR put an end to the developing trade relations.

Even in the People's Republic of Bukhara, which was established on October 6, 1920, the Bolsheviks tried to divert all economic, social and political changes to the interests of Russia. For example, according to the "Union Treaty" concluded with the RSFSR on March 4, 1921, it was determined that the Republic of Bukhara will carry out foreign trade only through Russia. Nevertheless, the government of the Republic of Bukhara offered Russia an exchange of goods. In the initial period, 122,915 pounds of cotton, 1,387 pounds of wool, and 47,432 pieces of black leather will be exported from BXSr. In return, one million arshins of gas, 10,000 pounds of metal, 47,829 pounds of kerosene and oil, 8,216 pounds of coal, and one million pounds of matches were brought to Bukhara from Russia [2.197].

In 1923, according to the decision of the Republic of Bukhara, a commodity-stock exchange was established, where 14 different goods were exchanged. However, over time, this partnership began to be given an increasingly political tone by Soviet Russia. This situation caused a sharp protest of the government of the USSR. The head of the government F. Khojaev repeatedly asked the Russian leaders about the need to establish equivalent goods for the goods supplied by Bukhara [2.199].

The Soviet government did not approve of the positive actions carried out independently by the government of the head of the Republic of Bukhara, F. Khojaev. Therefore, Bukhara was directed to the flow of socialist development by the will of the leaders of the Center. As a result, state control of trade increased dramatically. State intervention in the life of Bukhara society was carried out on a large scale.

One of the important results of the changes brought about by the new economic policy was a significant change in the supply of food to the population. Free management of the economy and the restoration of commodity-money relations boosted entrepreneurship, albeit a little. Changes in the social condition of the city's population were also noticeable. However, the purchasing power of the villagers was very low.

The processes related to the development of trade did not happen at once. The owner of private property was squeezed out even from those areas where his interests were inevitable. However, in our country, trade has been the pride and traditional sphere of activity of the local population.

The struggle against the private sector in trade was carried out mainly through the strengthening of state and cooperative trade during the years of the New Economic Policy. During this period, "Uzbeksavdo" became the main promoter of state trade in the city, and "Uzbekbirlashav" appeared in the countryside [6.46].

The new economic policy made it possible that in the second half of the 20s of the 20th century, the variety of food and industrial goods increased in their import. If all of this is evaluated with a slight increase in the purchasing power of the population, it is not difficult to notice that there have been some positive changes in its standard of living.

When the Second World War began, one of the most difficult tasks was to put the economy on a military track. As in the whole country, food and industrial goods have decreased sharply in Uzbekistan. War brought people to severe trials and sufferings.

As soon as the war began, food supply to the city population began to be carried out on a "card" basis. Workers and servants received only 400-500 grams of low-quality bread per day. Standardized distribution was also introduced in the sale of meat, fish, oil, cereal, pasta to the population. But he was often late [6.48].

Normative distribution was not applied to the rural population at all. Villagers used to buy food products from Matlubot cooperative stores according to the established norms depending on the amount of products handed over to the state. There was a limited annual allocation of industrial goods per person: 6 m of yarn, 3 m of wool, 1 pair of shoes. As the population's demand for shoes was not met, the people of the village walked barefoot or made the simplest "handmade shoes".

In order to ensure the material conditions of the townspeople, workers and servants were allowed to grow products on their farms. During the war, the wages of workers and servants were increased. However, the depreciation of the currency increased rapidly. The black market grew stronger (in Soviet times, such a market was called a speculative market), and as an inevitable consequence of this, prices rose sharply, and goods and products were exchanged.

The state has adopted an overtly punitive policy to combat the "disordered market" without taking measures to improve the supply of the population. In January 1943, a special directive of the State Defense Committee suggested that even the exchange of food parcels, clothes for bread, sugar, matches, flour, etc., should be considered an economic threat. Article 107 of the "Criminal Code" (speculation) began to apply again, as in the late 20s of the 20th century [3]. At the same time, special allocations and salaries for employees in a large number of nomenclature were preserved. In the post-war period, all efforts were directed to the restoration of peaceful life, adapting the economy to peaceful life. A distinctive feature of this period was the combination of long-term planning with the five-year plan. In these plans, Uzbekistan performed only the role of auxiliary supplier of raw materials.

After the 1950s, the establishment of international relations in Uzbekistan was controversial. Dependence on the center, the absence of its own external political state institutions became a serious obstacle to the healthy manifestation of these relations. This was especially evident in the economic sphere.

The dangerous decrease in agricultural production was manifested not only in Uzbekistan, but also in the entire Soviet Union. As a result, by the mid-80s, a standardized supply of a number of food products was introduced in the USSR, including Uzbekistan, that is, cards appeared.

Consumer goods purchased by rural residents were purchased through the state cooperative ("Uzbekbirlashav"), and their prices were set at an additional 15-20 percent higher than in urban areas [3]. On the contrary, the agricultural products sold on the basis of mediation through press shops were sold at much lower prices than the products of the collective farmers. For example, in the city of Karshi and Kashkadarya region by the beginning of the 80s, this difference was 33-38 percent for vegetables, 18-20 percent for beef, and 22-26 percent for milk.

Thanks to the benevolent attitude of the local leadership in Uzbekistan, half of the vegetables and meat, 66% of the milk, 30% of the eggs, and 60% of the wool were grown in private farms.

Most of the products grown on private farms were handed over to the state.

Taking into account the stagnant state of agriculture and its inability to provide products, the leadership of the union tried to satisfy the needs of the population by buying food and grain from abroad. In 1982, a special food program was adopted in the USSR. However, this program did not lead to fundamental changes. As a result, by the mid-1980s, standardized supply of several types of products was introduced in Uzbekistan, as in the USSR. More cards appeared.

In general, Uzbekistan, with its multi-sectoral economic expertise, occupied one of the most prestigious positions in the system of relations with the USSR's CIS (Council for Mutual Economic Assistance) countries.

In the 1960s and 1970s, the change in the socio-political situation had a positive effect on the strengthening of international stability. This helped to strengthen the trade and economic cooperation of the USSR with the countries of the free world. This had a positive effect on Uzbekistan's trade relations with foreign countries. During these years, Uzbekistan ranked third after Russia and Ukraine among the allied republics in terms of the volume of export products. For example, in the 1950s, Uzbekistan exported its products to 32 countries of the world, and in the early 1980s, it established economic relations with almost 90 foreign countries. But Uzbekistan's foreign economic relations were under the control of the Ministry of Foreign Trade of the USSR and other union organizations.

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