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# THE PROBLEMS OF ELECTRIFICATION OF TURKESTAN ON THE STATISTICAL EDITIONS AND LITERATURE (20–50th YEARS OF 20th CENTURY)

**Abstract**: The article is devoted to the problems of electrification of Turkestan on the base Soviet period's statistical editions and literature (20–50<sup>th</sup> years of 20<sup>th</sup> century). The author describes in detail their main content in a historiography perspective. Also are given extensive information about the electrification of the region in the first stages by the Soviet political and economic administration. Economic backwardness and also the industrial stagnation of Turkestan did not make it possible to gain success in the field of electrification of the region.

Key words: Turkestan, electrification, GOELRO plan, Central Asia, industry, economy, statistical editions, literature, engineer, workers.

Language: English

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# Introduction

In the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, the development of global science and technology boards, and the acceleration of globalization processes had a positive impact on the accelerated socio-economic development and urbanization. The power industry has provided the necessary conditions for the development of the technical and technical competences of the economic and industrial ties, strengthened by the economic ties.

During this period the Soviet economy were: 1) the patriarchal, i.e. the main part of the natural farmer; 2) the development of small-scale retail products mainly by the farmers' market; 3) private economic capitalization; 4) state capitalization; 5) socialism, described by social-economic forms [1, p. 32].

## Materials and methods

At the first quarter of XX century problem economic power and electrification of Turkestan was published by a number of statistical publications, annals and official reports

The report of the First Congress of the Turkestan Economic Council (TurkEKOSO) (1922) contains

both valuable materials and information about the industry and electrification of the country. For example, "Toshtram" has tram electric station and Turkestan is a serious enterprise under conditions of absolute reliability" [2, p. 27].

Statistical editions and official documents, which published in various years provided many information about the state of the electrical industry (1921), economic zoning of the country, the social security of the industry workers and indicators about the industry [3-9, p. 27].

Particularly, the number and structure of the workers in electrotechnical industry in young Soviet Union was behind in 1920 than 1912 industry [10, p. 28]. All workers in 1912 were 400 thousands, but 1920 they number were consisted only 250 thousands.

This situation is typical for Turkestan, and is one of the major obstacles to the development of a highly qualified engineer-technical staff. There were a number of reasons for doing so, first and foremost in the country by a true professional. This was primarily due to unfair wages. In Turkestan the engineer earns 20-40 thousand rubles per month, while the driver of



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the car earns more than twice much in a day [12, p. 211]

"It is not right for the engineer to serve as a coachman for the feed the family. – wrote the author of that period. – Also to work the good locksmith as odd-jobber is very unnatural. Without the participation of businessmen it is impossible to build industry, modernize the economy, also electrification. Engineer, professor, locksmith and in general good specialist must to earn more than is coachman" [12, p. 211].

The order of construction of electric and industrial facilities in Turkestan, the share of industrial and electrical facilities in Turkestan is detailed in the Statistical Bulletinof Central Asian national economy [13, pp. 1-23].

Based on the documents and materials for the 1918–1920 period, the Soviet authorities began to prepare materials for electrification of the national economy, beginning with the first months of the Revolution, which continued during the interventions and the years of civil war and ended with the famous with GOELRO plan in 1920 [14]. The regime of the Soviet Union praised it as a perspective plan of the national economy.

Official Decisions on electrification of Turkestan (April 25, 1922), Central Electrotechnical Council (CEC) Strong Power Section (July 31, 1923), and about Electrification of Khorezm Irrigation work by Commission on Central Asia Bureau of State Planning Committee (February 29, 1924) is also of great importance on the study of the problem [15, pp. 542-547].

The Decision on electrification of Turkestan by April 25, 1922 focuses on the electrification of cultural centers, emphasizing the need to use existing facilities and rebuild old irrigation systems, develop a country electrification plan, and establish a special energy sector under the Turkestan State Planning Committee [16, p. 542].

L.V. Fomina's article dedicated to the implementation of GOELRO plan and the status of industrial electrification during the period of 1921–1925 years based on statistical data, and in 1918–1921/22 electrified 10.6 million rubles in four years. In 1924/25 it was shown that this amount was 117.3 million rubles [17, p. 62].

The statistical collection on the economy of Central Asia states that in 1913 the country produced 5.8 million kilowatt-hours of electricity, but and in territory of present Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan the electricity is not produced [18, pp. 67, 70, 74]. In 1913, the capacity of the power of electricity stations were 3,000 kilowatt, the produce were 3.3 million kilowatt-hours, and in 1924/25, these figures

increased by 8,500 kilowatt and 15 million kilowatt-hours respectively.

In total, in 1921–1990, over 5,000 monographs, brochures and articles were published in the USSR on electrification and energy policy of the Soviet state, of which 70 monographs were historical-party and 190 were in historical context; defended more than 100 candidate and doctor's theses [19, p. 9].

Initially, the electrification plan in Turkestan was made and developed by the under the leadership of well-known economists and engineers such as, G.K. Rizenkamf, V.V Aleksandrova-Zaorskaya, V.M. Buzinova, V.D. Jurin, A.M. Estifeev, E.E. Skornyakov and their lectures contain valuable material [20, p. 37].

Also, G.K. Rizenkamf's large work summarizes the results of many years' research by many Russian scientists, engineers, irrigators and hydraulic engineers who studied irrigation in Turkestan in 1910–1918 [21, p. 147].

G.M. Krzijanovskiy, B.A. Alexandrov's works contain detailed information about the contents of two software sections (A and B) of GOELRO plan, electrification of railways, the achievement of pre-war electrification, and the construction of more than 30 district power plants in 10-15 years [22-23, p. 153].

"The science in Uzbekistan during 25 years" ("Nauka v Uzbekistane za 15 let") issue, published in 1939, also addresses the issues of energy development that mistakenly stated that electric stations coincided with the beginning of the tram route in Tashkent (1914) [24, p. 147].

B.A. Desyatchikov's series of electrification dates back to the late 40's and early 50's that electrification of Uzbekistan is an integral part of the whole Soviet Union's electrification plan. But also to incorporate the whole of the Soviet Union, including all republics, provinces and districts, into a single electrification plan [25-28].

A.V. Vinter's research work describes in detail the history of hydroelectric electric stations in Russia until the 50's. At the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century (1913), the Russian Empire recorded 17 per person less electricity than the United States and 6 times less than Germany[25-28, p. 4].

# Conclusion

Historical historiography, starting in the 1920's and early 50's, compared the general shifts in electrification, not based on historical and socioeconomic laws, the statistics of foreign countries advanced in electrification, but was evaluated with the great differences between the empire and the Soviet period.



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