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QR - Article

SOI: <u>1.1/TAS</u> DOI: <u>10.15863/</u>TAS International Scientific Journal Theoretical & Applied Science

JIE

p-ISSN: 2308-4944 (print) **e-ISSN:** 2409-0085 (online)

Year: 2020 Issue: 05 Volume: 85

Published: 30.05.2020 http://T-Science.org



OR – Issue



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THE ELECTION SYSTEM IN TURKESTAN KRAI AT THE BEGINNING OF XIX - AT THE END OF XX CENTURY

Abstract: The article discusses the reform of the electoral system after the Russian Empire's occupation of Turkestan, the adoption of electoral projects, the emergence of problems in the election of candidates and the involvement of the local population in the elections.

Key words: Concept of elections, candidates, polling stations, volost elections, requirements for candidates, participation of leaders in elections.

Language: English

Citation: Boltabaev, B. S. (2020). The election system in Turkestan krai at the beginning of XIX - at the end of XX century. ISJ Theoretical & Applied Science, 05 (85), 879-881.

Doi: crossef https://dx.doi.org/10.15863/TAS.2020.05.85.165 Soi: http://s-o-i.org/1.1/TAS-05-85-165

Scopus ASCC: 1202.

Introduction

UDC 330

It is known that in 1867, after the Russian Empire colonized the region, a decree of governing the region was adopted. Initially, the Russian administration relied on the support of indigenous peoples in the management of rural and urban areas, i. e. local candidates were nominated to the elections. This was done by the local people, and at the same time the elections were held in a completely free state, all the heads of government were replaced by people in the volost and kolkhoz administrations, elected by the local people, and why were the elections held in a completely free and fair manner and chosen from respectable people? Because the administration did not understand the local government, customs and traditions. Unfortunately, such operations have been carried out in the governance of the region for many years, and this has led to many problems, mainly for elected leaders, who have been nominated from the city administration, and in some cases have been elected by the local people. It is clear from the current election that they have served in the people's government in a fully systematized manner. The main reason for this is that the election of one or the other candidate was carried

out in a completely different way. This took place as follows [1. CSARUz f.1 1.27 w.1533 p.10]:

- 1. Search, protection and purchase
- 2. The influence of the authorities on the general election of leaders and the electorate
 - 3. Personal virtues, family origin and authority.

According to Article 131 of the project, a candidate for the position of volost governor is elected at the volost session with the participation of the district head. These sentences do not give any legal rights, but the representative of the district administration had a direct impact on the election, it revealed coincidences of large size [2. CSARUz f.1 1.27 w.1533 p.12].

The main conclusion of the idea was that the participation of the county leader in the elections is undoubtedly good, but it was contemplated whether the participation of the general free voters in the elections would be beneficial or detrimental.

In the 1874 draft note the following was stated: "What are the reasons that prevent high-ranking county leaders from participating directly with the public, or from exploring areas in one county?"

From the above, it can be seen that the alienation of the language, religious beliefs, and customs of the masses, lack of knowledge of the Russian language was very useful for the Russian government, and therefore it would have benefitted high-ranking



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district leaders to learn to the local language. Another major reason is that high-ranking officials' knowledge of the local language increases the trust in the government, as well as decrease attention paid to interpreters. It prevents translators from abusing their position, which have caused the injustice, the inappropriate candidates, and the poverty and hardships to the local people. Therefore, all members of the commission agreed to maintain a free electoral system. In addition, paragraph 90 of the draft election law states that all elected officials (displaced from Russia) are not subject to any legal or judicial penalties by order of the Government and the community. They are also not subject to corporal punishment [3. CSARUz f.1 1.27 w.1533 p.12].

It is known that in the formation of the Turkestan Governor-Generalship at that time there was a constant hesitation in appointing people to the local government, and, apparently, the questions asked at the time were not answered immediately.

What actually benefits the work most, the people elected to the local government or the people elected by the Russian administration? It was demanded that the Russian administration take the charge to solve the issues of investments, the influx of Russian life and the development of its statehood, which require a free and fair election.

There are two opposing views in paragraph 131 of the electoral system in the administration of Turkestan, which has been occupied for many years: 1) The leaders for volosts to govern the Turkestan Krai are elected by the local people; 2) The ones positioned by the governing authorities. From this it can be concluded that 3 candidates will be nominated for the governorship of the volost and 2 of them will be appointed by the authorities [4. CSARUz f.1 1.27 w.1533 p.10].

Thus, the commission unanimously appointed the current 1867 draft election without any changes from paragraphs 85 to 99, i.e. by the administration of the people's appointments, but this was done voluntarily. In general, these pages provided detailed information about the elections and were published in a fully understandable way. It can be seen that there was no need for any further changes: the whole region adopted to a new regime and their methods and customs have been mastered by the local people.

Based on many years of experience, the Commission considered that in general administration the laws from the articles currently cited as additions and from the decree adopted in 1867 did not

completely interfere with each other. [5. CSARUz f.1 1.27 w.1533 p.11]. In order to achieve their goals, the officials added the paragraphs 92 and 94 of 1867 in their favor in order to take absolute responsibility for their interference in the elections.

In addition, village aksakals are appointed for 3 years. Housewives, widows and everyone should take part in this election. Persons under the age of 20 shall not be admitted to the polling station. Aksakals must be at least 25 years old. Candidates for aksakal are recruited from 100 village secretaries and church guards. The village aksakal was paid between 50 and 300 rubles a year. Nominees served for free. Village secretaries(mirzos) were paid between 150 and 500 rubles. At the time, fewer elderly people were registered as candidates. If more than half of the participants in the meeting vote in favor of the candidate, they are considered truly elected. All work was carried out by voting [6. CSARUz f.1 1.27 w.174 p.13].

Candidates are elected at volost meetings. In this case, 1 volost governor and 1 volost secretary(mirza) are elected for each volost. The volost court consists of 4 elected judges, elected to the volost. Frequent meetings are held to organize the election process. Initially, meetings are organized in rural areas, the main reason for which is to get new ideas. Votes cast at volost rallies are considered on a legal basis. In the volost elections, the votes were counted as 100% if 1 person received 50% of the votes. The views of party members were not taken into account in solving small and large problems. Candidates cannot withdraw their candidacy voluntarily if they do not pass one election. In the second stage, they can withdraw their candidate by protesting [7. CSARUz f.1 1.27 w.174 p.14].

Judges are elected at village meetings. The disagreement between the judges is determined by the volost aksakal. The volost aksakal received salaries of 200, 250, 300, 350, 220, 120, 120, 180, and 150 rubles from his assigned area. Volost secretaries(mirzo) were paid 400, 600, 480, 600, 480, 240, 245, 400 rubles. Judges work without pay. The chairman of the volost court received 1 ruble for each meeting he chaired. The chairman of the court is elected by the citizens' assembly. If the aksakal of the volost was illiterate, his work was done by the volost writer. The volost is considered valid only if there is a two-person advisor to the farmers. The volost court will consider cases worth up to 100 rubles. The volost court is authorized to detain for 7 days and impose a fine of up to 30 rubles. [8. CSARUz f.1 l.27 w.174 p.14].



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