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FERGANA EVENT OF THE SOVIET RECONSTRUCTION POLICY

Abstract: This article provides information connected with the protests in the allied countries, social severe presence of the national conflict, its causes and effects in Uzbekistan during the last years of Soviet government.

Key words: Soviet government, Fergana, national conflict, reconstruction (restructuring) policy, economic retardation, social situation.

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Introduction

The difficult socio-economic and socio-political situation in the Soviet government in the late 1980s led to protests against the regime in the allied national republics.

The economic backwardness was combined with the need to revise the internal relations of the USSR, focus on the fate of nations, and grant sovereignty to the republics. The impact of the reconstruction process on public consciousness led to the democratization of the state's religious beliefs and religious people. In particular, religious life and religious groups in Uzbekistan were revitalized, and the activities of the Central Asian Muslim religious administration radically changed.

The emergence of the People's Front in the Baltic Countries, as well as their slogans on giving the national language status to their languages, made a great influence on Uzbek intellectuals. To that time, socially and politically independent organizations emerged in Uzbekistan. Some members of Tashkent intelligentsia joined the Aral Sea Rescue Committee. Several members of this committee on November 11, 1988 organized “Birlik” initiative group. Researchers admit that

“Birlik” organization is similar in origin and activities to Baltic People's Front. [1: 15-27-p].

During the years of reconstruction in Uzbekistan, there were no ethnic conflicts or fights.

In the different spheres of State governing bodies the number of non-local representatives exceeded the number of local representatives. In the industrial and other cities, there was a large number of European representatives in the governing bodies. Nevertheless, there was no ethnic conflict during the reconstruction years because there was no aggressive nationalism in the psychology and worldview of Uzbek people, moreover they had increased respect and esteem for other ethnic groups and nations. No national conflict arose during the governing period of the Soviet Union. Even the Law on giving “The Status of State Language to Uzbek language” dated from 1989 [2] was written in a very lenient way. The separate articles of the current Constitution of Uzbekistan [3] also include a provision that the languages of other nationalities living in the republic of Uzbekistan should be respected and developed.

The disagreement between the Meskhetian Turks and the locals in the Fergana Valley was an artificial provocation, it was not an indication of aggression of local people against the other nationalities. On the contrary, the governing center was interested in increasing artificial inciting national hatred in Uzbekistan to mislead the public. Analyst of the events in Fergana H. Bobobekov showed that the main cause of this event was the poor socio-economic situation and, as a consequence, the tension between them increased year by year. [4] The media, which was

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closely linked to the center, sought to make the event as a national one.

According to a well-thought-out plan of some forces interested in aggravation of the situation in the country a social conflict of non-national importance was shown as an interethnic conflict. Over a hundred ethnic groups lived in Uzbekistan during the Soviet period, and the Uzbeks lived in peace and harmony with them. However, some researchers try to interpret the ethnic conflicts, which were the result of social problems, as a conflict in the spirit of nationalism. [5] It is natural that there is a sense of instinctive nationalism among all nations.

In June 1989, the social conflict among the population of Fergana region which is known as "Fergana Event" or "Fergana tragedy" was stamped and interpreted as the ethnic conflict between Turks and Uzbeks at the center and became the cause of sensation.

In order to provide the security of state borders during the Second World War, the Meskhetian-Turks were resettled to the interior parts of Georgian SSR, as well as to the Central Asian Countries such as Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan, according to an absolutely confidential document №789 issued by the State Department of Defense from July 24, 1944. [6:16-p]

According to the population census of the Soviet Union in the 1989, 207,500 Turks lived in the USSR. [7:22-p] More than 90 percent of them were relocated from Akhalsikh, Adigen, Akhalkalak, Aspindz and Baghdad areas, the five administrative districts of South Georgia on the border with Turkey in the former USSR. These were the historic provinces of Georgia, where the Meskhetians inhabited. For this reason, the population of these areas is known as the Meskhetian-Turks or the Turk-Meskhetian.

In 1956 the Meskhetian Turks were brought under the administrative control, but never returned to their homeland. In the 50-60s of the XX century a small number of the Meskhetian Turks migrated to Azerbaijan and the North Caucasus, but most of them stayed to live in Central Asia and Kazakhstan. In 1989, the largest number of them lived in Uzbekistan, that is, 106.3 thousand Turks based on the census. [8: 113-p.] Of these, 43.2 thousand Turks lived in Tashkent region, 18.5 thousand in Samarkand, 18.7 thousand in Syrdarya, and 13.6 thousand in Fergana (during Fergana Event the number was recorded about 17 thousand) [9: 22-p], about 5 thousand in Andijan, 3 thousand in Namangan, 1.5 thousand in Bukhara. [10]

According to the Fergana population census in 1989, the number of total population was 2142000, from them 1735,000 Uzbeks, 123800 Russians, 114500 Tajiks, 43,600 Kyrgyzs, 22,700 Tatars, 13,600 Crimean Tatars and Turks. [11:100-p]The non-Uzbek population was located in Fergana. The

Uzbeks, the majority of the population, lived in Margilan and Kokand

The Meskhetian Turks in Uzbekistan were mainly concentrated in rural areas, in the areas near the provincial and district centers. Most Turks, mainly in Tashkent and Syrdarya regions, were engaged in agricultural production, as well as in industrial and construction works in Samarkand and Ferghana Valley. You can see that there was a small number of intellectuals among the Meskhetian Turks. Intellectuals were mainly teachers, doctors, engineers and workers. In many regions the majority of Meskhetian Turks received the highest income from their lands and agriculture, in comparison with other ethnic groups living in Uzbekistan. They were also rarely seen in the lower ranks of party management in the government.

In 1988, the reconstruction process began to manifest itself in Uzbekistan. In the country, especially among Uzbek intellectuals, there was a press release on corruption, abuse of government and restructuring of the "Gdlyan case", environmental problems, including the Aral Sea tragedy, which led to serious changes in the social consciousness of the population. The publications on these topics proved that most of the people of Central Asia lived in a difficult situation.

The tragic poverty of Central Asia and the rise of socio-economic problems at the same time caused the discontent of the intelligentsia over the resolute and weak activity of the existing government of the UzSR in solving these problems.

The First President of the Republic of Uzbekistan I.Karimov wrote about the reasons of conflict of Uzbek and Meskhetian-Turkish people, who lived in a mutual and peaceful co-existence for fifty years. I.Karimov wrote: "The events in Fergana and subsequent ones gave rise to distrust among people of different nationalities. Who started it? I am convinced that the center of these incidents is outside the country. A critical situation of the allied republics in the period of transition to the market relations is necessary for someone. Under such circumstances, it is possible to intervene into their internal affairs at any time and to resolve the issue in any direction." [12]

According to the sources, 103 people were killed and 1009 injured during the June events of 1989, 137 of them were servicemen. In addition, 650 homes were burned down and over 100 cars set on fire. Several hundred people were detained and prosecuted. 5661 firearms were confiscated from the population. 4981 Meskhetian Turks, including 1765 children, were evacuated by plane to the refugee camp. [13 : 66-p.]

According to the commission of the Central Committee of Uzbek SR, 103 people were killed, 52 of them were Meskheti-Turks, 36 of them were Uzbeks, 1011 were injured, 137 servicemen of internal troops and 110 police officers were injured,

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757 houses, 27 state objects, 275 vehicles were plundered. [14]

According to the information given by B. Dziov, the Deputy Chief of the Main Executive of Criminal Investigation of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the USSR, 106 people were killed by the end of July. [15] According to the USSR Prosecutor General Office in the late 1990s, 112 people were killed and 51 were Turks. [16] According to the investigation group at the end of July, about 2,000 were involved in the violations, of which about 600 were active. At the beginning of October 1989, 225 people were arrested, 41 of whom were imprisoned for premeditated murder. In December 238 criminal cases were launched. [17] At the end of 1990 364 people were persecuted, [18] 408 people were taken to administrative prison. [19] In 1991, the court issued a sentence to about 100 people, two people were sentenced in a special order. 250 criminal cases were sentenced to 5 years. In total, 420 people were considered guilty. [20]

On June 23, 1989 in the 14th plenum of the Communist Party's Central Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan R. Nishanov was elected as a Chairman of the All-Union National Council of the USSR, in connection with the fact that he was dismissed from the post of First Secretary of the Communist Party of UzSSR, Islam Karimov was

elected to the position of the First Secretary CP of UzSSR. [21] Under the influence of the party, 124 people were taken under severe penalties. The Minister of Internal Affairs of Uzbekistan U.S. Rakhimov, the Head of the Department of the State Security Committee of Fergana region N.G. Leskov and the Head of the Department of Internal Affairs of Fergana region S.Yu. Burkhonov were dismissed from their positions. [22] At the beginning of 1991 year more than 90 thousand Turks left the territory of Uzbekistan.

The occurrence of these events is supported by another researcher as following: "The State Security Committee and other forces outside the republic were involved in these tragedies, by this way the center wanted to show that without their control and assistance the population of the UzSSR or any other republic of the USSR could be easily exposed to irregularities, disorders and violence". [23: 154-15-p.] In the photos of Fergana events the people who were dressed in national clothes actually were people of other nationalities not Uzbek ones. [24]

CONCLUSION

The center used these methods in order to keep its power and protect its interests. Nothing could stop the center in achieving their goals even the violation of the rights and interests of other nations.

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