

## Reforms Implemented as Result of the Cotton Singleness Policy in the Surkhan Oasis

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**Abstract:** *This article is devoted to the study of the reforms implemented as a result of the cotton monopoly policy in the Surkhandarya oasis and their socio-economic, ecological and political significance. The work mainly analyzes the impact of the centralized policy aimed at cotton cultivation in the Surkhandarya region of Uzbekistan during the Soviet Union in the 1920s and 1930s, its consequences on the economy, ecology and living standards of the population. The changes in the agricultural structure as a result of the cotton monopoly, the excessive use of water resources and the environmental problems that led to the Aral Sea tragedy are of particular interest. At the same time, the reforms implemented during the years of independence to eliminate the negative consequences of this policy, in particular, economic liberalization, agricultural diversification and improvement of local governance systems, are considered. The study will scientifically examine the impact of cotton monopoly on socio-economic processes in the Surkhandarya region, as well as the role and significance of reforms in the development of the region.*

**Keywords:** *Cotton monopoly, Surkhandarya oasis, reforms, economic liberalization, environmental problems, Aral Sea, agriculture, socio-economic development.*

As one of the southern regions of Uzbekistan, the Surkhandarya oasis plays an important role in agriculture, in particular in the field of cotton cultivation. The policy of cotton monopolization implemented during the Soviet era had a profound impact on the economy and social life of the region. This policy changed not only the structure of agriculture, but also the ecological balance and living standards of the population. Excessive emphasis on cotton cultivation led to serious environmental problems that led to the mismanagement of water resources, a decrease in soil fertility, and the Aral Sea tragedy. During the years of independence, the government of Uzbekistan implemented a number of reforms to mitigate the negative consequences of cotton monopolization and diversify the region's economy. These reforms played an important role in ensuring economic stability in the Surkhandarya oasis, solving environmental problems, and improving the well-being of the population. The situation of Uzbek farmers in the process of implementing reforms by the Soviet government to develop cotton farming, land and water reforms related to the processing of raw cotton, and the analysis of processes related to the seizure of land and property from the local population are important issues of historiography.

From the first days of the October Revolution, the Soviet authorities abolished private property and adopted the Decree "On Land". Private ownership of land was abolished, and agriculture was managed through "Land Committees". Economic backwardness, the emergency power system of government, and the military regulation of economic management as a result of the transition to the "Policy of Military Communism" created serious difficulties in the lives of the local population. The constant increase in labor obligations associated with the cotton monopoly, the arbitrary and violent policy of the Soviet government in the supply of cotton raw materials on the basis of the Center's instructions, led to discontent among the population and a struggle against the existing system. During the Civil War,

irrigation and land reclamation work in the Surkhan-Sherabad oasis was disrupted, many water structures were destroyed, the flow of ditches and canals was almost reduced, and most of the irrigated land became unusable in the agricultural sector. During the Civil War in the 1920s, excessive labor obligations in the field of cotton cultivation dramatically changed the people's attitude to farming and irrigation work. As a result of the abolition of private ownership of land and water, the irrigation system, which was the basis of cotton supply, was disrupted, and the work of cleaning canals and ditches was abandoned. After the Civil War, irrigation and land reclamation work, which was considered important for cotton crops, was restored in the Surkhan-Sherabad oasis, and as a result of the establishment of collective farms for cotton cultivation, special attention began to be paid to this area. At the time of the national state's demarcation, only 63,000 desyatina of irrigated land in the Surkhan-Sherabad oasis was cultivated for cotton crops.<sup>1</sup>

during the collectivization of agriculture, which took on a great tragedy during the Soviet era, the forced exile of peasants who were "kulaq" with their families to foreign lands, and an objective and truthful study of the terrible consequences of such a policy are of great importance today.

collectivization of agriculture, which took place in the 1920s-1940s, took place in Surkhandarya region under unique and difficult conditions. Because this region, unlike other regions of the republic, did not experience the colonialism of Tsarist Russia, and the Soviet regime was established in the 1920s and had its own characteristics, including socio-economic, cultural and demographic processes. In these conditions, collectivization, earmarking and deportation campaigns had their own impact. However, no research was conducted on this historical process during the Soviet era, and neither the need nor the necessity for this topic was felt during the Soviet period.

1925, the Soviet government established the Surkhandarya district in order to meet the demand for cotton, allocating 62,129 thousand desyatinas of land to it. Of this land area intended for cotton cultivation, 52,5 thousand desyatinas were suitable for irrigation. At the time of the district's establishment, the average area required to meet the demand for cotton was 2.72 desyatinas per plow, 9.49 desyatinas per baron, 2.3 desyatinas per hoe and bel, and 1.70 desyatinas per sickle.<sup>1</sup> Since 1925, due to the land and water reform of the Soviet government, practical work has begun in the Surkhan oasis to quickly restore the irrigation system by means of



hashar, build new water structures, and improve water supply in order to increase cotton-growing areas, based on the plan of the Center's instructions. Due to the favorable conditions for agriculture in the Sherabad district, the establishment of cooperative associations began to accelerate from April 1, 1926, and the economic power of cotton, fruit, and vegetable farms increased. In order to meet the demand for cotton from central industrial enterprises, intensive attention was paid to the urgent construction of industrial enterprises for primary cotton processing, the construction of roads for timely delivery of cotton to factories, and the commissioning of cotton-gathering sites. As a result, in 1924-1927, the construction of the Sherabad-Termez, Sherabad-Denov, Sherabad-Guzor stone roads began, and attention was also paid to local industry.<sup>2</sup> In 1928, a bridge was built across the Karasuv River. In total, by the beginning of 1928, Sherabad had 318 different There were craftsmen in such crafts as weaving, weaving, shoemaking, blacksmithing, confectionery, and pottery. By the end of the 1920s, 51.2% of the

total population of Sherabad was experiencing severe hardships due to open poverty. In the early years, when there was no opportunity to develop new lands to increase cotton cultivation, the Soviet government tried to plant and harvest cotton crops by seizing the lands of well-off and middle-class peasants and forming a free labor force with the help of poor peasants. Even the local rich and middle-class peasants, who understood the unfair policy of the Soviet government in cotton cultivation, voluntarily handed over their lands to the Soviet government free of charge, because otherwise they would have voluntarily handed over their property to the Soviet government in order to avoid repression or exile. For example, the son of a wealthy man from Sherabad, A. Toqsaboyev, is one of them. Many educated and honest people expressed their desire to participate in this matter<sup>3</sup>. However, the Stalinist plan to build socialism, which intensified since 1926, had a hard time in the Surkhan oasis, as in other places. Many representatives of local nationalities and activists were arrested and slandered, or tortured and exiled to other places. Especially during the purges, there were people who were almost in the spotlight, real hard workers, and self-sufficient people. were subjected to cruel punishment. In their place, representatives of foreign nations who were considered reliable at that time were brought. Norboyev Tursun, a truly educated man from Sherabad, who knew the science of cotton, and was very good at managing the economy, was accused of allegedly supplying weapons to Ibrohimbek and was slandered with the brand of slander, and died prematurely from an illness through severe torture. Norboyev Tursun, through his labor and diligence, earned the title of aksakal and reached the rank of deputy head of the Surkhandarya district administration for economic and financial issues. There are an infinite number of such people, and they are all punished in different ways<sup>4</sup>.

Separate decisions were also made on the development of cotton growing, strengthening small-scale manufacturing enterprises, the completion of the Tallahaxon canal, and the expansion of the range of agricultural crops. On June 11, 1926, the 11th congress of the regional executive council was held in Sherabad, where issues such as the rapid development of cotton growing, the restoration of destroyed farms, the prevention of robbery, the control of economic management, and the establishment of agricultural artels were discussed. Reports on these issues were heard by Isokhojaev, Turaev Z., Niyozov N., Murodov I., and Masadov. Also, the head of the volunteer detachment, Eshniyoz Aminov, was awarded the Order of the Red Banner. Kuriltoy Bobokho'jayev Abdusamat, Quvvatov Ch., Norkulov R, Norboyev Tursunov were tasked with developing plans for cultural and economic life. Special attention was paid to the formation of volunteer detachments under the leadership of Quvvatov Egamberdi, Jangirov Kholiyor, and Qishloqbazarik Oydin Rajabov to maintain peace and protect state property in the Sherabad region<sup>1</sup>.

18, 1925, in accordance with the resolution of the Government of Uzbekistan, the Surkhandarya district was divided into 3 districts: Boysun, Sariosi, Sherabad. The center of Sherabad district was the city of Sherabad, which was divided into 4 main territorial branches in accordance with the resolution of January 17, 1925. The Central Executive Committee of Uzbekistan, in accordance with its resolution of September 29, 1926, created a new districting system in order to improve the administrative system in Uzbekistan. As a result, the administrative system of the emirates and khanates of Tsarist Russia was abolished, and a management system was established that would develop production in accordance with the economic requirements of the Soviet country, serve the broad peasant classes, and meet the socio-economic and political interests of the Soviet system. In accordance with the resolution of the Council of the Central Executive Committee of Uzbekistan of September 29, 1926, the center of the Surkhandarya region was the city of Sherabad. As a result, 6 districts were included in the Surkhandarya district: Boysun, Denov, Jarqurgon, Pattakesar, Sarisoïë, Sherabad districts. In 1926, 37.2 thousand farmers of the Surkhandarya oasis had 25,800 plows, 11,626 hoes, 158 horse plows, 77 iron harrows, 30,307 sickles, 38,271 sickles, and 5,415 axes. These tools were used for farming, new lands were developed, and irrigation. The Soviet government, implementing its agrarian policy, brought 6 tractors in 1926 and 13 in 1927 to develop new lands and build irrigation facilities in the Surkhandarya oasis in



order to provide raw cotton .<sup>2</sup> In the 1920s , poor and middle-class peasants joined the "Koshchi Union" to accelerate cotton planting at the initiative of the "Amelioration Comradely Associations" of Surkhandarya . In 1927 , the number of members of the "Amelioration Association" reached 18 thousand people.<sup>3</sup> In order to develop new lands and meet the demand for cotton of the central industry, the Soviet government allocated 540,752 soums for agriculture in the long term and 540,752 soums for the short term in 1927-1928 . allocated 434,165 soums for the purpose . At the end of 1926 and the beginning of 1927 , the reconstruction of agriculture in Surkhandarya began on a new basis .<sup>4</sup> After the 15th Congress of the All-Union Communist Party of the Soviet Union (Bolsheviks), which adopted the Directives on the first five-year plan for the development of the country's national economy (1929-1933 ) and determined the main path towards the collectivization of agriculture , the intensive development of collective farms in the agriculture of the Surkhandarya district, the introduction of European inventories, and the increase in the productivity of cotton crops began. However, the policy of the single cotton administration implemented by the Soviet government was not aimed at protecting the socio-economic and cultural interests of the local population, but at protecting the interests of the Center, increasing the supply of cotton raw materials , and strengthening its military defense capabilities . The policy of the single cotton administration of the Center was implemented from year to year The local population was displaced, their national values were degraded, and the centuries-old economic system was disrupted.

**Conclusion.** The cotton monopoly policy in the Surkhandarya oasis had a significant impact on the economic, social and environmental development of the region in the second half of the 20th century. This policy is devoted to a one-sided study of agriculture. The work mainly analyzes the impact of the centralized policy aimed at cotton cultivation in the Surkhandarya region of Uzbekistan during the Soviet Union in the 1980s, its consequences for the economy, ecology and living standards of the population. The changes in the structure of agriculture as a result of the cotton monopoly, the excessive use of water resources and the ecological problems that led to the Aral Sea tragedy are of particular interest. At the same time, the reforms implemented during the years of independence to eliminate the negative consequences of this policy, in particular, economic liberalization, agricultural diversification and improvement of local governance systems, are considered. The study examines the impact of cotton monopoly on socio-economic processes in Surkhandarya region, as well as the role and significance of reforms in the development of the region. The aim of the study is to assess the contribution of these reforms to the economy and well-being of the population of the region and to develop proposals for future development strategies.

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