

SOME CONSIDERATIONS ON TURKESTAN AUTONOMY

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Abstract

The article describes in detail the creation of the Turkestan autonomy, its composition and activities. It was also thought that the February Revolution of 1917 brought great changes to the life of Turkestan, that after the revolution many political organizations and parties advocating for independence and freedom were created in Turkestan, and that the progressive intelligentsia began to demand autonomy for Turkestan.

Keywords: Mukhtoriyat, Turkestan Mukhtoriyat, Kurultai, Provisional Council, Bolsheviks, Uzbek SSR, TASSR, progressive, Constituent Assembly.

Introduction

In modern history, especially during the years of Uzbekistan's independence, many researchers have taken a new approach to the issues of Turkestan autonomy and its history, showing that the Autonomous State was formed on the basis of centuries-old dreams of the people, that its organizers were the leading figures of their time, who sought to bring their homeland into the ranks of developed, independent states, and that their goal was not the separation of Turkestan from Russia, but the creation of the first independent democratic state in which the entire population of the country would be granted democratic rights and freedoms. In March 1917, efforts began in Turkestan to form the embryos of a new society. The organization of the activities of the regional autonomy became a key issue in the socio-political life of Turkestan. The idea of granting Turkestan the status of autonomy became very popular not only among the democratic intelligentsia and progressives, but even among ordinary people, and the word "autonomy" was the only word on everyone's lips [1].

The term "mukhtoriyat" is an Arabic word, and in Uzbek it means "freedom", as Professor Kahramon Radjabov points out in his monograph "History of Turkestan Mukhtoriyat". The word "autonomy" should not be used in the same sense as the Russian word "autonomy". "Explanatory Dictionary of the Uzbek Language" defines the word autonomy as follows: "In constitutional law, the right of a territory to independently exercise state power within the boundaries permitted by the constitution. Autonomy indicates a certain degree of transition from a centralized system to a decentralized one, but to a lesser extent than in federal states. At the beginning of the 20th century, the Jadids of Turkestan viewed the autonomy movement as a separate stage on the way to creating an independent state and fought for it. When the Bolsheviks came to power in Russia, they first created the Turkestan Autonomous (Autonomous) Soviet Republic (April 30, 1918). When the Uzbek SSR was formed, the

Karakalpak ASSR became part of it (since December 5, 1936). Autonomy in a broad sense is the right of any scientific institution or various organizations to independently resolve certain issues means [2].

In the history of the national statehood of the Uzbek people, a special place was occupied by the state of the Turkestan Autonomous Region. Despite its very short existence (November 26, 1917 - February 22, 1918), it left a deep mark on our history. As is known, the democratic revolution that took place in Petrograd on February 27, 1917, also influenced this region. At present, efforts are being made in Turkestan to form the foundations of a new society. The issue of regional autonomy remains key in the socio-political life of Turkestan. The idea of granting autonomy to Turkestan was quite popular not only among the intelligentsia, but also among ordinary people.

On November 26-28, 1917 (December 9-11 according to the new calendar), a large congress was held in the city of Kokand. At the Extraordinary IV Congress of Muslims of all Turkestan, the Turkestan Autonomous Government was created [3, 268-b]. Representatives from all regions of Central Asia were invited to this meeting. At the request of the majority of Muslim intellectuals present at the meeting, representatives of European origin living in Turkestan also took part in the work of the congress. The main discussion at the congress will be devoted to the future of Turkestan. Representatives will consider the issue of declaring Turkestan an independent state or preserving it as an autonomous republic within Russia. The congress declared the Turkestan region territorially autonomous within the Russian Federal Republic. It was also believed that until the formation of the Constituent Assembly, power should belong to the Provisional Council of Turkestan and the National Assembly of Turkmenistan (Millat Majlisi) [4].

In the end, the majority of representatives voted to declare Turkestan an autonomous republic within Russia. The decision was made on November 27, 1917, and in the history of the statehood of the peoples of the Central Asian region, the date of November 28, 1917, the creation of a state called "Turkestan Autonomy", is noted as an important historical event. The structure of power was to be formed as follows: until the convocation of the Constituent Assembly, power was completely concentrated in the hands of the Provisional Council of Turkestan and the People's (National) Assembly of Turkestan. A government of 12 people would be formed from among the members of the Provisional Council. The number of members of the Provisional Council of Turkestan was determined based on the number of candidates previously elected to the All-Russian Constituent Assembly from the Turkestan region (32 people) ("El bayrogi", December 22, 1917). From the People's Assembly (it was allocated 54 seats), 4 representatives from local city governments and 18 seats were allocated to representatives of various European organizations of the region [5]. Thus, a third of the seats went to representatives of the European population, which made up 7 percent of the total population of the country.

This was the period when the Republic literally gained its first independence. The autonomy created by the Bolsheviks in Tashkent was actually created only nominally, and the goal was the complete subordination of Turkestan to the Bolsheviks. Although the Turkestan

Autonomous Government existed for only 72 days, it called on our freedom-loving people to fight for national independence [6]. The February Revolution of 1917 brought great changes to the life of Turkestan. After the revolution, many political organizations and parties arose in Turkestan fighting for independence and freedom. The progressive intelligentsia began to demand autonomy for Turkestan on the basis of a federation. The approach to the issue of state building, the advancement of the idea of gaining complete autonomy for Turkestan became noticeable on the pages of central newspapers, starting in April 1917. Because the main goal of the First Congress of Muslims of Turkestan, held in April 1917, was to determine the ways of governing the country and prepare for the formation of a national government.

At the congress, the Turkestan Autonomous Government (consisting of 8 people) was formed from the members of the Turkestan Provisional Council. Four more places were allocated for candidates from among the representatives of the European population. The government included Muhammadjon Tynishbaev (Prime Minister and Minister of Internal Affairs), Islam Shoakhmedov (Deputy Prime Minister), Mustafa Chokai (Minister of Foreign Affairs), Ubaidullakhoja Asadullakhojaev (Minister of Defense), Khidoyatbek Agayev (Minister of Land and Water Resources), Obidjon Makhmudov (Minister of Food), Abdurakhmon Urazayev (Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs) and Solomon Gersfeld (Minister of Finance). Later, some changes took place in the government. Muhammadjon. After Tynishbaev left for Orenburg to participate in the activities of the Alash Orda Autonomy (1917), Mustafa Chokai took the post of Prime Minister. Shoakhmedov became the Minister of Finance (replacing S. Hertzfeld), Potelyakhov became the Minister of Food (replacing O. Makhmudov), O. Makhmudov became the Minister of Justice, Nasirkhon Tora became the Minister of Education, and Saidnasir Mirjalilov became the State Treasurer.

High-ranking officials and ministers of the autonomy also took up arms and participated in the fighting. Some of them were killed, others were captured by the Bolsheviks. After the resignation of Muhammadjon Tynishbaev, Mustafa Chokai, who became the chairman of the autonomous government, left Kokand and went into hiding. The Bolshevik army and the Armenian Dashnaks who fought with them against the autonomist army did not spare anyone and put to the sword everyone they met. In addition to the soldiers of the autonomous army, they killed 10,000 people from the city of Kokand and its environs. After the conquest of Kokand, the Dashnak hordes spread throughout the Fergana Valley, committing massacres in Chust, Bazarkurgan, Margilan and other places. After this, ordinary people in different parts of the valley will rise up against the Bolshevik army and fight for freedom will begin. These fights continued in various parts of Turkestan until the 1930s.

The Bolsheviks, being the invaders themselves, began to call those who defended the freedom of their country and national independence with weapons in their hands "oppressors". After the defeat of the Autonomy, the entire Turkestan region will fall under the control of Russia. The TASSR existed until the formation of the Uzbek SSR in 1924 and in the same year was divided into several parts.

According to Sh. Shomagdiev, even after the overthrow of the autonomous government, atrocities, robberies and reprisals against the civilian population in Kokand and its environs did

not stop. In Kokand alone, 10,000 people were sentenced to death in three days. 11 trains that arrived via Fergana surround the city of Kokand, and artillery is set up from 11 sides. Initially, the Turkestan Autonomous Region will have to surrender. But they take a firm position and reject this demand. After this, the order is given to bombard the city... In this way, some members of the government also die [7]. On the day of the overthrow of the Turkestan autonomy, the Bolsheviks confiscated 8 million 223 thousand sums from the Kokand bank. In order to intimidate and frighten the population, the Red Army and the Dashnaks burned 180 cities and towns in the Fergana Valley in early 1918, scattering the ashes into the sky. In the terrible massacre, 7,000 Turkestan Muslims from the city of Margilan, 6,000 from the city of Andijan, 2,000 from the city of Namangan and 4,500 from the outskirts of Bazar-Kurgan and Kokand-Kishlak died. This, of course, led to an increase in the anger and hatred of the people of the country towards the colonial Soviet government. So the goal was not to give up everything, but to get out of the situation... It is believed that on February 19, the Turkestan autonomy was wiped off the face of the earth, but the ideas of the Turkestan autonomy remained.

In conclusion, it can be said that it is important to scientifically analyze the fact that the government of the Turkestan Autonomous Region called on our freedom-loving people to fight for national independence and sovereignty, as well as the measures it implemented in a short period of time, and the support of the region's population for this government. The Bolsheviks, themselves being invaders, began to call those who defended the freedom of their country and national independence with weapons in their hands "oppressors". After the defeat of the Autonomy, the entire Turkestan region will fall under the control of Russia. The TASSR existed until the formation of the Uzbek SSR in 1924 and in the same year was divided into several parts. This, of course, led to the growth of anger and hatred of the people of the country towards the colonial Soviet government.

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