

CULTURAL RELATIONS BETWEEN SOCIALIST STATES (ON THE EXAMPLE OF THE UZBEKISTAN SSR AND THE GDR)

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Abstract:

This scientific article reveals the nature of cultural relations between socialist countries using the example of the Uzbek SSR and the German Democratic Republic. Only the example of the GDR shows the general features of cultural relations in the Uzbek SSR during the Soviet period.

Keywords: Uzbek SSR, GDR, international relations, cultural relations, international culture, the idea of socialism.

Introduction

During this period, the culture of the Uzbek SSR, although national in form, was based on Soviet ideology in content. Cultural ties between states also often played a role in spreading the idea of socialism. However, cultural ties played an important role in strengthening the ties of peace and friendship between countries. At all times, cultural ties also serve as an important basis for the development of political ties. Therefore, the study of external relations is always important. During the period under study, Uzbekistan established extensive cultural ties with the GDR.

Reference Analysis

Although there are no studies by foreign scholars specifically on the relations of the Uzbek SSR with the GDR, there are studies on economic, cultural and mutual cooperation between the USSR and the German state, in which the Uzbek SSR is mentioned.

In the work of A.V. Nikolaeva[3], the issues of economic, scientific and technical cooperation between the USSR and the GDR in the 1950s and mid-1960s were essentially covered, and the importance of relations between the countries in the successful construction of developed socialism was revealed, and the stages of this fruitful cooperation were described.

Another foreign researcher conducted research on this topic, studying the relations between the government and society in the USSR in the 1970s and 1980s, the history of mass public organizations in the late socialist period, and Soviet cultural diplomacy. The sources of the article are based on reports on the reception and dispatch of delegations, foreign cooperation plans, and information from Soviet ambassadors in the Eastern Bloc countries. Cooperation with foreign organizations - reader associations, subscription clubs at publishing houses, bibliophile groups, etc. - began with a detailed examination of their activities. The socialist countries, in particular, sent Soviet groups to the GDR, participated in important events in the field of reading, including international exhibitions, national book weeks. In conclusion, he emphasized that, while establishing close relations with the GDR Cultural Society, there were signs of a certain degree of fragmentation [2].



One of the Uzbek researchers, Kholmuradov Rashid Mamatqulovich, extensively covered the relations of the Uzbek SSR with the GDR, revealing the exchange of delegations between the two countries, as well as relations in the fields of sports and tourism[3].

Research Methodology

The scientific article used research methods such as a comprehensive approach, historical and logical, systematic, comparative analysis, retrospective, and statistical analysis as its theoretical and methodological basis.

Analysis and Results

The Uzbek SSR and the GDR also had extensive cultural relations. The exchange of delegations, cultural evenings, and cultural days played an important role in the development of cultural relations. In particular, the GDR Cultural Decade was held in Uzbekistan from October 1 to 10, 1968. The official delegation consisted of 10 people and was headed by Horst Brasch, Deputy Minister of Culture of the GDR[4].

The delegation was broad and aimed at promoting the culture of the GDR. It included representatives of various cultural spheres, such as artists, composers, painters. In particular, a group of artists consisting of 20 people, the State Dance Ensemble of the German Democratic Republic consisting of 51 people, the Berlin Variety Orchestra led by Jürgen Germana consisting of 46 people, the laureates of the Bach Music Competition Peter Rösler, Christian Funke, as well as journalists, film, television, the "Znanie" society of the Ministry of Higher Education, a total of 50 people, including the artistic team, and an 8-person working group organizing these demonstrations, visited the exhibition[5].

On October 1, 1968, the artistic opening of the GDR Cultural Decade was organized at the Alisher Navoi Opera and Ballet Theater of the Uzbek SSR and guest participants from the GDR were received[6]. This opening ceremony was organized on a large scale, and many representatives of culture and art from the Uzbek SSR also participated.

During the decade, 14 different exhibitions of the GDR were presented in high spirits on October 2 in the palaces of arts in Tashkent and Samarkand and the Palace of Culture of Chemists in Chirchik. Also, together with the official delegation, groups of artists got acquainted with industrial enterprises, educational institutions, architectural monuments in the Samarkand, Fergana and Andijan regions, participated in various friendship rallies and evenings. In particular, more than 20 friendship days evenings were held with members of the official delegation, each of which ended with concert programs by GDR artists[7]. Concerts and artistic performances, the repertoire of which included famous GDR artists, were organized throughout the republic.

On October 2 of the same year, the artistic team began performing in Tashkent and its districts. A concert by the Berlin Pop Orchestra under the direction of Jurgana Germana was held, which was attended by about 12,000 people.[8] The majority of such concerts were held by the GDR State Music and Dance Ensemble.

The GDR music and dance ensemble was divided into two independent brigades to perform 14 concert programs. Group I performed at the Chemists' Palace of Culture in Chirchik, the "Energetik" House of Culture in Angren, the "Stroitel" House of Culture in Almalyk, the City



Theater in Kokand, the Officers' House in Fergana, and the Andijan Drama Theater. Group II organized performances at the Railwaymen's House of Culture in Khovos, the House of Culture in Gulistan, the "Stroitel" House of Culture in Yangiyer, the Opera and Ballet Theater in Samarkand, the Officers' House in the Kattakurgan district, the Officers' House in Karshi, and the Drama Theater in Bukhara, attracting about 16 thousand spectators[9].

Along with stage performances, the repertoire also included musical performances by German conductors. In particular, two concerts by conductor Kurt Mazora were held at the Tashkent State Conservatory, which were attended by 850 people, as well as concerts by such powerful pianists as Peter Röselya and Christian Funke, which were attended by 100 thousand spectators at the conservatory and the officers' house [10]. The audience enjoyed examples of German classical and modern art. These performances served, albeit to a small extent, to spread German culture.

At the end of the decade, an artistic evening was organized in Tashkent and its districts with GDR artists and students from the Chirchik Chemical Plant, the Tashavtomash plant, the Tashkent State University, and the Pedagogical Institute. On October 9, the closing ceremony of the GDR Cultural Decade was held at the Palace of Arts in Tashkent[11].

Although it took place in the Uzbek SSR, this cultural decade was a vivid example of the friendly relations between the peoples of the GDR and the USSR. It contributed to the development of international culture promoted by the Soviet state.

Conclusion

In general, the cultural relations of the Uzbek SSR with foreign countries during this period were not aimed at the manifestation of Uzbek culture, but at the promotion of the newly emerging socialist culture. Representatives of Uzbek culture in cultural cooperation with foreign countries were free to promote socialist culture based on Soviet ideology.

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