



THE ORGANIZATION OF THE SOVIET PRESS IN TURKESTAN

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Abstract:

The article examines the processes of closing the new press in Turkestan (Uzbekistan) and replacing it with the Soviet press. It analyzes the assistance of the Jadid intelligentsia and the colonial attitude of the Bolsheviks to the Uzbek press.

Keywords: Soviet press, Jadids, Bolsheviks, Orif Klebleev, class struggle.

Introduction

After the Bolsheviks seized power in Turkestan, "On October 27, 1917, the Council of People's Commissars adopted a decree on the press, signed by V. I. Lenin. The decree deprived the wealthy classes of the opportunity to "freely poison minds and sow confusion in the public consciousness."¹ After V.I.Lenin's decree on the closure of all "bourgeois publications" in Turkestan, one after another, the publications of the local intelligentsia and the Provisional Government began to close. Instead, it was necessary to organize a new type of Bolshevik press.

The first Soviet newspaper in the Uzbek language was founded in Samarkand on June 11, 1918, under the name "Mehnatkashlar Uqi". The newspaper's organizer, Orif Klebleev, was known to the Turkestan intelligentsia for opening a new-method school in Kokand and teaching there until the October Revolution. The article, titled "Arif Afandi Klebleev", states: "Arif Afandi is a man who was a teacher in Kokand for many years. He made a significant contribution to the education of Turkestan children. He is a teacher of the people." "From this point of view, Arif Effendi can already be called a man of the people," the statement

¹ N.Qoriniyozov. Sovet O'zbekistoni madaniyati tarixidan ocherklar. –Toshkent: O'zbekiston SSR Fanlar akademiyasi nashriyoti. 1958. 296-bet.

says.² Such a "people's man" O.Klebleev went to Moscow after the October Revolution, met with V.I.Lenin and arrived in Turkestan with the mandate of "extraordinary commissar" "with broad rights from Moscow."

O.Klebleev gathered members of the "Union" to organize a newspaper in Samarkand. The establishment of this society was announced in the August 4, 1917 issue of the "Hurriyat" newspaper: "On August 1, two hundred Muslim workers in our city gathered and founded a society called the Union of Muslim Workers."³ According to Haji Muin, several Jadids were also members of this society. During the 1917 Duma elections, scholars denounced this society, saying that all members and supporters of the "Union of Workers" were "Jadids and infidels" among the people. It is worth noting that the newspaper "Hurriyat", which was a publication of the Jadids, campaigned to vote for this organization. Sadridin Ainiy said, "...during the revolution, Mahmudkhoja (Mahmudkhoja Behbudiy) gave spirit and ideas to the "Zahmatkash Union" society."⁴ The "Zahmatkash Union" was later renamed "Ittifaq". Later, Orif Klebleev established the Muslim Worker-Peasant Council instead of "Ittifaq". In May 1918, Orif Klebleev, who arrived in Samarkand as an extraordinary commissar, gathered the members of the society and held a meeting. The meeting adopted a decision to publish an Uzbek newspaper, and Zohida Burnasheva, Shokir Mukhtariy and Hoji Muin were appointed to the editorial board of the newspaper. This board elected Hoji Muin as editor from among its members. When naming the newspaper, Haji Muin opposed the proposal of the center's representative Klebleev to call it "Mehnatkashlar o'qi" "On the one hand, this name is an Arabic-Persian and Uzbek word, and on the other hand, "o'q" is an inappropriate name for a serious newspaper. Let it be called "Mehnatkashlar Tavushi,"⁵ he said. However, Klebleev's proposal was accepted. In the 3rd issue of the newspaper, a small news item was printed entitled "About the name of the newspaper," which said: "We have asked the Soviet to name it "Zahmatkashlar Tavushi." The newspaper "Mehnatkashlar o'qi" began to be published with the name "Mehnatkashlar Tavushi" starting from the 5th issue.

² Shokir Muxtoriy. Orif afandi Klebleev // Mehnatkashlar tovushi gazetasi. 1918-yil 20-iyun.

³ Zahmatkashlar ittifoqi jamiyati // Hurriyat. 1917. 4-avgust.

⁴ Sadridin Ainiy. Mahmudxo'ja Behbudiy hazratlarining qisqacha tarjimai holi // Mehnatkashlar tovushi. 1920. 8-aprel.

⁵ Hoji Muin. Qizil o'zbek matbuoti // Zarafshon. 1924. 21-iyun.



The newspaper "Ulug Turkestan" reported on its pages about this new newspaper published in Samarkand, and its first issue contained a congratulatory message: "We wish this new comrade, which was launched to serve the interests of humanity and the poor and needy, a long life."⁶

The newspaper listed Hoji Muin's name as editor from the issue published on October 31, 1919, and it was noted that the newspaper had been published by the "editor's committee" until then. However, the fact that letters to the editorial office were addressed to "chief editor Hoji Muin afandi" and replies were also sent in his name means that the editor-in-chief of the newspaper was entrusted to Hoji Muin from the very first issues. Political censorship was imposed on the newspaper "Mehnatkashlar Tavushi" in 1921. The Bolshevik Mirsalimov was appointed political supervisor of the newspaper. He changed the name of the newspaper to "Kambag'allar Tavushi". Other Bolsheviks who came to the newspaper after Mirsalimov also looked at the Jadids with suspicion. Hoji Muin and Sadriddin Aini, who worked at the newspaper, were forced to resign. After that, the level of the newspaper declined. After a critical article about this was published in the newspaper "Kizil Bayrok", Gazi Yunus was sent from Tashkent to Samarkand to update the newspaper. Thus, under the editorship of Gazi Yunus, the newspaper "Zarafshan" was born. The first issue of the newspaper was published on October 27, 1922. From the advertisement for subscription in that first issue, it is not difficult to understand that the newspaper "Zarafshan" was a continuation of the newspaper "Kambag'allar Tavushi": the subscription price for the newspaper "Zarafshan" was announced. The price of the newspaper: 120 sums per month. The newspaper was delivered to subscribers on time. Previously, subscribers to the newspaper "Kambag'allar Tavushi" had to send money again, according to the price indicated above. "Zarafshan" is still published in Samarkand today.

After Samarkand, Orif Klebleev came to Tashkent and published the newspaper "Ishtirokyun". The first issue of the newspaper was published on June 21, 1918. Ziyoy Said wrote about this newspaper and its organizer Orif Klebleev: "Up until the 8th issue, this newspaper tried to explain to the peasants the main goals of the Soviet government and the Bolsheviks. It tried to explain that only the Soviet government could provide freedom for Muslims. It showed this by bringing it

⁶ Ulug' Turkiston. // 1918. 20-iyun.

closer to the ideas of religion and the Quran. In this way, it tried to influence the peasant workers."⁷

Although the first Soviet newspaper, "Mehnatkashlar o'qi" was founded in Samarkand, the newspaper "Ishtirokyun" was recognized as the first publication throughout the Soviet period. A protest article was also published in the press about this. It published an appeal under the heading "To all Uzbek newspapers": In the 15th issue of the newspaper "Zarafshan" there is an article about the history of the red Uzbek press, and the author shows that the emergence of the red Uzbek press should not begin with "Ishtirokyun" published on June 21, but with "Mehnatkashlar Tavushi" published in Samarkand on June 11. The press department of the Central Committee, having seen this, came to the following decision: "Najot" and "Kengash" and many other Uzbek newspapers were published before "Mehnatkashlar Tavushi". Since none of these have the name of the red press, "Mehnatkashlar Tavushi" does not belong to the red press either. Because none of these are the publishing opinions of the faction. The newspaper that was published as a faction publication is "Ishtirokyun". Therefore, in fact, the history of the red Uzbek press begins with the newspaper "Ishtirokyun" published on June 21.

Head of the press department Alimif⁸.

The newspaper "Ishtirokyun", published as an organ of the People's Commissariat of National Affairs of Turkestan, began to be published on December 12, 1920, as the publication of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Turkestan and the Central Executive Committee of the Turkestan Soviet Republic under the name "Kizil Bayrok". On September 13, 1923, the name of the newspaper was changed to "Turkiston". After the formation of the Uzbek SSR, on December 5, 1924, the newspaper "Kizil Uzbekistan" was published. In 1964, the name of the newspaper was changed to "Soviet Uzbekistan". This newspaper has been published under the name "Uzbekistan Ovozi" since the early days of independence.

The newspaper "Ishchilar Kalkoni" began to be published in Namangan on September 1, 1918. According to Ziyo Said, "this newspaper was the publication of the Namangan Council of Workers, Peasants and Red Soldiers, and was

⁷ Ziyo Said. Burung'i vaqtli matbuot tarixiga materiallar. – Samarqand: O'zbekiston davlat nashriyoti. 1927. 102-bet.

⁸ Hama o'zbek gazetalari // "Turkiston gazetasi". 1924-yil, 11-iyun.

published under the editorship of a man named Nahor Fathulin. Nasriddin Zainiddin ugli and several other people were closely involved in it. This was also the most popular newspaper in Namangan. It was published twice a week, with more than 40 issues."⁹

“Khalq Gazeti” was published in Kokand on December 4, 1918. According to Ziyoy Said, this newspaper was the publication of the National Affairs Department under the Kokand Council of Workers, Peasants and Red Army Muslim Representatives, and was published under the editorship of the Commissar of National Affairs, Ahmad Diveshef. Ziyoy Said said the following about the newspaper’s staff: “The editorial board includes Nazir Turakulov, Khodi Faizi, Ismail Berishef, and the office includes Ashurali Zohiri, Gani Tinchurin, and Rauf Yakubif. The following are the contributors who contributed from outside: Abdulla Begi, Shokir Sulaymon, Abdulla Ainulin (Kamchinbek), Abdullabek Musobek ugli, and others. The circulation is between 1000 and 1500, some of which are distributed for a fee and some are distributed free of charge. "On August 27, 1919, issue 39 was published, and Ashurali Zahiri opened a major debate about the new spelling, and the new spelling was severely criticized by him."¹⁰ According to Ziyoy Said, newspapers such as "Yangi Sharq" were published in Fergana in 1919, "Inqilob Kuyoshi" in Khorezm in 1920, "Bukhara Akbari" in Bukhara in 1921, "Mehnat Bayrogi" and "Fergana" in Fergana in 1922, "Ozod Bukhara" in 1923, and "Darkhon" in Andijan in 1923.

According to the data, "in 1918, 11 newspapers were published in the Uzbek language in Turkestan."¹¹

Along with newspapers, great attention was paid to journalism. For example, "In the Uzbek language: in 1918, the political and economic magazine "Ishchilar Duniyosi" was published twice a month in Tashkent by the Muslim Workers' Council, and the pedagogical magazine "Maorif", which was the organ of the People's Commissariat of Education of the Turkestan Republic and was published once a week; in 1920, the political and economic magazine "Kasabachilik harakati" was the organ of the regional council of trade unions and the regional

⁹ Ziyoy Said. Burung’i vaqtli matbuot tarixiga materiallar. – Samarqand: O’zbekiston davlat nashriyoti. 1927. 102-bet.

¹⁰ Ziyoy Said. Burung’i vaqtli matbuot tarixiga materiallar. – Samarqand: O’zbekiston davlat nashriyoti. 1927. 102-bet.

¹¹ N.Qoriniyozov. Sovet O’zbekistoni madaniyati tarixidan ocherklar. –Toshkent: O’zbekiston SSR Fanlar akademiyasi nashriyoti. 1958. 296-bet.

board of workers' cooperatives and was published once a fortnight (in Tashkent); in 1922, the political, economic and literary magazine "Inqilob", which was the organ of the Central Committee of the Turkestan Communist Party and was published once a fortnight (in Tashkent); in 1923, the magazine "Kommunist Yuldashi", which was the organ of the Central Committee of the Turkestan Communist Party and was published once a fortnight (in Tashkent); In 1923, the comic "Mushtum" magazine, published as a supplement to the "Turkiston" newspaper, began to be published.¹²

Thus, the number and volume of publications in Uzbekistan increased year by year. Newspapers were published not only in the center of the republic, but also in the regions and districts.

"In the first half of the 1930s, 178 newspapers and magazines were published in the Uzbek language, 90 of which were published in the districts. By the second half of the 1930s, 208 newspapers and 45 magazines were published."¹³

In the first years of the Bolsheviks' rise to power, although new newspapers were established, their attitude towards the national press was old-fashioned. Issues such as financing, distribution, and staffing national newspapers were neglected. Haji Muin wrote about this period that the Bolsheviks "took a colonial path" in providing the national press.¹⁴ "While they always provided the Russian newspaper with paper and other things, they did not pay due attention to the Muslim newspaper. When we asked for paper, they said, 'You Muslims can always open a paper factory and produce paper, and then you can buy as much paper as you want,'" and did not provide the newspaper.

"Editors and translators working in the newspaper did not receive any salary other than their salary until the end of 1919. In fact, they did not even know that they had the right to receive an editorial fee. Although the salary of the Alaturgan did not provide them with at least a week's living, they continued their work by selling books and other things... Although we appealed to the center, we did not receive anything other than empty promises and empty words," he said. Haji Muin concluded that the situation in Tashkent newspapers was much better. However,

¹² N.Qoriniyozov. Sovet O'zbekistoni madaniyati tarixidan ocherklar. –Toshkent: O'zbekiston SSR Fanlar akademiyasi nashriyoti. 1958. 296-bet.

¹³ Saidov.O. "Satira tili bilan". Toshkent: "O'zbekiston", 1978. 21-bet.

¹⁴ Hoji Muin. Samarqandda matbuot ahvoli. // "Zarafshon", 1923 yil, 108-bet.

in Tashkent, too, the government's indifferent attitude towards the national press was noted in the statements of intellectuals in the press.

In 1920, the first congress of press workers was held in Turkestan. The news published in the newspaper "Kizil Bayrok" stated that only three Muslims from the country attended this congress. Speaking about the local press, Amir Almuhammadif said that it was necessary to pay attention to and help the Muslim press, and that it was important for the Russian and Muslim press to work together. In a subsequent article published in the newspaper, it was said that this congress was held without any preparation, so it probably did not benefit the local press, and that there had been no serious discussions and councils about the local press until now, and that this congress was only discussed superficially.¹⁵

In the September 16, 1921 issue of the newspaper "Kizil Bayrok", an article titled "The State of the Uzbek Press" by Ghazi Yunus states that the national press is still not being paid attention to, and publications are not being printed in the publishing house. The Uzbek press did not exist during the old regime, and was in a bad state during the Kerensky government. During the Bolshevik era, it was even worse than before. "Let it go, otherwise the Uzbek press will die," In the September 16, 1921 issue of the newspaper "Kizil Bayrok", an article titled "The State of the Uzbek Press" by Ghazi Yunus states that the national press is still not being paid attention to, and publications are not being printed in the publishing house. The Uzbek press did not exist during the old regime, and was in a bad state during the Kerensky government. During the Bolshevik era, it was even worse than before. "Let it go, otherwise the Uzbek press will die,"¹⁶ - he said.

Thus, after the Bolsheviks consolidated their power and took complete control of the press, the Uzbek press entered a stage of development. We will cover this in another article.

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¹⁵ Muhammadif. Yerli tillarda matbuot ishlari. // Qizil bayroq. 1920-yil 21-dekabr.

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