



THE POLITICAL ACTIVITIES OF ACADEMICIAN SABIR KAMALOV

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Abstract

Academician Sabir Kamalov was a prominent scholar, as well as a political and public figure who left a lasting legacy in the history of Uzbekistan. His political activity was directed toward serving the interests of the people, contributing to the country's development, and promoting the advancement of science and education. Under his leadership, a number of important reforms were implemented. It is therefore natural that his work was highly valued, and that he was elected as a deputy to local and republican councils.

Keywords: Academician S.K.Kamalov, history, historiography, karakalpak people, Central Asia, school, mentor, apprentice, politic

Introduction

Kalit soʻzlar: akademik S.K.Kamalov, tarix, tarixshunoslik, qoraqalpoq xalqi, Markaziy Osiyo, maktab, ustoz, siyosat

Ключевые слова: Академик С.К.Камалов, история, историография, каракалпакский народ, Центральная Азия, школа, наставник, политика

Rezyume

Akademik Sobir Kamolov Oʻzbekiston tarixida sezilarli iz qoldirgan atoqli olim, shuningdek, siyosiy va jamoat arbobi edi. Uning siyosiy faoliyati xalq manfaatlariga xizmat qilish, mamlakat taraqqiyotiga koʻmaklashish, ilm-fan va taʼlimni rivojlantirishga qaratilgan edi. Uning rahbarligida bir qator muhim islohotlar amalga oshirildi. Shuning uchun ham uning mehnati yuqori baholanib, bir necha bor mahalliy va respublika kengashlariga deputat etib saylangani tabiiydir.



Резюме

Академик Сабир Камалов был выдающимся учёным, а также политическим и общественным деятелем, оставившим значительный след в истории Узбекистана. Его политическая деятельность была направлена на служение интересам народа, содействие развитию страны и продвижение науки и образования. Под его руководством было осуществлено ряд важных реформ. Поэтому вполне естественно, что его труд высоко оценивался, и он неоднократно избирался депутатом местных и республиканских советов.

The emergence of Karakalpak national intelligentsia, particularly the scientific community—including historians—was not a sudden phenomenon, but a reality shaped over many years. In 1937, the establishment of the Khorezm Archaeological Expedition under the leadership of Sergey Pavlovich Tolstov, with the participation of Academician Yahya Gulyamov of the Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan, played a significant role in fostering the development of national scholars in the fields of history and ethnography in our country.

Prominent scholars of the first half of the 20th century—such as Sergey Pavlovich Tolstov, Pyotr Ivanov, Tatyana Zhdanko, Yahya Gulyamov, Alexander Samoylovich, and Lidiya Tolstova—made substantial contributions to the advancement of science in Karakalpakstan. As a result, within a relatively short period, the republic saw the emergence of distinguished scholars such as S. Kamalov, R. Kosbergenov, and Y. Dosumov, who laid the foundations of historical science.

The scientific achievements attained by the Karakalpak people today are the result of the dedicated efforts of many scholars. Through their selfless work, they have ensured the steady progress of science and elevated it to a new qualitative level. Among such outstanding figures, a special place belongs to S.K. Kamalov—Academician of the Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan, Doctor of Historical Sciences, and laureate of the Berdakh State Prize—whose contribution to the development of virtually all branches of science in Karakalpakstan is widely recognized. From 1959 to 1999, he was continuously elected as a deputy to the Supreme Soviets of Uzbekistan and Karakalpakstan for a period of 40 years. From 1963 to 1985, he served on a public basis as Deputy Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of Karakalpakstan. According to the Resolution of the Supreme Soviet of the Karakalpak ASSR dated 6 April 1967, Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Soviet of Karakalpakstan Sabir

Kamalov was elected as a deputy of the Supreme Soviet of the Karakalpak ASSR from the Hamza electoral district of Beruniy district.

Later, according to the list of deputies of the Supreme Soviet of the Karakalpak ASSR as of 1 October 1971, Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Soviet of Karakalpakstan Sabir Kamalov was elected as a deputy of the Supreme Soviet of the Karakalpak ASSR from Electoral District No. 11 “Kalinin” in the city of Nukus[1].

According to Professor B. Koshchanov, S.K. Kamalov possessed a refined sense of time—a quality of exceptional importance for a historian. In other words, the ability to perceive and interpret time is a hallmark of true historical mastery.

Literature and Methodology

The main information about Sabir Kamalov's biography and scientific activities is contained in anniversary publications, collections of scientific works, and memoirs of colleagues, students, and contemporaries. The scholar, Doctor of Historical Sciences B.Koshchanov, evaluates that "Sabir Kamalovich's outstanding oratory qualities stemmed from his high general culture, the first sign of which was that he was well-versed in all fields of knowledge" [2:74]. Indeed, Academician S.K.Kamalova is rightfully considered a scholar whose work encompasses not only the study of history but also other humanities.

Results

As recorded in archival documents, Sabir Kamalov participated in the work of commissions on the reporting of people's judges to their electorate and on cooperation with public advisors. He also took part in the work of permanent commissions within the local Soviets of Workers' Deputies of the Turtkul district of the Karakalpak ASSR. In addition to Sabir Kamalov, this commission included well-known and active public figures such as M. Atazhanov, S. Ibragimova, A. Abdullin, G. Nasrullaeva, and F. Jumaniyazova. The members of the commission recorded appeals from the working population regarding various issues, such as improving the quality of consumer services, communal services, and healthcare, and forwarded them to the relevant authorities.

Furthermore, at the meeting of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Karakalpak ASSR dated 30 November 1964 (Protocol No. 21), a report was presented on the state of organizational and mass work of the Khodjeyli City Soviet of Workers' Deputies.



This analytical report was prepared with the co-authorship of S. Kamalov, A. Nurpeisov, F. Jumaniyazov, K. Tadjiev, and A. Danchenko. It included proposals aimed at increasing the social activity of workers and improving living standards in the district.

A similar document was presented at the meeting of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Karakalpak ASSR dated 19 June 1967 (Protocol No. 23), concerning the state of organizational and mass work of the Kenes and Shumanay village Soviets of Workers' Deputies. The report on this issue was prepared by S. Kamalov, T. Shabanov, U. Kunnazarov, and D. Eshimbetov. It addressed key issues such as improving the organizational and mass work of village Soviets, making fuller use of their authority, bringing the most important matters to the attention of the Council and its Executive Committee, strengthening the role of standing commissions, activating the work of deputies in both the Soviets and their electoral districts, enhancing transparency in the activities of the Soviets, involving citizens in discussing key village issues, and informing the population about decisions adopted by the Council and its Executive Committee.

In addition, at the meeting of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Karakalpak ASSR dated 26 April 1972 (Protocol No. 10), a report was presented on the state of organizational and mass work of the Takhtakupir district Soviet of Workers' Deputies. This analytical document was prepared by S. Kamalov and was discussed at the Presidium session.

This archival information demonstrates that Sabir Kamalov maintained constant contact with the people, and that his active engagement with the public and efforts to resolve their problems earned him great respect among the population.

When speaking about the political activity of Academician Sabir Kamalov, it is important to emphasize that his role as an official representative occupied a special place in his career. A "representative" is a trusted person delegated to carry out assigned tasks on behalf of an individual, a group, or a community, often in consultation with them, and to report back upon completion. In the Karakalpak ASSR, representatives were typically sent to districts, collective farms (kolkhozes), and state farms (sovkhozes) to ensure the fulfillment of the cotton production plan, which was a key political priority at the time.

Kamalov's representative activity is described in detail in his autobiographical work "Өмирим елеслеринен..., (Еске түсириўлерим)" ("From the Reflections of My

Life... (My Memories)”), published in 2019 by the “Ilim” Publishing House in Nukus[3]. The book provides a comprehensive account of the difficulties of this assignment, its negative aspects, and the fact that its disadvantages often outweighed its benefits, as well as its basis in rigid administrative command practices. This work is based on materials dictated by the scholar himself during his lifetime, in which he recorded his life path, scientific and political activities, experiences during the Great Patriotic War, and other significant events.

In the foreword to the book, his wife, the well-known writer G. Yesemuratova, notes that the recorded real-life events and personal names were preserved without alteration. Five chapters of the book are devoted specifically to his representative activities.

Academician S.K. Kamalov was first sent as a representative in October 1951 to the kolkhoz in the village of Kaychili, Chimbay district, where Kulmurat Allamuratov served as chairman. In that period, each brigade of the kolkhoz had assigned representatives from the regional committee, district committee, and the kolkhoz itself—altogether 14 representatives were involved. Due to a shortage of personnel, even third- and fourth-year students of the Pedagogical Institute were sent as representatives. For two months, the representatives did not leave the kolkhoz and only returned at the beginning of December, when no cotton was left in the fields. Kamalov and the other representatives then departed together.

From this memoir, it becomes clear that the representative system was extremely difficult: there was no rotation, no opportunity for rest, and no proper oversight of their conditions. Their main employment was interrupted, yet they were expected to comply strictly with assigned duties. Failure to arrive on time or leaving without permission was considered a violation of party policy and could result in disciplinary measures.

During this period, Kamalov was deeply troubled by two thoughts. First, the fact that his primary job—where he received a salary and held a responsible position—was being neglected. Second, the realization that, as a representative, he was often unnecessary at the assigned location. The heads of farms and enterprises were already highly qualified specialists with years of experience, fully capable of managing agricultural tasks without external instruction. Nevertheless, they were subject to visiting officials sent by the regional party committee.

Conclusion

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