

**CHANGES IN THE ECONOMIC SECTOR DURING THE YEARS OF THE BUKHARA  
PEOPLE'S SOVIET REPUBLIC (WITH THE EXAMPLE OF THE KASHKADARYA  
AND SURKHANDARYA REGIONS)****M. Turayeva***Doctor of Historical Sciences., Associate Professor**Karshi state university*

**Abstract:** This article provides information about the fact that in the second half of the 19th century and the early 20th century, the Kashkadarya region was part of the Bukhara Emirate, the functioning of traditional schools in the region during this period, and the educational systems in these schools.

**Keywords:** Navtak, Nasaf, Kesh, Fudina, Subax, Kojar, Bazda, Balat, Ofuron, "Majlis tadris", traditional education, emirate, beqlik (nobility or title of local ruler), landownership (amlolklik), "kataba" (scribe or clerical role), hujra (small room or study place), dargah (shrine or tomb).

**Аннотация.** В данной статье приводятся сведения о том, что Кашкадарьинская область во второй половине XIX - начале XX века входила в состав Бухарского эмирата, о том, что в этот период в оазисе действовали школы традиционной системы образования, а также о системы обучения в них.

**Ключевые слова:** Навтак, Насаф, Кеш, Фудина, Субах, Коджар, Базда, Балат, Офурон, «Меджлис Тадрис», традиционное образование, эмират, беклик, амлоклик, «катаба», худжра, даргах.

In 1920, the Bukhara Emirate was abolished, and the Bukhara People's Soviet Republic (BPSR) was established in its place, incorporating the Kashkadarya and Surkhandarya regions. Initially, an administrative-territorial division was carried out in the BPSR, dividing it into provinces, districts, towns, and villages. The administrative-territorial division in the People's Republic frequently changed depending on the social-political and economic situation. During this period, the populations of Kashkadarya and Surkhandarya regions went through a complex political, social, and economic period.

From the very first days of the establishment of the BPSR, large-scale changes were initiated to improve the economic sector. The monetary system and the reforms implemented in it, as well as the activities of the banking system, played a special role in the economic life of the republic.

In the mid-1920s, the first national currency of the Bukhara People's Soviet Republic (BPSR) – silver coins (nickel coins) – were introduced into circulation. Following this, paper money, referred to as "som", was issued. On October 12 of the same year, the Minister of Finance of the BPSR, Usman Khoja (Usmonxoja Polatxojayev), issued a decree on monetary reform. According to the decree, starting from that day, the population of Bukhara and all its subordinated provinces was informed that unmarked and unshaped paper money would no longer be in circulation. Those who did not comply with this decree were warned of severe punishment. The BPSR underwent several rounds of monetary reforms.

On January 1, 1922, the Bukhara Republic government issued paper money using a printing press, and they were referred to as “tange”. Their value was equated to 270,000 chervonets. However, due to increasing devaluation of the currency, by April, the exchange rate of the coins had risen to 500,000 chervonets, and by November, it had reached 850,000 chervonets. In addition, paper money in denominations of 1,000, 2,500, and 5,000 som was introduced into circulation and were referred to as “som”. Due to a shortage of money in circulation and the constant rise in prices, the BPSR government allowed not only its own currency but also Russian rubles, TASSR bond money, and even coins minted during the Emirate period to circulate equally within the republic.

From March 5 to 9, 1923, the first conference on economic issues of the Central Asian republics (TASSR, BPSR, and XXSR) was held in Tashkent. The main issue discussed at the conference was the decision to stop the issuance of local currencies in the republics and transition to the state currency of the RSFSR. Thus, under the pressure of the center, the issuance of the national currency in the Bukhara People's Soviet Republic (BPSR) was halted. The Central Asian republics were unified into a single economic space. During this period, the same policies regarding monetary reforms were implemented in the regions of Kashkadarya and Surkhandarya, which were part of the BPSR.

The BPSR government took measures to establish and develop the banking system. One of the most important issues during this time was the financial support for the population, especially for the farmers. In the autumn of 1920, the Central People's Bank was established in Bukhara city. The government ensured that the bank was supplied with the necessary funds. Branches of the bank began to be established in the regions of the republic. For example, on January 1, 1921, a branch was established in Kashkadarya province, and in the summer of the same year, a branch was set up in Termez city. After that, agricultural credit companies began to operate in the republic. According to archival documents, by the end of 1923, there were 7 credit companies, and by July 1, 1924, their number had increased to 64, with 9,688 members.

In September 1923, the Bukhara People's Soviet Republic (BPSR) government issued a decree on cooperation to assist agricultural enterprises. The Central Cooperative Commission was established in the republic. In order to effectively carry out reforms in agriculture, a large amount of funding was required, and the government paid special attention to this issue. By the end of 1923, a branch of the Central Asian Agricultural Bank was opened in Bukhara. A branch of this bank was also established in Kashkadarya province. Subsequently, with government investments, the strengthened agricultural bank established lending companies in many villages. These companies provided loans to agricultural enterprises and also supplied them with agricultural tools, seeds for planting, and other resources.

Furthermore, to improve the financing of agriculture, the Bukhara government allocated an additional 1 million gold rubles in credit in 1923, as many sectors of agriculture had fallen into disrepair. In that year, 163 hectares of land were sown with cotton in the Surkhandarya region. However, compared to 1915, the cotton area had decreased 27 times, and compared to 1913, it had decreased 49 times.

The BPSR government allocated 1 million chervonets to the Bukhara Agricultural Bank for lending to poor farmers. By April 1, 1924, it was planned to lend 500,000 chervonets to farmers in Kashkadarya province. The Central Asian Agricultural Bank began lending to poor farmers and artisans, setting an average loan (debt) amount of 100 chervonets per person. It was also determined that the agricultural bank would charge 12% interest annually, while the credit

companies under the bank would charge 4% interest annually. As a result, the production of agricultural and industrial products improved.

From June 18 to July 13, 1924, among the regions that received credit, Boysun city was also included. About 150 people formed companies, and 10,000 rubles in credit were issued. As a result, by 1924, significant changes were observed in the agricultural sector of the BPSR. Crop yields increased. In 1923, the cotton fields in the republic covered 20,000 desyatinas, and by 1924, it reached 35,000 desyatinas. Cotton yields also grew, increasing from 325,000 poods to 770,000 poods. During this period, even cotton exports to foreign countries were carried out, boosting state revenues. Taking these developments into account, the cotton fields in the Bukhara Republic were expanded, with American cotton varieties planted on up to 30,000 tanobs of land, and farmers were exempt from taxes.

During the years of Bukhara People's Soviet Republic (BPSR) rule, significant changes were made in the tax system. Reforms in the tax sector were of great importance in improving the republic's economic life. For this reason, the new government abolished some of the taxes from the Emirate period. However, under the influence of the Soviet government, tax reforms were not allowed to be carried out in the republic. On the contrary, tax payment methods typical of the Soviet regime were introduced.

First of all, taxes were heavily collected from the population, with more than 40,000 people taxed for the supply needs of the Red Army units stationed in the region. This tax system was based on food requisitioning, where food products were taken from peasants and property owners. Following this, the government demanded a reduction in the number of Red Army troops to 15,000 soldiers.

On November 26, 1921, the Bukhara People's Soviet Republic's Central People's Economic Commission (UMM Bukhoro MIK) adopted a law on the state tax. According to this law, taxes that had been collected from the population until that time were abolished, and new types of taxes were introduced from January 1, 1922. These included ushr (1/10), zakat (collected from livestock, one head per 40 heads of cattle), handicrafts (1/40 share of investment), a fee for irrigation water collected per tanob of irrigated land, and a tax on property calculated at 1/40 of its value.

An analysis of articles from the "Bukhara News" and "Ozod Bukhara" newspapers reveals that there was considerable discontent with the tax policy. Events such as weekly and bi-weekly tax collection days were organized across the republic's regions and districts. Additionally, proposals were made in the newspapers for improving the population's living conditions, establishing local production, modernizing agriculture, curbing the arbitrariness of tax authorities, and creating a local budget.

Starting from 1922, food taxes were introduced in both product and monetary forms in the BPSR. Only ushr tax was collected in kind. Beginning in January of that year, regional tax offices were established, and tax collection was managed by these offices. According to an article in the "Ozod Bukhara" newspaper, in 1923, based on a report from the head of the G'uzor district tax office, 98% of the population's taxes were collected, with 7,551 som collected from ushr taxes and 15,762 som from zakat taxes.

At a subsequent meeting of the Bukhara Economic Soviet on October 19, 1923, it was stated that the process of tax collection would be regulated moving forward, and any arbitrary actions in this regard would not be tolerated.

By 1924, the Soviet state aimed to collect taxes in cash as much as possible. This was implemented differently across various regions. For example, in January of that year, a meeting

was held in the BPSR People's Commissariat for Finance (BXSR XKS) to discuss financial matters, where views on the collection of taxes from the population were shared. In the report by the Deputy Head of the BPSR Tax Department, Bogolyubov, it was noted that according to the plan, 1,300,000 rubles had not been collected from the ushr tax, and in some districts of Bukhara, the ushr tax was planned to be collected in kind (as grain), while in Western Bukhara, it was expected to be collected in cash. It was also emphasized that in Eastern Bukhara, particularly in Kashkadarya, the form of payment for the ushr tax should be determined depending on the situation and the public mood.

In the years 1924-1925, the total amount of tax collected from farmers in the Kashkadarya region was 159,000 rubles. This indicates that the tax amount was collected based on local conditions. New policies were introduced, such as providing tax exemptions for cotton-growing households, exempting them from taxes, and offering loans from agricultural banks. As the economic reforms being carried out in the republic started to yield results, the tax burden on the population was gradually reduced. Some social groups were even completely exempt from taxes. For example, individual artisans and small traders were entirely freed from paying taxes. As a result, the total amount of taxes in the BPSR decreased by nearly 2.5 times within a year.

In summary, during the years of the Bukhara People's Soviet Republic, significant changes occurred in the economic life of the populations of Kashkadarya and Surkhandarya regions. Several monetary reforms were implemented in the BPSR. Due to a shortage of money in circulation, the BPSR government allowed the use of not only its own currency but also Russian rubles, TASSR bond money, and even coins minted during the Emirate period. Changes were also made in the amounts of taxes collected from the population. Banks were established, and preferential loans were provided to farmers for agricultural production. The BPSR government implemented large-scale economic reforms in the sector.

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