

A LOOK AT THE HISTORY OF SAMARKAND AT THE END OF THE 20TH
CENTURY

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Abstract: This article provides a brief history of Samarkand, known as the "Land of the Rising Sun," during the Soviet era, as well as the socio-political and economic life of Samarkand during this period, and highlights the scientific research carried out.

Key words: Samarkand, Registan, Pablo Neruda, anniversary, festival, Y. Gulyomov, Liliya Stefanova, Bibikhanim, Iordan Milev, Eastern epic.

When it comes to Samarkand, I involuntarily recall the words of the Chilean writer Pablo Neruda: "I really liked your city, famous throughout the world for its magnificent cultural and ancient monuments, and I was especially impressed by the Registan. This architectural ensemble surpasses all that I have seen in the Muslim East. It testifies to the high culture of the peoples of Central Asia."¹ I didn't call the title "Drops from the History of Samarkand" for nothing, because the history we are looking at is a drop from the ocean of Samarkand's history. So, what events did the city of Samarkand experience during the Soviet regime? We will briefly talk about this.

Samarkand, like other cities, did not lose its importance during the former Soviet Union. The city's industry underwent qualitative changes during these years, due to its rapid development. New industries such as mechanical engineering, metal processing, chemistry, and the production of building materials emerged. In the 1970s, about 60 large and small factories and plants operated in the city. Samarkand produced more than 20 percent of the republic's textile products and mineral fertilizers, about 15 percent of wine, all tea, more than 20 percent of canned goods, and about 5 percent of cotton fiber. Household refrigerators, film cameras, porcelain, and shoe factories determined the image of the city's industry.² At the same time, it is worth noting that the share of finished products and high-tech products in the total volume of production was quite low. Even advanced plants and factories evacuated during the war years were re-specialized in the post-war years, taking into account local conditions, and were primarily adapted to meet the needs of agriculture. The one-sided development of the city's economy, like that of the entire republic, was generally a phenomenon characteristic of the 70s-80s.

During the Soviet era, certain changes took place in the life of Samarkand as a major cultural center of Uzbekistan. Science, literature, and art developed in the city. Samarkand residents sought to change the appearance of their city, its architectural splendor for the better. As a result,

¹ "Samarqand shahrining umumbashariy madaniy taraqqiyot tarixida tutgan o'rni" Samarqand shahrining 2750 yillik yubileyiga bag'ishlangan xalqaro ilmiy simpozium materiallari. Toshkent - Samarqand. O'zbekiston Respublikasi FA. "Fan" nashriyoti. 2007. B-404

² D.A. Alimova, Yu.F. Buryakov, Sh. M. Rahmatullaev. Samarqand tarixi qadimgi davrlardan bugungi kungacha), WART FLEX» Toshkent - 2009. B-52

avenues and parks appeared, many new buildings were built to house state and public institutions. Archaeological research began. An international symposium dedicated to the art of the peoples of Central Asia during the Timurid era was held in Samarkand. The 2500th anniversary of Samarkand was celebrated in October 1970. International music festivals dedicated to the music of the Middle and Near East were also held in 1978, 1983, and 1987.³

By this time, great attention began to be paid to the education system and art in Samarkand. In particular, in the 1920s, schools, universities and secondary schools, libraries, clubs, museums and cinemas began to open in the city. In the 1970s, a wide network of preschool institutions, more than 40 secondary schools, 17 technical schools, and 27 vocational schools operated in the city. In the last years of the Soviet era, 4 theaters operated in the city: the Samarkand Regional Uzbek State Musical Drama Theater named after Hamid Olimjon, the Russian Drama Theater named after A.P. Chekhov, Opera and Ballet Theater, and the Regional Puppet Theater named after Asror Jorayev. Samarkand higher education institutions made a great contribution to training qualified personnel not only for the city, but also for the entire republic. In 1928-1939, 5 higher educational institutions were established in the city: the Uzbek Institute of Musical Choreography (now the Institute of Art History of the Academy of Arts of Uzbekistan), the Pedagogical Academy, cooperative, agricultural and medical institutes. The Uzbek Institute of Musical Choreography made a particularly great contribution to the development of national musical culture, where such famous Uzbek composers as M. Ashrafiy, M. Burkhonov, T. Sodiqov, Sh. Ramazonov received their education. The establishment of the State University of Uzbekistan (Samarkand State University) on the basis of the Uzbek Pedagogical Academy in 1933 was an important event in the cultural life of the city. By 1941, the university had trained 1,157 qualified specialists in various fields of science, including 594 specialists from indigenous peoples. In addition, 75 researchers (including 23 representatives of local nationalities) were trained in postgraduate studies. In those years, such well-known scientists as I.M. Muminov, Q.Z. Zokirov, N.P. Romanov worked at the university departments. Ya. G. Gulyomov, M.O. Asimov, U.O. Orifov, O.M. Aminov, Uygun, H. Olimjon, Sh. Sa'dulla, Sh. Rashidov, M. Boboyev, and other prominent statesmen, scientists, writers, and poets of the republic studied at UzSU at that time. In 1966, the sixth higher educational institution was opened in the city - the Samarkand Institute of Architecture and Construction named after Mirzo Ulugbek. In 1969, the Samarkand Higher Military School of Automobile Commanders-Engineers was established. The establishment of the Institute of Archaeology of the Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan, the only one in Central Asia, on the basis of the Institute of Archaeology and History of the Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan in 1970 was a major event in the scientific life of Samarkand. Academician Y. Gulyamov made great contributions to the establishment of the institute.⁴

Newspapers and magazines also play a significant role in studying the socio-political history of this period. The large-circulation newspaper "Leninchi" of the "Krasny Dvigatel" plant published 508 articles, reports, and photographs in 1958. However, most of these materials

³ D.A. Alimova, Yu.F. Buryakov, Sh.M. Rahmatullaev. Samarqand tarixi (qadimgi davrlardan bugungi kungacha). «ART FLEX» Toshkent-2009. B-52.

⁴ D.A. Alimova, Yu.F. Buryakov, Sh.M. Rahmatullaev. Samarqand tarixi (qadimgi davrlardan bugungi kungacha). «ART FLEX» Toshkent - 2009. B 53-54

were written by working correspondents and communists.⁵ Many famous poets, writers and literary scholars carried out their creative activities in the city. Among them were A. Fitrat, S. Ayniy, H. Olimjon, U. Nasir, Uygun, O. Sobirova, H. Polat and others. During this period, not only Uzbek writers, but also writers from all over the world began to create works about Samarkand. In particular, the talented Bulgarian poet Liliya Stefanova dedicated her poems "Live Pages" and "Bibikhanim" to the image of Samarkand. Another Bulgarian poet, Jordan Milev, "Epic of the East" was also created on the theme of Samarkand.⁶ However, positive changes in the cultural, spiritual and socio-economic spheres were intermittent due to strict political control and a strong level of ideology. The creative efforts of the Uzbek people and their creative intelligentsia to preserve, restore and enrich their centuries-old rich and unique national culture were seriously hampered by the communist regime. The oppression of the communist ideology, based on the rejection of generally accepted commodity-market relations and the state ownership of all forms of property, led to the emergence of contradictory principles in the economy of the republic, including the city of Samarkand. The one-sided, unfavorable raw material type of the national economy, its lack of focus on comprehensive development and the needs of the people, combined with the painful vices of social policy, increasingly aggravated the material and financial situation of the republic. The country's socio-economic development has stagnated. The one-sided administrative command policy pursued during the Soviet era, the cotton business (later the Uzbek business), etc., could not but affect the social and political lifestyle. But as they say, truth always prevails, the Soviet system also collapsed. The city of Samarkand also entered a new stage of development after the Republic of Uzbekistan gained independence. Today's Samarkand has become unrecognizable and beautiful. I would like to conclude the article with the following phrase of the First President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Islam Karimov: "Samarkand has an honorable past, a happy present, and an eternal future."

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⁵ Samarqand tarixi. Ikkinchi tom. "Fan". Toshkent 1970. B 286

⁶ "Samarqand shahrining umumbashariy madaniy taraqqiyot tarixida tutgan o'rni" Samarqand shahrining 2750 yillik yubileyiga bag'ishlangan xalqaro ilmiy simpozium materiallari. Toshkent - Samarqand. O'zbekiston Respublikasi FA. "Fan" nashriyoti. 2007. B-404