



The Formation And Development Of Historical Topics In The Uzbekistan Press: The Conceptual Place Of The Newspaper “Bukhara Hakikati”

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Abstract

This article analyzes the article “A Glance at History” written by Sadridin Ayni, a prominent son of the Bukhara people and one of the leading Uzbek Jadids, published in the June 24, 1938 issue of the newspaper “Bukhara Hakikati”. The study reinterprets how historical processes were covered in the press by applying modern scientific and theoretical approaches. The research systematically examines information about the socio-political structure of the Bukhara Emirate in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, including its taxation policy, the activities of officials, and the legal status of the population. Ayni's critical observations are compared with the current processes of building a rule-of-law state in Uzbekistan, the electoral system, and democratic principles. The study scientifically highlights the continuity between historical developments and today's reforms.

Keywords: Sadridin Ayni, Bukhara Emirate, historical source, tax system, qazi (judge), state administration, social injustice, Jadidism, newspaper, journal, “Bukhara Hakikati”.

1. Introduction

on sources, in various forms, avoiding biases and conducting research based on source analysis, is on the agenda. The “Uzbekistan – 2030” strategy sets out clear, perspective plans for further improving activities related to the protection, scientific study and popularization of cultural heritage[1].

The Bukhara Emirate is one of the most ancient political formations in Central Asia, which experienced complex socio-political processes in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Another of the most important sources of this period are the articles published by the Jadids in the local press from the perspective of the era. Below we will analyze one of such articles[2]. This article was written by one of the outstanding scientists of his time, Sadridin Aini. Aini, not only a writer, but also one of the Jadid enlighteners who critically covered the development of society, deeply reflected the social problems of his time[3].

2. Research Method

In studying the topic, reference was made to press publications published in the 1930s, memoirs of individuals who contributed articles to these publications, as well as primary

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sources from the perspective of the period of the topic and literature that provides views and opinions on their various analyses. They can be divided into the following groups[4].

1. Press publications that serve as the basis for covering the topic
2. Memoirs of modern intellectuals. .
3. Studies devoted to the analysis of press publications.

In preparing this article, methods of historical analysis and objectivity widely used in historical research were used[5].

3. Result

The history of Bukhara, which is an integral part of the history of Uzbekistan, is being studied on the basis of many and diverse historical sources. Among them, the role of the contemporary press is especially great. In particular, the pages of the press play a special role in studying the history of Bukhara after the 1930s. Articles on the history of Bukhara were mainly published in the newspapers "Bukhara Proletari" and "Bukhara Haqiqiti" published in 1930-38[6]. Below we will analyze one of these articles. In the article "A Look at History", the author makes sharp critical comments about the administrative system, taxes, the activities of judges and officials, economic oppression, the social situation of the population and injustices during the Bukhara Emirate[7]. This article aims to re-examine these materials based on modern scientific analysis, comparing them with today's historiographical theories.

Using specific examples, he emphasizes that the excessive number of taxes such as "tax", "hiraj", "tulla", "haq" paved the way for the arbitrariness of officials. In some regions, even an additional tax could be determined by the official himself[8].

The qazi system and career trading: According to the author, qazi positions were often given for a fee; "qazis who earned money were promoted to higher positions." This is recorded in historical sources as "corruption of officials." Lack of legal equality: during the emirate period, the rights of ordinary people were poorly protected, women's rights were limited, and officials had privileges[9].

The opaqueness of the judicial system: One of the interesting episodes cited by Aini — the ambiguous answer of the judge Abdulbadal Sodi to the question "how much should be given" in relation to the case — shows that the legal cases of that time were related to money and position[10].

Aini gives the following thoughts in his article. During the colonial period of the former Turkestan, the people lived in extreme poverty. Their labor was mercilessly plundered by the tsarist (Russian) officials, local mullahs, the rich and other ruling classes. The situation was no different in the Amir Bukhara. Here, the violence and injustice of the officials fell even more heavily on the working people. It is written that if an official beat a person, when asked "Why did you beat him?" he would answer: "The people of Bukhara were created to beat and plunder." This article was published on page three of the newspaper "Bukhara Haqiqiti" on June 24, 1938[11]. Although the article was written in a more critical spirit and in accordance with Soviet ideology, since it was written during the Soviet era, it attempted to shed light on the administrative system of the emirate in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The following thoughts clearly describe the social life of that period.

The position of the mullahs was particularly strong. They relied on Sharia law and exercised complete control over the people, issuing rulings on many religious and spiritual issues, and subjugating the people to their rule. Most of the lands belonging to Bukhara were the property of the emir. Most of the crops from these lands were taken to the emir's treasury. The author writes that most of the remaining lands were "endowments" and given to the mullahs, and the people were also obliged to pay taxes on these lands. At the beginning of the 20th century, the lands under the endowment in the emirate constituted very large areas. The mullahs had very strong power in the central government and opposed any innovations in the emirate[12].

4. Discussion

The emir appointed anyone he wanted to the positions of qazi, mirshab, and official. These positions were sold - that is, whoever paid the most money would receive that high position. For example, let's take the position of qazi. The daily salaries in the qazikhans were very large. Judges received a separate fee for each case, sometimes their daily income reached 50-60 soums. District (district) judges were obliged to give the emir a large "gift" twice a year. If the emir did not like them, it was natural for them to immediately remove them from office. People considered the qazi to be "the most profitable profession for making money"[13].

In the Amir's Bukhara, taxes were extremely high. Even the poorest people, even those who worked in the most difficult jobs, did not refuse to pay taxes. There were various obligations such as a new bride, a deceased, a house tax, a land tax, a double tax, and a tax on the harvest. Women had absolutely no rights. Their names were not even mentioned publicly, they were mentioned only during weddings or negotiations. Women were forced to be illiterate and were completely excluded from society. Only after the Great October Revolution did the people of Bukhara begin to emerge from darkness into light. Under the leadership of the Communist Party, reforms such as national equality, social justice, land and water reform, and women's rights were implemented.

The people gained the right to vote in the Soviets. Aini writes in his article that the people of Uzbekistan were grateful to the Soviet regime led by Stalin and Lenin and confidently elected their representatives to the Supreme Soviet of the Uzbek SSR and the Supreme Soviet of the USSR. From the above thoughts, it is clear that Aini was also influenced by Soviet ideology. According to Aini, ideas such as equality, justice, and freedom came to Turkestan precisely from the Soviet era, and the era of the emirate is considered a despotic regime. The reason for this is that Aini himself suffered several times from the rigid medieval ideas of the mullahs in the emirate. In particular, after the Karki and Bukhara events of 1917, Sadridin Aini was punished, like all enlightened Jadids in Bukhara. We know that Aini was taken from his cell in the Kukaldash madrasah and beaten with 70 lashes[14]. No matter how it is written, the era of Soviet and Tsarist Russia, which lasted for nearly a century and a half, will always remain an integral part of our history.

When we consider the most pressing issues of the history of Bukhara, first of all, when we turn to sources related to the history of this state, the press pages should be one of the most valuable sources for us. As mentioned in the above information, the press pages raise the most important and hotly debated issues in the historical period and even analyze their causes and solutions. In this regard, the press is among the sources that have always been in the center of attention[15].

5. Conclusion and Recommendation

As a result of studying the formation and development of historical topics in the Uzbek press, especially analyzing the conceptual role of the newspaper "Bukhara Haqiqiti" and its contribution to the development of historical thinking, a number of scientific and practical conclusions can be drawn. As it was found in the course of the research, the newspaper was not only an information medium, but also served as an important ideological platform for understanding national identity, restoring historical memory and forming social consciousness. The historical materials covered on its pages played an invaluable role in scientifically conveying to the public the statehood traditions of the Uzbek people, their spiritual heritage, the Jadid movement, the political and legal reforms of Turkestan and many other pressing issues of regional history. It should also be noted that the approach of the newspaper "Bukhara Haqiqiti" to covering historical topics is distinguished by its own analytical and conceptual methodology. On the pages of the newspaper, the content of historical processes is revealed not superficially, but systematically, is connected with historical sources and analyzed on the

basis of a critical approach. This clearly demonstrates the function of journalism of that time not only as a disseminator of information, but also as a force that stimulates educational and scientific research. Also, the newspaper, through its materials, played the role of a leading source in re-evaluating historical facts, interpreting national heritage based on modern scientific criteria, and highlighting the impact of historical and political processes on the development of society. The study shows that the activity of "Bukhara Haqiqi" in developing historical topics constitutes a special stage in the history of the Uzbek press. The newspaper served as a reliable and valid platform for conveying important events such as the political upheavals of the early 20th century, the crisis of the Bukhara Emirate, the activities of the Jadids, and the ideas of national revival to the general public. Through the materials provided in the newspaper, the process of forming scientific historical consciousness in society, the revival of national values, and the understanding of historical truth accelerated. As a result, the newspaper has retained its importance as an important source not only for its time, but also for today's historical research. This study has scientifically demonstrated the place of the newspaper "Bukhara Haqiqiti" in the evolution of historical topics in the Uzbek press. The newspaper's activities were of great importance in popularizing historical information, forming historical thinking, and promoting the ideas of national revival. In the future, expanding research in this area, in-depth analysis of newspaper materials in terms of source studies, and comparative study with the modern press will serve to further enrich the historical journalism of Uzbekistan.

6. References

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