

History of Samarkand Periodicals of the Early 20th Century

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Abstract: This article analyzes the historical political, economic, social and cultural life of the Samarkand region as it was portrayed in the periodical press. The main realities of the history of the 20th century are analyzed based on the materials of periodicals published in Samarkand.

Keywords: press, Samarkand, Khoji Muin, Mehnatkashlar tovushi, Ovozi tojik, Mulla Mushfiqi, Boturbek, Samarkand newspaper.



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In the current globalization process, understanding the religion of Islam, its spiritual and moral values, and its humanistic essence is becoming increasingly important in the upbringing of the younger generation and in raising their spirituality. One of the most important tasks today is to help young people understand the true goals of extremist forces that use Islamic ideas for political purposes and to be able to resist them, and to widely promote the humanistic essence of Islam.

During the years of independence, a number of studies were published on the history of the formation and development of the press in Uzbekistan. In particular, works related to the periodical press were created by S. Shadmanova, Z. Ulugbekova. Studies by D. Alimova, S. Agzamkhozhaev, N. Mustafaeva, and D. Kenjaev analyzed issues of religious education in the pages of periodicals. Also, during the years of independence, studies were published devoted to the history of the press in Uzbek literature, including the analysis of articles on Islamic enlightenment covered in them. Researches, bibliographic indexes dedicated to special national press pages were prepared and published¹.

The 20th century is a socially, economically and politically important period for Samarkand. This period is characterized by the exchange of various political systems, the rapid development of political and social processes. The political life of that period occupies a special place in the general history of Samarkand. The city's population experienced these processes at different stages, which led to significant changes in political life. In the early 1900s, Samarkand was part of the Russian Empire and was part of the Turkestan Governorate. During this period, the city served as one of the important centers of Russian political and economic policy. The development of political life in Samarkand was associated with the strengthening of the governance system and social reforms in the Turkestan region. During this period, the press mainly provided information about official decisions and reforms. The first Russian revolution of 1905–1907 led to an increase

¹ Рахимджанова Н.К. Туркистон даврий матбуотида ислом дини ва маърифатининг долзарб масалалари (XIX аср охири –XX аср бошлари). – Тошкент, 2020. – Б. 7-8.

in political activity in Turkestan, and in particular in Samarkand. During this period, the ideas of national revival and independence were widely spread among the Muslim intelligentsia of the Turkestan region. Although the freedom of the press was limited by the Russian government at this time, a number of clandestine publications and brochures were distributed.

This period is characterized by extensive coverage of political changes in Samarkand. As a result of the February Revolution of 1917 and the October Revolution, new political processes began in the Turkestan region. The Samarkand press actively participated in covering these events. During this period, the newspaper "Turkiston" and other regional publications covered the revolutionary events in detail. The formation of the Turkestan autonomy and its short-term activities were widely covered in the press. Through the press, the leaders of the autonomy expressed their political views and conveyed important messages to the population².

In 1918, Hoji Muin began publishing the current newspaper "Uzbekistan Ovozi" in Samarkand under the name "Voice of Workers". The enlightened journalist Hoji Muin made a special contribution to the publication of the first issues of this newspaper. Accordingly, we have every right to call Hoji Muin one of the founders of Uzbek journalism. Hoji Muin is also considered one of the founders of the publication of the newspaper "Zarafshan" in 1922 and the satirical magazine "Mashrab" in 1924. In these years, on the initiative of Hoji Muin, a Tajik-language newspaper called "Ovozi Tajik" was launched in Samarkand. Since 1926, he has also supervised the publication of a satirical magazine called "Mulla Mushfiqi". Observations show that during those times, more than 300 feuilletons, satirical poems, news and articles, and travelogues by Haji Mu'in were published in the press. These works were published under about twenty secret pseudonyms, such as Baturbek, Tayak, Mashrab, Mullah Junbul, and Damduzd³.

In 1913, Behbudi's newspaper "Samarkand" (45 issues) was published. The newspaper "Samarkand" was the first newspaper of the progressive enlighteners of Samarkand, and it began to be published in April 1913 under the editorship of Mahmudhuja Behbudi. The title of the newspaper read: "A cultural illustrated newspaper, writing in the local Turkish and Persian dialects about science, literature, trade, crafts and agriculture, the state and culture of Russia and the situation of foreign countries and the life of the Islamic world." The newspaper was published twice a week on 2 pages (4 pages after the 7th and 8th issues). It also had a circulation of 400-600 copies. The language was not purely Uzbek, and Tajik poems and articles were also published in each issue (indeed, the newspaper's headline read "In local Turkish and Persian dialect..."⁴).

In 1924, national territorial delimitation was carried out in Central Asia and the Uzbek Soviet Socialist Republic was established. This period was a new stage in the political life of Samarkand. Until 1925, Samarkand was the capital of the Uzbek SSR. A new era began in the development of the city's socio-political life. The political life of the city began to be widely covered by the periodical press. Publications published in Samarkand promoted the policies of the Soviet government, and the processes of collectivization and industrialization, new political ideologies became one of the main topics in the press.

Starting from the 1920s, a new stage of cultural life began in Samarkand. During the Soviet period, art and culture became an important component of state policy. Cultural institutions established during this period made a great contribution to enriching the cultural life of Samarkand. The establishment of the Samarkand State Theater and its first performances were widely covered in the periodical press. One of the tasks of the press during this period was to

² Niyozov I. Samarqandning siyosiy tarixi. – Toshkent, 2019, – B.45-48.

³ Йўлдошев Б. Самарқанддаги жадид адабий ҳаракатида Хожи Муъиннинг тутган ўрни ҳақида // Самарқанд шаҳрининг умумбашарий маданий тараққиёт тарихида тутган ўрни. Тошкент — Самарқанд Ўзбекистон Республикаси Фанлар академияси Фан нашриёти. 2007. – Б. 325-326.

⁴ Туркистон матбуоти тарихи. – Тошкент: Академия. 2000. – Б. 98.

promote Soviet culture, popularize new artistic trends, and increase the cultural literacy of the population. At the same time, articles on ancient national art and folk creativity were also published, ensuring that these trends were not forgotten.

ADABIYOTLAR/LITERATURA/REFERENCES:

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