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## THE PROBLEM OF THE HISTORY OF UZBEKISTAN STATESHIP IN SOVIET HISTORICAL STUDIES: METHODOLOGICAL APPROACH AND CONCEPTUAL EVOLUTION

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**Abstract.** This article analyzes the study of the history of Uzbek statehood in Soviet historiography. The approaches of Soviet historians to the concept of statehood, changes in historical concepts, and the features of interpreting historical heritage under the influence of political ideology are analyzed. The study sheds light on the transformation of methodological principles at different stages of Soviet historiography (1920-1930s, the war and post-war period, the periods of "hardening" and "perestroika"). The politicization and ideologisation of issues of national statehood in Soviet studies are shown.

**Key words:** Soviet historiography, Uzbek statehood, Marxist-Leninist methodology, formational approach, national republic, historical determinism, class principle, partisanship, historical materialist concept.

Introduction After the independence of Uzbekistan, fundamental changes occurred in the methodology of historical science. Although the historiography of the Soviet period was ideologically uniform, it contained different scientific ideas and conceptual views. How Soviet historiography approached the issues of the history of Uzbek statehood, what methodological foundations and ideological frameworks research in this area was conducted within, is of great importance in the development of modern historical science. A correct assessment of the historiographical heritage created during the Soviet period, an objective analysis of its achievements and shortcomings is one of the important tasks facing modern Uzbek historiography. The purpose of the article is to determine the level of study of the issue of the history of Uzbek statehood in Soviet historiography, its methodological foundations, the evolution of conceptual approaches, as well as the scientific significance and limitations of these studies.

#### **Materials and Methods**

1. The period of formation of Soviet historiography (1920-1930s): methodological basis and initial concepts.

With the establishment of Soviet power, the science of history was reorganized on the basis of a new Marxist-Leninist methodology. During this period, the study of the history of Uzbek statehood also changed dramatically.





Research in the 1920s-1930s was mainly aimed at studying the traditions of statehood in Central Asia based on a classified analysis.

Orientalists such as V.V. Bartold, A.Yu. Yakubovsky, S.P. Tolstov made a significant contribution to the study of certain issues of the history of Uzbek statehood, but their research was mainly limited to medieval state structures. During the formation of Soviet historiography, many sources that had not been studied during the Russian Empire were introduced into scientific circulation. During the 1920s, the issue of the history of Uzbek statehood began to be studied mainly in connection with ethnogenesis and the establishment of Soviet power in the Turkestan region. Historians V.L. Vyatkin and M.E. Masson raised the issue of the connection of ancient states with Uzbek statehood. However, even in these studies, the history of Uzbek statehood was interpreted within the framework of a formative approach.

By the 1930s, with the strengthening of the Stalinist regime, Marxist-Leninist methodology began to fully dominate the science of history. Research on the issue of Uzbek statehood was mainly limited to assessing the ancient and medieval Uzbek statehood as a form of feudalism, characterizing its accession to the Russian Empire as a "progressive historical phenomenon" and putting forward the idea that "forms of national statehood were optimized under the Soviet regime". In the studies of S.V. Bakhrushin and A.A. Semyonov, Central Asian statehood was studied in the context of feudal relations. In particular, in Bakhrushin's work "On the History of the Peoples of Central Asia" (1937), state structures in Central Asia in the 16th-19th centuries, in particular the Bukhara Emirate and the Khiva Khanate, were interpreted as feudal states. The formative approach was dominant in the study of the history of statehood, and the ethnic aspects and national characteristics of state structures were not sufficiently covered.

2. Historiography of the Second World War and the post-war period (1940-1950s). During the war years and the subsequent period, patriotic themes began to dominate in Soviet historiography. In studies on the history of Uzbek statehood, the activities of national heroes (Amir Temur, Mirzo Ulugbek, Zakhiriddin Muhammad Babur) began to be somewhat positively assessed, but this was also limited within the framework of Soviet ideology.

**Results** Although scientists such as Ya. Gulyomov, I. Muminov, and V.A. Shishkin did important work in studying some aspects of the history of Uzbek statehood, their research was conducted within the framework of the paradigm of the "struggle between progressive and reactionary forces". The multi-volume "History of Uzbekistan", published in the 1950s by the Institute of History of the Academy of Sciences of the Uzbek SSR, was compiled on the basis of approaches characteristic of Soviet historiography.

Although Ya. Gulyamov's works "History of Khorezm" (1941) and "History of Irrigation of Khorezm" (1950) studied the issues of Khorezm



statehood, these studies also focused on aspects of feudal relations and class struggle. In V.A. Shishkin's work "Varakhsha" (1954), the history and statehood of the Bukhara oasis were studied on the basis of archaeological materials.

Although the history of the Timurid state was studied in the article "History of the State of Amir Temur Koragon" written by I. Muminov in 1946, this study also assessed the Timurid state as a feudal despotism. In historiography of this period, the historical states on the territory of Uzbekistan were called "Central Asian feudal states" rather than "Uzbek state".

**Analysis** The period of "stiffening" in Soviet historiography (1960-1980s). In the 1960s-1980s, Soviet historiography experienced a period of relative "stiffening". During this period, studies on the history of Uzbek statehood were also conducted within the framework of Marxist-Leninist methodology. The history of Central Asian statehood was studied mainly in the context of the evolution of feudal relations.

**Discussion** There were also attempts to study the history of Uzbek statehood within the framework of a generalized concept of the history of the peoples of the USSR. The studies of scientists such as B. Gofurov, A. Asqarov, O. Mavlonov, B. A. Ahmedov studied the issues of the history of national statehood. In particular, B. A. Ahmedov's works such as "Source Studies of the History of the Peoples of Uzbekistan" (1981), "Traditions of Statehood in Central Asia" (1983) covered some issues of the history of Uzbek statehood. The two-volume "History of the Uzbek SSR", published in 1968, covered the history of states on the territory of Uzbekistan, but here too the Marxist formational approach was preserved. Also, the ancient and medieval states on the territory of Uzbekistan were not called by the concept of "Uzbek state", but by territorial and geographical names.

As a result of archaeological research by A. Askarov and O. Mavlonov, new information was revealed about the ancient periods of the history of Central Asian statehood, but in their studies, the concept of "Central Asian statehood" was used more often than the concept of "Uzbek statehood".

In the 1970s and 1980s, the history of Uzbek statehood was studied through cultural and architectural heritage in art studies conducted by G.A. Pugachenkova and L.I. Rempel. However, these studies were also more within the framework of cultural history.

4. Changes in the historiography of the "Perestroika" period (1985-1991) Certain changes occurred in the approaches to the history of Uzbek statehood in the historiography of the "Perestroika" period. During this period, interest in issues of national history increased, and new views on historical figures and events were formed.

In the studies published in 1985-1991, new sources began to be involved in the study of the history of Uzbek statehood, previously unknown



archival documents were introduced into scientific circulation. At the same time, in the historiography of this period, a free discussion began in the study of issues related to the history of Uzbek statehood, and attempts were made to break away from the previously frozen conceptual patterns. During the "perestroika" period, many blank pages of our national history were filled, in particular, the names of such figures as Fayzulla Khojayev, Abdulla Qodiriy, and Chulpon were restored, and the history of the era in which they lived was given a new assessment. Scientists such as I. Karimov, H. Ziyoyev, R. Nabiyev began to study the national liberation movements that took place in the former Turkestan region at the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century and their aspects related to statehood. The scientific research of A. Ziyo and A. Muhammadjonov focused on the issues of the evolution of the formation of Uzbek statehood.

**Conclusion.** The study of the history of Uzbek statehood in Soviet historiography was influenced by ideological limitations. The following main features are observed in the study of the history of Uzbek statehood during the Soviet period:

- 1. The priority of Marxist-Leninist methodology and the interpretation of historical processes within the framework of a formative approach;
- 2. Giving priority to class struggle and production relations, considering issues of statehood history as secondary;
- 3. Studying the history of Uzbek statehood not ethnically, but territorially and administratively, not taking into account ethnic factors in issues of national statehood;
- 4. Insufficient attention to the uniqueness of the traditions and structures of Eastern statehood;
  - 5. Interpreting historical processes in a modernized way.

Despite the limitations of Soviet historiography, during this period, important factual material on the history of Uzbek statehood was collected, many sources were put into scientific circulation, and important archaeological discoveries were made. These materials today serve as an important basis for an objective study of the history of Uzbek statehood. By the time of independence, new methodological approaches, concepts based on national values and principles, were formed in the study of the history of Uzbek statehood. The factual materials collected in Soviet-era historiography are being reassessed on the basis of modern methodological approaches. This allows for a more in-depth and objective study of the history of Uzbek statehood.

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