

From the History of Koreans of Uzbekistan: Within the Framework of Cooperation of Uzbekistan and Korea

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Annotation: The article deals with Koreans, one of the ethnic groups deported to Uzbekistan during the Soviet era by order of the center. The study of the essence of the topic is one of the most pressing issues today, which will strengthen the strong ties of friendship between the two peoples and serve to strengthen the historical memory of the Korean people living in Uzbekistan.

Keywords: Koreans, public, Korean people, soviet period, population, emigrant.

In the current processes of globalization, most of the countries in the world are becoming multinational and multicultural. It is known from the world experience that the stability of the state largely depends on the ability to solve various problems in inter-ethnic relations. In recent times, in some regions of the world, religious and ethnic conflicts, including inter-ethnic conflicts, are increasing, this problem is becoming especially important. Currently, the UN, OSCE and other international organizations are doing a number of things to solve these problems.

In the context of world history, the history of the countries of the former Soviet Union occupies an important place. Today, in many scientific centers of the world, work is being carried out on a number of scientific projects devoted to the study of the practices of the Soviets aimed at creating a "single Soviet nation" in the allied republics, as well as the mistakes and shortcomings of solving national and social problems. During the years of independence, effective work was carried out in this regard in Uzbekistan, but these works cannot fully reveal the importance of the topic in terms of scope and coverage, therefore, its study and scientific analysis are considered urgent issues.

Uzbekistan, characterized by the spirit of international harmony and tolerance, its extremely rich historical heritage, culture and art, arouse the constant interest of the people of the world and attract the general public. During the years of independence, the development of the science of history in Uzbekistan reached a new stage, the scope of research expanded, including new research on the history of the former Soviet era. At this point, it is one of the most important and urgent issues to analyze the state of the national policy in Uzbekistan, as well as the social policy and its impact on the population, based on clear and consistent data, the lifestyle of the population of our country, and the problems that have arisen in social life. In this scientific article, we tried to shed light on the history of the Korean nation, one of the representatives of the nation, who live side by side with us and contribute to the development of our republic.

We found it necessary to analyze the number, social structure, lifestyle and other aspects of Koreans who lived in Uzbekistan during the years of the former Soviet regime based on the results of the population census conducted during the years of the Soviet regime. The reason is that this issue has not been sufficiently studied by Uzbek and Korean historians. Studying the problem and strengthening the historical memory of our peoples also occupies an important place in the history of the statehood of the Uzbek Korean peoples. It is worth noting that a number of scientists conducted scientific research on the subject even during the years of the authoritarian regime. But the researches created and the arguments presented in them reflect the ideology of the Soviet regime and the ideas put forward by them. Almost nothing is said about the fate of the nations and peoples living in Central Asia, preserving their national customs and traditions and handing them over to the next generation.

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Most of the scientific works created during the Soviet period focused on the study of the problem, and in them, the main task was to create a single Soviet nation and thereby solve the problem of the national issue. In addition, the entry of a group of personnel of different nationalities into the republic was considered by the center as a process aimed at raising the economy of the republic and increasing the number of qualified personnel among the workers. The research conducted by D. Alimova, A. A. Golovanov, V. A. Germanov, Q. Rajabov, M. Haydarov, R. Shamsuddinov, N. Karimov, E. Yusupov, O. Ata-Mirzaev, V. Gentshke, R. Murtazaeva, A. Saliev, B.V. Khasanov, D. Bobojonova and other scientists can be cited as an example. In scientific works, textbooks, manuals, monographs and brochures on various topics created by the above-mentioned scientists paid attention to the history of the Korean nation along with the representatives of other nationalities living in the republic.

It is known that representatives of the Korean nationality have been living in Uzbekistan since 1937. However, in the source stored in the Central State Archives of the Republic of Uzbekistan, which contains information from the population census conducted in 1926, there is information that 30 representatives of the Korean nationality lived in Uzbekistan in 1926. During the study of the information, it became known that 29 of the representatives of the Korean nationality were men and 1 was a woman.²

In the results of the population census conducted in 1939, a total of 73,494 Koreans were registered in the territory of Uzbekistan, of which 6,577 men lived in cities and 32,394 lived in rural areas. 4,863 women lived in cities, 29,660 lived in rural areas. The reason for the increase in the number of the population was the decision to emigrate representatives of this nationality from the Far East to Uzbekistan during the Soviet era. Joint decision No. 1813/278 dated November 25 "On the implementation of the plan for the relocation of Koreans to the Uzbek SSR" was adopted. It is noted that until November 10, 1937, 16,307 Korean families consisting of 74,500 people were relocated from the Far East of the former USSR³.

The issue of the fate of the displaced people was discussed at the meeting of the former Council of People's Commissars held on January 5, 1938. According to the council, 9,807 of the displaced family members will be placed in the rice-growing farm in Orta Chirchik district, in the cotton-growing farm "Strelkova" in Pastdargom district, and in the cotton-growing farm called "Five-year" in Koyi Chirchik district. Another 700 families will be resettled in Karakalpakstan ASSR, mainly on fish farming farms.

According to sources, representatives of the nation, consisting of the youths, old people and young children, are put in a whirlwind of difficulties during the resettlement process. The majority of those resettled in Uzbekistan will be placed in the territory of Tashkent region. According to the information, in 1937, 74,500 people were settled in Uzbekistan, and two years later, in the results of the population census, we can see that the number of representatives of the common nationality decreased by 1,006 people.

Resolution No. 5 of the Council of People's Commissars of the USSR held in March 1940 stated that the resettlement of Koreans in the territory of Uzbekistan was completed and that 4 million 400 thousand rubles were spent by the state on the work, 215 thousand rubles were spent on relocation, and the remaining 4 million 185 thousand rubles were spent on housing construction.

According to the information stored in the State Archives of the Russian Federation, according to the decision issued by the former Minister of Internal Affairs of the USSR, Colonel-General S. Kruglov, on August 2, 1946, the displaced people from the Far East will live in the places where they were relocated and they will not be given the opportunity to return to their homeland, on addition to this, it was noted that passports were given to them only because they were registered in their place of residence⁴. The people of the nation, who have been brought up to selfless work and creative ideas, will soon adapt to our region.

² Central State Archive of the Republic of Uzbekistan, fond 1619, list 11, volume 53, pages 8-9

³ Central State Archive of the Republic of Uzbekistan, fond 837, 27, work 39, page 11

⁴ State Archive of the Russian Federation, F. R-9401, collection volume 207



We can observe that the rate of increase in the number of representatives of the Korean nationality in Uzbekistan has increased significantly in recent years. For example, according to the results of the 1959 census, 138,453 Koreans live in the republic, and 147,538 according to the 1970 census. If we compare this indicator with the results of 1939, we can see that by 1970 the population has more than doubled compared to 1939.

Comparing the results of the 1959 census with the 1970 census, we can see that the number of Koreans living in Tashkent was 0.4 percent of the city's total population in 1959, and 1.3 percent in the 1970 census.⁵

It is known that the increase in the number of ethnic groups in the cities during the years of Soviet rule led to the increase of ethnically mixed families among representatives of different nationalities. We can also see this in the table below. (In the case of Koreans)

The number of ethnically mixed families in the city of Tashkent according to the 1970 population census:⁶

Ethnically mixed families	Number of families	As a percentage of the number of families
Uzbeks and Koreans	16	0.01
Russians and Koreans	256	0.09
Tartars and Koreans	49	0.02
Kazakhs and Koreans	5	-
Koreans and other nationalities	28	0.03

As can be seen from the table, the level of intermarriage with representatives of other nationalities was much higher with Russians.

We can see that the number of representatives of this nation has increased significantly in the following years. For example, according to the results of the 1979 census, the number of Koreans in the republic is 163,062. In 1989, the number reached 183,140 people. According to the information, during the past 10 years, the number of representatives of this nation has increased by more than twenty thousand people⁷. It should be noted that the development, social status, and spiritual image of each nation living in a certain society in different periods changes depending on the material, social, historical and cultural conditions of that society. The spiritual image of the nation is expressed in the forms of social consciousness in the existing environment and ideology. The great influence of the "dominant ideology" in the Soviet era radically changed the national and social structure of Uzbekistan and showed its negative aspects to the spiritual and spiritual image of the nation. In addition, although the Soviet government from the first years of coming to power "promised" peace to many peoples and nationalities and carried out the policy of forming a "socialist nation" by force, in practice, the administration of the Soviet state was subordinated to the single "communist ideology" and nationalistic chauvinism intensified. This process had a negative impact on the national identity of the peoples of the Union, including the Korean people. Researching this situation on the example of changes in the national and social structure of the population of Uzbekistan during the Soviet era is also considered one of the urgent issues. In the topic that we are studying, this issue was observed. In the course of the studies, it became clear that during the Soviet era, the forced resettlement of the population to our country closed the door of opportunities for representatives of the majority of nationalities.

⁵ Central State Archive of the Republic of Uzbekistan, fond 1619, list 5, work 29, pages 6-7

⁶ I. R. Mullyajanov, Y. V. Voronovskiy, T. S. Tsepkovskaya Population of Uzbekistan SSR. – T.: Uzbekistan, 1973. – page 43

⁷ Central State Archive of the Republic of Uzbekistan, fond 1619, list 5, work 297, page 1



In this article, we tried to shed some light on the history of Koreans during the Soviet period. Currently, Uzbekistan and South Korea are separated by a huge distance. However, these two nations are connected by strong ties of friendship, historical and spiritual closeness of our peoples. After gaining independence, Uzbekistan paid great attention to strengthening relations with South Korea, because South Korea is one of the most developed countries not only in Asia, but also in the world.

The manufacturer occupies a leading position in the industrial economy. In the industry of the Republic of Korea, a unique experience has been accumulated in the production of ships, passenger cars, electronics and electrical engineering, oil, steel, textile products. In addition, there are non-ferrous metallurgical, chemical, and light industrial enterprises. Today, Uzbekistan is interested in the establishment of cooperation with South Korea. The talented young people of our country go to Korea to work, study and improve their skills that is leading to get acquainted with knowledge of science, technology and applying gained experience through becoming qualified staff to cause for contribution to the development and prosperity of our country.

