



ISSN : 2350-0743

www.ijramr.com



International Journal of Recent Advances in Multidisciplinary Research

Vol. 04, Issue 12, pp.3118-3120, December, 2017

RESEARCH ARTICLE

CHANGES IN THE POLITICAL ADMINISTRATIVE SYSTEM OF THE CITIES OF FERGANA VALLEY (IN THE EXAMPLE OF 1917)

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ARTICLE INFO

Article History:

Received 30th September, 2017
Received in revised form
26th October, 2017
Accepted 04th November, 2017
Published online 30th December, 2017

Keywords:

Namangan, uezd, Sadoi Turkistan,
Turkistan, Sho'roi Islomiya, city Duma,
Fergana valley, Skobelev city,
Socio-political life of Turkistan.

ABSTRACT

In this article the influence of the February Revolution of 1917 on the changes in the government system of the cities of Fergana Valley was described.

INTRODUCTION

As a result of the February Revolution in 1917 in Russia the monarchical system in Russia was finished and the temporary government was introduced instead¹. But, the governing remained as before. But, as a result of finishing the monarchical system and the activation of the political movements, the national political organisations began to establish in Turkistan region. The February Revolution in 1917 opened a new page in the history of Turkistan region and became a new step for the national movements to rise again. As a result of the political freedom due to the February Revolution the local active educated people in the region immediately began to organise national society and publishing houses. The organisations which put forward the political tasks and the ideas of national freedom were established, and also, new newspapers began to be published. Particularly, in Tashkent the newspapers "Hurshid", "Sadoi Turkistan", "Kengash", in Namangan "Ravnakul islam", in Kokand city "Sadoyi Fergana", "Tirik so'z", "El bayrog'i", and the journal of "Hurriyat", in Fergana the newspaper "Fergana nidosi" began to be published. From March in 1917 in Tashkent the national organisations such as "Sho'royi Islomiya", "Turon", "Ulamo", "Ittifoq", "Turk Adam Markaziyat" and about twenty national societies and circles were established.

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As it was reported in "Turkiston ovozi" newspaper, on March 30, 1917 in the meeting the people of Skobelev city held in front of the Jom'e mosque in the city a decision about holding an election for "Sho'roi Islomiya" committee was adopted². During 1917 many societies were established and many newspapers and journals began to be published in Namangan uezd too. Particularly, in Chust city of Namangan uezd "Jumkhuriyat" society was established in 1917 by the initiation of young sarts (*sart hist. (Sanskrit): Sart, term for non-tribal settled Ozbeks; semi-derogatory term used by nomadic peoples for settled peoples.*)³. This society demanded by promoting the freedom and independence among the people that the hard life of the people should be improved and the special privileges given to the nomadic people should be given to them too. But they had no enough experience of political struggle and they were very poor before Bolsheviks, Mensheviks, Esers and other political trends. That's why they couldn't left any noticeable trace in the socio-political life of Turkistan. March and April of 1917 were the time of turning (change) in the political awakening of Turkistan region. The jadids, who were the leaders of the national democratic forces in Turkistan, began politically becoming active hoping greatly for democratic changes in their activity. The jadids from Tashkent led this movement and they were supported and encouraged by the jadids from Fergana, Samarkand and Bukhara. On March 14, 1917 the first meeting of public representatives was held in Tashkent. The members of the new organisation consisting of 61 people all together with Tatar and Kazak representatives

¹ Эргашев Ф. Зулматда нур истаб // Жамият ва бошқарув, 2001. –№3. –Б 19.

² Туркiston овози. 1917 йил, 18 апрел.

³ Қосимов Й. Қора кўзойнак билан ёзилган тарих. –Наманган, 1993. –Б. 7.

were approved in it. This organisation was called “Sho’roi Islom”. In this meeting a 15-member committee of “Sho’roi Islom” was elected. Abdurauf Fitrat, Munavvarkori Abdurashidkhan ugli, Mahmukhuja Behbudiy, Abdulla Avloniy, Ubaydullakhuja Asadullakhuja ugli, Nosirkhan Tura Kamolkhanturaev, Obidjan Makhmudov and others were involved in it⁵. The main aim of “Sho’roi Islomiya” was to protect the benefits of local people of Turkistan⁶. In the first months of their activity this society could prove that they were a powerful political authority that could lead the people. As a result, the branches of this organisation were opened in a number of cities of Turkistan. In May and June of 1917 the following information about the new opened society was announced on the pages of the newspaper “Ravnaqul Islam” published in Kokand: “in every city and village “Sho’roi Islomiya” and other different societies were opened and raised the red flags high”⁷. In the meeting of “Sho’roi Islomiya” held on April 8, 1918 it was announced that in Fergana the branch of “Sho’roi Islomiya”⁸, in Kokand “the Union of Muslim workers”⁹, in Andijan city the branch of “Sho’roi Islomiya”¹⁰, in Namangan city the society of “Sho’roi Islomiya”¹¹, in Kosonsoy district of Namangan uezd “The Union of workers and peasants” were opened¹².

The opening of such branches in the cities of Fergana valley had a positive influence on the socio-political activity of the local people. In Andijan uezd 20 town and 27 volost (small rural district in old Russia) unions of Sho’roi Islom organisation were established. In the cities of Fergana valley the political processes developed fast. Especially, joining many national political societies and circles established in the cities of the valley and trying to create Central administrative authority began. At that time the reputation of “Turk Adami Markaziyat” Party was great, many political and public organisations admitted its leading role in the region. The February bourgeois democratic revolution in 1917 in St. Petersburg caused to establish new administrative authorities in Turkistan region. In the consequence of it there appeared an opportunity to establish self-governing authorities of the cities in Turkistan region. The city Dumas had a great influence on the socio-political development of the region. The changes began as a result of the February Revolution were assigned in the order 52 of Turkistan general-governor Kuropatkin adopted in 1917 on March 8 about establishing city Dumas in the cities of the region. Also, it was assigned that electing 12-15 people from the home owners in all cities, the Dumas should take into their control all the branches of city economy, and the half of the members of the Dumas should be Russian citizens. Furthermore, it was shown in the order that in establishing the self-governing authorities of the cities the Law of the cities of Russia adopted in 1892 should be followed, and some changes should be added to this law by the Temporary Government. Establishing the self-governing authorities in the cities of

Fergana valley, reports about holding elections for the city Dumas were accepted by the people of all the cities of the provinces with great interests and good intentions. In Namangan city the election for the city Duma was held in October 1917, and the people participated in the elections with great interests. In the elections held for the city Dumas 7 Russian people such as Geodakov, A.B.Kupol-Yasnopolskiy, M.V.Tairov, Ye.V.Obonitskiy, B.p.Yudin, V.P.Sukhachev from the new part of the city where Russian people lived in, and 53 people from old part of the city where local people lived, in total 60 people were elected as the members of the city Duma¹³. Namangan city Duma began to work in 1917 October 28¹⁴. The chairman of the city Duma was M.V.Pokrovskiy, the city governor was Oboninskiy and B.P.Yudin, A.Tashbalabaev, Sh.Diyayev, M.Kodirov were elected as the members of the government¹⁵.

As Kokand was one of the economical-social and cultural centres of Fergana region, the administrative governing offices were completely different from other cities. Taking into account the economical-social reputation of Kokand city in the region and the Russian noblemen and military men in the city, Turkistan general governor gave the city the right of self-governing in 1876 on July 15¹⁶. The right of self-governing was only given to the city officially, in real the city was run by the general governor and his appointed representatives. On April 27 of 1877 the centre of the province was officially changed from Kokand city to Yangi Margilan city. On July 1, 1877 the government of Kokand city was finished and all its members were dismissed, governing the city was given to the head of the uezd. Until 1917 the city was run by the head of the uezd, and controlling all the administrative offices and police-offices was on his responsibility. Although the number of local people was clearly much more than European people, the local people almost didn’t attend in the administrative offices of the city. In 1917, October 14 the first meeting of Kokand city Duma was held. In the meeting the solemn oath of the Duma members about doing their duties fervently and conscientiously was read by A.V.Nikolaenko. Also, the suggestions of electing the chairman of the city Duma, the governor of the city and government members were also discussed, and Zubarev, Koritov and O.Makhmudov were introduced as the candidates of the chairman of the city Duma. According to the results of the elections, Zubarev was elected as the chairman of the city Duma by getting the most votes¹⁷. In the elections held for the Margilan city Duma on August 27, 1917 the District court found the complaint substantiated that the election commission made bad mistakes and broke the laws, and cancelled the results of the election. The court decision came into power on October 9 in this year¹⁸.

On March 14, 1918 an election for government members was held in Old Margilan city Duma, Saidakhmadkhuja G’iyoskhujaev was elected as the governor of the city, his deputy was Mukhammad Ibrohim Kori Sarimsokov, as the members of the government Abdulla Sufi Khujaev, Raimjon Akhmat Karvanov and Rakhmat Ali Abdurakhmonov were elected, Pavel Nasibyants was elected as the secretary of the city government, Abdul Azizkhon Khujanov was elected as the

⁴Ўзбекистон Совет мустамлакачилиги даврида // Тузувчилар: Жўраев М., Нуруллин Р., Камолов С ва бошқалар. –Тошкент: Шарқ, 2000. –Б. 24.

⁵ Улуғ Туркистон. 1917 йил. 25 апрел.

⁶ Мингноров А. Туркистонда 1917-1918 йиллардаги миллий сиёсий ташкилотлар (Миллий матбуот материаллари асосида). –Тошкент: Маънавият, 2002. –Б. 5.

⁷ Равнакул Ислон. 1917 йил. 5-сон.

⁸ Нажот. 1917, 21 апрел.

⁹ Наша газета 1917, 8 сентябрь.

¹⁰ Турон. 1917, 10 август.

¹¹ Турон. 1917, 25 апрел.

¹² Мингноров А. Туркистонда 1917 йилдаги сиёсий жараёнлар ва миллий-сиёсий жамиятларнинг юзага келиши (миллий матбуот материаллари асосида)... –Б. 10.

¹³ Знамя Свободы. 1917, 27 октябрь.

¹⁴ ЎЗРМДА, И.1-Фонд, 1-рўйхат, 35204-иш, 6-варақнинг оркаси.

¹⁵ ЎЗРМДА, И.19-фонд, 1-рўйхат, 35188-иш, 48-варақ

¹⁶ История Коканда. –Ташкент: Фан, 1984. –С.7.

¹⁷ ЎЗРМДА, И.19-фонд, 1-рўйхат, 35199-иш, 6-варақ.

¹⁸ ЎЗРМДА, И.19-фонд, 1-рўйхат, 35188-иш, 60-варақ.

head of the city and Avliyokhon Muzaffar Khujaev was his deputy. Although the city Dumas in the region were elected by the people in the cities on the basis of alternative and democratic way, the Bolsheviks split them up. They used the meeting held in the enterprises, mainly, held with the participation of Russian workers, moreover, they even didn't take the opinions of the local people into account about it.

The first council (assembly) of Public commissars of Turkistan split up Tashkent city Duma on December 4, 1917. Furthermore, the self-governing authorities in other cities were cancelled according to the decisions adopted by the province Public commissars and local councils. At the end of 1917 and in January of 1918 the Soviet government was set in Kokand, Namangan, Andijan and Skobelev cities of Fergana valley¹⁹. In 1918 on January 17 uezd-city committee was established in Osh city by the Bolsheviks. A.G. Anoshin was elected as the head of this committee, and his deputy was Kudrat Abdurasulov²⁰. On February 5, 1918 the Bolsheviks government was set in Osh uezd and city²¹. On December 9, 1918 the administration of the uezd was passed to the control of Osh uezd-city revolutionary committee. The establishment of the Bolsheviks government went together with finishing all the government authorities which hadn't supported them before. This situation was related to the city Dumas too. In 1919 on November 30 a decision about finishing the uezd-city executive committees was announced by Fergana region revolutionary committee. According to the decision, instead of the executive authorities in Kokand, Skobelev, Andijan and Namangan uezd-cities the revolutionary committees were established²².

Also, the revolutionary committees were established in volosts, districts and villages too. Turkistan communistic party ruled establishing the revolutionary committees and controlling their work. In the Republic these committees began to be established mainly in the second half of 1919 near Front and in the places freed from the enemies. But some of them were established a little before. In 1919 on November 30 the uezd-city executive authorities were finished according to the decision № 11 of the Fergana region revolutionary committee²³. Instead of them uezd-city revolutionary committees, which have great rights, were established. The revolutionary committees in the cities consisted of: 6 people in Skobelev city, 5 people in Kokand, 6 people in Andijan, 4 people in Namangan and 2 people in Osh city. In general, there were 6 province revolutionary committees, 26 uezd-city committees, 400 volost committees and many village and station revolutionary committees in the Republic in 1920²⁴. In conclusion, after the Bolsheviks came upon the government by violation, from the first days of their work they ran very unfair politics and besides that they did assaulting and plundering too. As a result of it, the living condition of the people became harder and harder day by day and their wrath and anger to the Russians increased. In 1917 on October 25 after the overthrow of the government in Russia, the Bolsheviks carried out their aims in Turkistan too by using arms. Turkistan autonomous government was overthrown. The life of Muslim people underwent decline. In the middle of the 20s of XX century the main forces of armed opposition movements in Fergana region were defeated. The soviet government began to become strong in all aspects.

¹⁹ История Узбекской ССР. Том II. – Ташкент: Изд-во Академии наук Узбекской ССР, 1957. – С. 48.

²⁰ Якубов Б. Из истории партийной организации Ферганы. –Ташкент: Фан, 1967. –С.121.

²¹ Маллабаев Д.М. Проблемы власти в истории Оша (с древнейших времен и до наших дней). Ош и Фергана в исторической перспективе. Выпуск 3. –Бишкек: Мураб. 2000. –С. 109.

²² Нуруллин Р.А. Советы Туркестанской АССР в период гражданской войны. –Ташкент, 1965. –С. 133.

²³ Народное хозяйство Туркестана. 1919 год, 21 декабря.

²⁴ Инояттов Х. Народы Средней Азии в борьбе против интервентов им внутренней контрреволюции. –Москва: 1984. –С. 114-115.