

**THE APPEARANCE OF THE FIRST SOVIET MILITARY PERIODICALS IN  
TURKESTAN (1906-1917)**

**Mukhamadiev Laziza Nizamovna**

Navoi State Pedagogical Institute

Doctoral student of the Department of history

**Annotation:** The article shows the role of military-periodicals in the strengthening of Soviet power in Turkestan on the example of the newspaper “Krasnoarmees”. Also, the content structure of the newspaper, the topics covered in it, its role in ideological and ideological politics, was covered on the basis of information from a number of sources.

**Keywords:** Turkestan ASSR, military publications, Soviet power, Red Army, “Krasnoarmees”, articles and materials, fronts.

**Annotatsiya:** Maqolada Turkistonda sovet hokimiyatining mustahkamlanishida harbiy-davriy nashrlarning tutgan oʻrni “Красноармеец” gazetasi misolida koʻrsatib berilgan. Shuningdek, gazetaning tarkibiy tuzilishi, unda yoritib borilgan mavzular, uning gʻoyaviy-mafkuraviy siyosatdagi oʻrni kabilar qator manbalardagi maʼlumotlar asosida yoritib berilgan.

**Kalit soʻzlar:** Turkiston ASSR, harbiy nashrlar, sovet hokimiyati, Qizil Armiya, “Красноармеец”, maqola va materiallar, frontlar.

**Аннотация:** В статье показана роль военно-периодических изданий в укреплении советской власти в Туркестане на примере газеты "Красноармеец". Также на основе информации из ряда источников освещается структура газеты, освещаемые в ней темы, ее роль в идейно-идеологической политике.

**Ключевые слова:** Туркестанская АССР, военные издания, Советская власть, Красная Армия, “красноармейцы”, статьи и материалы, фронты.

The military-political situation in Turkestan in the 20s of the XX century prompted the Bolshevik government to establish military publications, which were considered an important branch of Soviet periodicals. However, the emergence of Soviet-type military publications occurred at the beginning of the 20th century.

The organization of the first military publications of the Soviet pattern is directly related to the events of 1905, which took place in the Russian Empire. From this period, a number of military publications began to operate, and their number grew from year to year. In 1905, the number of military newspapers was six, while in 1906 there were 33 such types of newspapers.

An early Bolshevik-led military newspaper, the “Golos soldata” (soldier's voice), began to go out of print in 1905 by the rijskoy committee. One of the military publications urging the soldiers of the Russian Empire to revolution was “Golos soldata”, published from 16 December 1905. The newspaper responded fully to the Bolshevik demand, calling for an armed uprising against the existing government in each issue.

It must be said that the newspaper was illegally printed and distributed among the population. This newspaper remained in operation until March 21, 1907.

Twenty - eight issues are out of print. The paper promoted ideas that the proletarian part of the population should be opposed by the Russian imperial administration, topple the imperial authority, and that this should be done by Revolution (revolutionary). In immersing these ideas deeper into the minds of the population, the newspaper's editorial office chose a path of satire and humor. Using them in each given material, he broke down events.

The paper mainly covered the work of the officers of the Imperial Army to the common soldiers through satire and humor.

"Vpered" is also considered to be one of the earliest pro-military Bol'shevist newspapers. Its first issue began on January 4, 1905. A total of 18 issues of the paper were published.

Shuni aytib o'tish kerak, bolsheviklar imperiya armiyasi askarlari orasida o'zlarining targ'ibot-tashviqot ishlarining katta qismini "Вперед" orqali amalga oshirgan.

On the basis of the decision of the meeting of the RSDRP on May 18, 1905, the newspaper "Proletarium", the central body of the Bolsheviks, began to be published in the place of "Vpered". Its publication led to a further escalation of Soviet propaganda and propaganda among soldiers. The Bolsheviks continued to strengthen ideological influence through various ways and methods, calculating the greatest strength for soldiers in the implementation of their goals.

During this period, the influence of Bolshevik military publications among the soldiers was sluggish, and the "Proletarium" was tasked with strengthening propaganda in the first place.

To strengthen propaganda among the military, the "proletariat" paid special attention to the following aspects.

- how many military units are located on the territory and what are the types of troops;
- to what extent political-ideological training among soldiers is carried out;
- what is the situation in the territory to provoke soldiers into an armed uprising;
- what are the conditions for the reduction of propaganda among the military units in the territory<sup>1</sup>.

The newspaper also expanded into the life of the army to increase the effectiveness of propaganda and propaganda work. To this end, a separate section was created from the newspaper covering the soldiers' lives in the army, their socio-political views, and their views on the policies the Empire was pursuing in government. This aspect was also instrumental in the newspaper's infiltration of military life.

In addition, the "proletarian" tried to establish propaganda work among the military throughout the Russian Empire. To this end, it began to increase the number of journalists in large cities of the Empire who were constantly sending messages to newspapers.

Another Bolshevik military newspaper that operated clandestinely was "Kazarma", considered the central Soviet military publication. "Kazarma" operated from February 1906 to March 1907. Thirteen issues were published in the same period. In the initial period, the paper had a circulation of 5,000 copies. By 1906 the circulation of the paper had grown. According to reports, during the same period, "Kazarma" was printed in 20 thousand copies<sup>2</sup>.

While the first three issues of the paper were published in a Menshevik co-production, the later issues came under full Bolshevik control. In the publication of "Kazarma", a number of Bolshevik leaders V.V.Vorovsky, M.S.Olminsky, V.R.Menzhinsky, V.D.Bonch-Bruyevich, fodder.Yaroslavsky and others were head-to-head. It later became the organ of the RSDRP's military organizations in Petersburg. "Kazarma" also began to be distributed in Moscow, Voronezh, Vladimir, Sevastopol, Baku and some cities in the Turkestan region. However, following the defeat of the first Russian Revolution of 1905-1907 as well as the disintegration of the RSDRP military organizations, the paper ceased to exist.

"Kazarma" moved to become a political Tribune for the soldiers of the Empire. It did everything possible for this. Letters, political views, military life and other aspects of each soldier

<sup>1</sup> Бодров М. Большевистские военные газеты в годы первой русской революции. – Москва: Военн-издат, 1956. – С. 41.

<sup>2</sup> Большая советская энциклопедия. Т.19. 2-е издание. – Москва: БОЛЬШАЯ СОВЕТСКАЯ ЭНЦИКЛОПЕДИЯ, 1953. – С. 316-317.

were consistently covered. In particular, in the column of the newspaper “Golos kazarmi” (The Voice of Kazarma), letters of soldiers on various topics related to the life of the army were published.

In total more than thirty newspapers were published clandestinely by Bolshevik committees and organizations in various regions of the Empire in 1906-1907. The defeat of the first Russian Revolution, although it undermined their activities, did not stop altogether. They were now active in remote areas of the empire, including the Turkestan region, conducting pinhona propaganda and propaganda against the existing government among the local population.

In addition to the “vpered”, another Bolshevik newspaper, the “proletarian”, was also secretly consumed in the country. Considered a weekly newspaper, The “Proletariat” originally began appearing in Geneva from 1905. From May 14 to November 12, 26 issues of it were published. The “proletariat” had extensive contacts with local political associations and organizations. As of 1905, it had more than 400 reporters in more than 100 cities<sup>3</sup>.

According to information from archival sources, the “proletarian” was read by soldiers of the Turkestan military ogrugi. Against this, the administrators of the Empire actively fight. As a result of a series of inspections and inspections, feldfebel Solodovnikov and 6 unter-Officers, 4 subordinate servicemen were expelled from their positions on charges of distributing illegal propaganda propaganda leaflets (proklamasiya<sup>4</sup>.

It should be noted that the concerns of the Territory Administration were not in vain. The reason is that propaganda and propaganda work among soldiers by Bolshevikic and other political organizations caused their failure to comply with orders, failure to comply with the established procedures, even the use of weapons against officers. Increasingly, the soldiers discontent against the administrators grew. In particular, the soldiers of the first Turkestan rifle Battalion poured out the given meals. While a soldier of the fifth rota third battalion of the Caspian railway shot a number of officers. After that, it was forbidden by the military district to carry weapons in several territories<sup>5</sup>.

From this information it can be seen that the “proletarian” newspaper had sufficient influence among the soldiers. Through the newspaper, propaganda-propaganda among the Bolsheviks common soldiers, who were made up of the European part of the population and were mainly representatives of the lower category, had the expected effect. However, the military-administrative apparatus of the territory in its time applied measures against the widespread escalation of their actions.

The revolutionary situation in the center of the Empire forced the administration of the country to be more alert. They conducted searches and inspections at all suspicious places and at the factory, at the living addresses of factory workers. As a result of the investigations, it became clear that the propaganda work of the Bolshevik military-periodicals did not stop, but rather intensified. Factory and factory workers in Tashkent: from Ratanin, Belkov, Buzansky, Vorontsovs and a Student Of The Petersburg electrotechnical Institute G.Only one “proletarian” newspaper from the grushkina has been found to have a number of lines that encourage soldiers to take part in an armed uprising<sup>6</sup>.

<sup>3</sup> Сидоров М. Большевицкая газета «Пролетарий» (1906-1909 гг.). – М., 1956. – С. 82.

<sup>4</sup> O'z MA, I.133-fond, 1-ro'yxat, 323-ish, 1-7-varaqlar.

<sup>5</sup> Пролетарская революция. – 1939. – № 4. – С. 165-166.

<sup>6</sup> O'z MA, I.128-fond, 1-ro'yxat, 1312-ish, 104-112-varaqlar.

The emergence of publications of early military content in the Turkestan region began in 1906. Prior to that, local publications such as "Samarkand", "Zarafshan", "Russkiy Turkestan" and others gave materials on military issues on their pages.

The publication of the Samarkand newspaper began in 1904. Originally published three times a week, it became a daily newspaper from Issue - 7. At the time of publication, 190 issues of the newspaper were known to have come out. "Samarkand" became the official body of the Samarkand division of the RSDRP from late 1905 to early 1906<sup>7</sup>.

In the country, "Samarkand", considered one of the few official newspapers of the Bolsheviks, printed articles urging Army soldiers to revolution.

Such actions of "Samarkand" caused concern among the administrators of the Empire in the territory. Let this Russian chinovnik in the territory. It is also possible to know from Matsievsky's letter to the military minister. The letter contains the following words: "... I warned the military governor of the Samarkand region of the harmful effects of the newspaper "Samarkand" on the soldiers and residents of the military unit in the places. Special attention should be paid to this newspaper and serious measures should be developed against its revolutionary activities"<sup>8</sup>. Chistopoloskovi, the military governor of Chirchik, also expressed the following views on the limitation of Samarkand: "... in my opinion, it is necessary to ban the free sale of Samarkand on the streets, squares. I receive complaints from the garrison Chiefs, division commanders about the fact that children selling newspapers go to barracks and sell newspapers shouting "interesting newspaper Samarkand". It was thanks to this newspaper that the soldiers rioted in Tashkent. Reading the Samarkand newspaper is harmful to soldiers. For these and other reasons, I believe that it is necessary to limit the retail sales of newspapers on the streets.

Further events indicate that the warnings and hadiks of the Imperial chinovniks in the Turkestan territory were not in vain. As a result of the articles published in the Samarkand newspaper, the soldiers in the Turkestan military okrug begin to protest against the conditions in the Imperial military system. In particular, the termination of Battalion courts, revision and modification of disciplinary and military charters and other similar requirements begin to be imposed by them.

The successor to "Samarkand" was the newspaper "Zarafshan", the first issue of which was published on February 5, 1906. 20 days after the publication of the newspaper, The Samarkand newspaper ceased to exist. During this period, a special section called "Revolution and army" was established in the newspaper "Zarafshan". Political events taking place in it, the movement of the Bolsheviks, the results of which were constantly given.

In an issue of "Zarafshan", "... an angry crowd cannot be overcome by any force. The goal can only be achieved if you can direct it correctly with the mind. Comrade officers! Do not forget about your great and holy debt to the people. Direct the people to this great work"<sup>9</sup>. – the written text is printed.

In all distributed leaflets, groups and representatives of the RSDRP in Tashkent called on Army soldiers to raise an armed uprising. In particular, a leaflet says: "fellow soldiers" – there is no truth, from the emperor to ministers. All chinovniks have been crushing workers without

<sup>7</sup> O'z MA, I.128-fond, 1-ro'yxat, 1312-ish, 113-120-varaqlar.

<sup>8</sup> O'z MA, I.1-fond, 350-ro'yxat, 54-ish, 116-129-varaqlar.

<sup>9</sup> Хамраев Л. История революционной печати Самарканда (1900-1920 гг.): Дис. ... канд. ист. наук. – Т., 1970. – С. 86.



suffering for a hundred years. We believe that only through an armed uprising can you gain your rights, your freedom”<sup>10</sup>.

It should be said in its place that even in the Turkestan territory, fierce actions were organized by opposing forces against the power of the Empire in these years. This process can be seen in the example of the publication and distribution of single leaflets. The Bolsheviks and other Social Democrats also involved some local representatives in various ways in their propaganda and propaganda work in the Turkestan region.

In Particular, N.Khojaev, Yu.Musamukhammedovs In Tashkent, K.Ashurov, S.Tursunov, I.The shadjanovs, on the other hand, had to publish various leaflets and proclamations written in the local language in the Samarkand regions and distribute them among the local population. Bolshevik propaganda did not receive enough support among the indigenous peoples of the country.

In this way, the Bolsheviks aimed to strengthen the revolution in the Turkestan territory as well. However, their propaganda among the soldiers of the army did not pay off its expectations.

The first militarily oriented Bolshevik newspaper published in Turkestan was “Soldatskiy listok – Pravda”, which was secretly issued by The Tashkent branch of the RSDRP Military-Revolutionary Organization.

The first issue of “soldatsky listok – Pravda ” was printed on January 9, 1906 in two thousand copies of eight pages. The next five issues of the newspaper were published by bolshevik K.Published by Litvishko. It contained mainly general articles, reports of correspondents on the revolutionary situation in the Russian Empire, as well as news on various topics that took place in all cities of the Turkestan region (mainly Ashgabat, Samarkand, Kushka).

The newspaper was intended to literally take note of the interests of the soldiers in the land and arm them with revolutionary ideas. Therefore, each issue was given materials filled with calls for the struggle of workers and peasants against samoderjavia. In addition, materials related to the miserable marriage of millions of hungry peasants in the territory, the injustice of chinovniks, untruthfulness in government agencies, corruption and other circumstances were also given<sup>11</sup>.

Although “soldatsky listok” was a military-oriented newspaper, a number of articles related to national politics were published in its pages with the aim of offending the proletarian part of the Indigenous people of the Turkestan region to the side of the Bolsheviks as well.

In particular, a 1906 article in the paper stated that “WE Social Democrats demand that every nation be self-determined... We are against the violation of the will of the nations. Only in favor of the voluntary unification of nations around Russia”. These and other similar calls and calls of the Bolsheviks did not bring the expected results among the local people. Among the indigenous peoples of the country, the number of people who supported Bolshevik ideas remained small. Nevertheless, “Soldatsky listok-Pravda” instilled Bolshevik ideas in the military in the territory, playing a large role in the formation of revolutionary movements in their minds.

With this, the Soviets tried to create their own significant base in the Turkestan land.

It must be said that the materials given to the newspaper gained much interest among the soldiers of the Turkestan Military District. The fact that the circulation of the newspaper was immediately exceeded will be proof of this. In particular, from the 6 issue, its circulation will reach 20 thousand copies.

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<sup>10</sup> Эрназаров Т., Акбаров А. История печати Туркестана (1870–1925 гг.). – Ташкент: Укитувчи, 1976. – С. 92.

<sup>11</sup> Солдатский листок – Правда. – № 1-4. – 1906 г.

So, through the military-periodicals of the Bolsheviks and other secret political associations in the Turkestan territory in 1905-1907, the encouragement of Army soldiers and the proletarian part of the population to an armed uprising did not justify itself. Punitive measures were tightened by the Imperial gendarmerie and other Force-wielding authorities in the territory. In 1906 alone, about 2,000 people were sentenced to katonga's work. 25,000 others were convicted of participating in the revolution and sentenced to various terms.

The formation of early military-periodicals in the Turkestan region in general dates back to 1906-1907. These publications were mainly applied to pull the Bolshevik territory into revolutionary movements, and in these years a "revolutionary mood" led them. However, as a result of timely measures of the Imperial apparatus and structures in the territory, their activities were suspended.

After the political changes of 1917, military publications became more active again and played an important role in the establishment of Soviet power in Turkestan.

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