

**LAND AND WATER REFORMS IN THE SURKHAN OASIS**

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**Abstract:** This article describes the land and water reforms carried out in the Surkhan oasis in the 1920s and 1930s and the analysis of its results. The land and water reforms did not completely solve the agrarian problem in Uzbekistan. After all, these reforms stated that the Communist Party aimed to end large-scale land ownership.

**Keywords:** Decree on Land and Water Reform, New Economic Policy, Decisions of the District Land Commission, Presidium.

**Introduction.** Before the land and water reforms, there were 68,676 dessiatinas of irrigated land and 30,000 dessiatinas of fallow land in Surkhandarya district, and cotton was planned to be planted on 19,498 dessiatinas of irrigated land. However, the preservation of feudal relations in the countryside, as well as the lack of modern equipment, did not allow this work to be carried out. For this reason, special attention was paid to the formation of a cooperative system in agriculture. Based on the existing conditions, the Soviet state first of all began to organize land reclamation companies, agricultural companies and artels in Surkhandarya district.

The first land reclamation company in Surkhandarya was established on November 30, 1925 in the village of Oqqurgon, Sherabad district. 20 people from the village of Navbog, Sherabad district worked for the land reclamation company "Oqqurgon". The company aimed to build a dam on the Karasuv River and irrigate the fields around the Shorab post[1].

The implementation of land and water reforms in the Surkhandarya district actually strengthened the position of the Soviets in the countryside. Almost all the reputable and literate landowners who could speak out for the population in the countryside were repressed and their property was confiscated. The wave of resistance movement in the region subsided. Now the communists could freely carry out their policies in the Surkhandarya oasis. In connection with the victory achieved, on January 15, 1929, at a meeting of the Grand Presidium of the Surkhandarya district executive committee, 85 people were awarded for their valor in the implementation of Decree No. 192 of the Central Executive Committee of the Uzbek SSR on the liquidation of the unproductive farms of large landowners, former emir officials, high priests and merchants[2].

In particular, by the decision of the Presidium of the Surkhandarya District Executive Committee, the heads of the districts such as Tursunkhodjayev, Orinbayev, Mirkhodjayev, Olmasbayev, Maji Zakri, Turakhodjayev, Mavlonberdiev, Muqimov, Bobokhodjayev, Kalashnikov, Masaidov, and Mayzel were awarded Certificates of Honor for their effective work in the political preparation and organization of land and water reforms. Another 25 people were awarded Certificates of Honor of the Presidium of the District Executive Committee for their activity in the reform process. Kulmat Otayev, Abdumalik Muhiddinov, Juma Saidov, and Egamtilla Inoyatullayev were presented with horses. 36 people received a coat, 2 people received a samovar with a coat. 6 people were nominated for government awards. The Surkhandarya District Komsomol and the OGPU department were also awarded certificates of honor.

**Materials and methods.** The land and water reforms led to a reduction in cotton imports to the USSR. In the 1927-1928 economic year, 58.5% of the cotton fiber used in Russian textile factories was Uzbek cotton. The share of American cotton decreased from 42% to 35.8%. As a result of the reform, modern techniques began to be used in cotton growing. Equipment such as plows and harrows, which had previously been used only by Russian colonists, began to be widely used by Uzbek farmers during the reform process[3]. In 1927, plowing increased 24 times. However, the number of such farms was only 2.4%. The use of old-fashioned tools continued until 1929. However, the arrival of modern equipment in the Uzbek countryside coincided with the land reforms and became the basis for technical modernization during the collectivization period.

At the same time, during the land reforms, the Soviet authorities launched a new wave of terror. The arbitrariness of the Soviet authorities caused justified discontent among the population. In some places, many peasants were unjustly deprived of their land. In addition, most of the peasants who received land did not have sufficient skills in independent business, were not well versed in management, accounting, and farming culture[4]. Not all of the emir's officials, priests, and wealthy people whose farms were liquidated lived off the land. However, the complete liquidation of their farms and their imprisonment or exile had negative consequences for agriculture. This situation created great difficulties in the cultivation of agricultural products in the district in 1929. Taking this into account, the Central Executive Committee of the Uzbek SSR adopted a resolution in the spring of 1929 "On the correction and complete liquidation of errors made in the liquidation of landowner and large kulak farms that remained during the land reform." According to it, the complete liquidation of large landowners was temporarily suspended until collectivization.

**Results and discussion.** It should be said that the propaganda carried out by the Soviet government did not fail to bear fruit. After all, the big rich in the Surkhandarya oasis had accumulated a lot of land and property, which they leased to poor peasants on difficult terms. This situation caused discontent among the landless peasants, and hatred towards the big rich was fully formed. Taking advantage of this, the Soviet state was able to achieve the full support of the ordinary population in the process of carrying out land and water reform. The process of liquidating large landholdings was called "liquidation" in the history of the oasis[5].

There were good reasons for the politicization of land and water reforms. The struggle against the despotic Soviet regime in the country did not stop, and armed clashes between national forces and the Red Army were frequent. These forces were supported by large landowners. If the reform were carried out, the material base of the national forces would be cut off. Taking this into account, the Soviet state decided to completely eliminate the clergy, emir officials, merchants and usurers[6].

Large landowners who went over to the Soviet side were given partial privileges.

The Soviet government sent several inspection groups to identify farms to be liquidated. The next group identified the properties that the first group could not find. In some cases, 4 such groups were sent. After the lists were formed, a special case was opened by the district Land and Water Commission, in which the number of residents and property of the farms to be liquidated was recorded. A separate description was written for each of them. Below we present some of such descriptions[7.608].

1. Shaiman (official). In the old days, he was a zhevachi. There are 10 people in his family, 3 of whom are workers. He owns 80 acres of land. Of these, 80 acres are his own farmland. He has 3 work horses, 3 large cattle, and 100 ordinary sheep. He lives in the village of Zang.
2. Olloqul Gafforkhodjayev (rich). He lives in the village of Pattakesar. Very rich. He participated in the national liberation movement. He was in contact with the leaders and led a gang. He has no reputation. He looks at the Soviet authorities with contempt.

Proceeding from the above, it becomes clear that the Soviet state also planned to eliminate all people with national sentiments under the pretext of land and water reforms. This clearly shows the reasons for the politicization of the reforms.

Having identified individuals who were not inclined to the Soviets, the district land and water commission issued a decision to liquidate their farms and drew up an act on the seizure of property. Finally, a certificate was issued by the village councils on the liquidation of this farm. Below we will introduce some of these documents:

1. This certificate was issued in this regard: the farm of Khojakul Utaganov, a resident of the village of Jar in the Yangi Bozor village council of the Denov district, was liquidated on the basis of Decree No. 192 of the UzMIK dated November 1, 1928, by the decision of the Land Commission of the Denov district dated December 13, 1928 No. 56 on the termination of the use of land without labor, for being a landowner-type farm. 192 tanobs of land, 2 horses, 2 oxen, 1 bel, 40 poods of barley, 35 poods of wheat, 150 poods of straw, 1 hoe, and 1 sickle were seized from him[8.501].

According to archival documents, in 1928, a total of 1,335 former emir officials, clergymen, and wealthy households were liquidated in the district.

**Conclusion.** Land reforms did not completely solve the agrarian problem in Uzbekistan. After all, in these reforms, the communist party aimed to eliminate large landownership. Therefore, the liquidation of landowner farms was carried out in a repressive manner. Although the need for land was low in some regions, the property of landowners in those regions was completely confiscated. It is noteworthy that most of the peasants who received land did not have agricultural equipment and draft animals. There were also many hired workers for livestock farming. Taking this into account, the Soviet government considered it necessary to transition to collective farms in Uzbekistan. After all, land reforms had prepared the ground for the collectivization and radical transformation of Uzbek agriculture. Most importantly, the forces that could oppose Soviet policy in the countryside were seriously weakened.

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