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## ORGANIZATION OF CUSTOMS OFFICES ON THE TERRITORY OF TURKESTAN BY THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES AND ITS LEGAL BASIS

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### ABSTRACT

This article is an analysis of the legal framework of the first officially established customs offices in Central Asia. On the basis of archival materials, an attempt was made to reveal the activities to establish the customs work of the Turkestan Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic, the formation of its administrative structure, and the implementation of the legitimization process in trade affairs. In the article, in chronological order, provisional rules, various decrees and circular documents on the organization of the customs business of the Turkestan ASSR are covered.

### KEYWORDS

Turkestan ASSR, customs, custom-tariffs, smuggling, foreign trade, borders and trade protection, regulation, decretal, akt, sirkulyar (executive document), sanction.

### INTRODUCTION

Customs work is considered an integral part of the economic policy of the state. No country can function without protecting its economic security. After the

establishment of Soviet power in Turkestan, there were different opinions about the activities of the customs, as well as other areas of political, economic

and social life. While some argue that the customs system should be abolished as part of the old regime, many argue that the country cannot function in a closed state and that it should establish trade relations with neighboring countries. Customs authorities were necessary to manage foreign economic activity and protect the economy. In addition, the Soviet authorities viewed customs work as a political task, not just an economic one. This makes the basis of the customs policy of the Soviet government foreign.

### THE MAIN RESULTS AND FINDINGS

In the first years of Soviet power, trade relations were not established. On December 29, 1917, the Soviet government, seeking to establish a monopoly in this area, as well as in other areas, announced a decree "On the export and import of goods." According to this decree, the department of foreign trade of the People's Commissariat of Trade and National Economy could transport products across the border only with written permission. The decision spelled out the obligation of customs officers to strictly observe the procedure for the import and export of goods. Transportation of goods without such permission is considered smuggling. This decision, implemented by telegraph on January 1, 1918, contained elements of the original customs policy of the Soviet authorities. But this was temporary. This decision will be known to the government of the Turkestan Republic by January 1918. [1]. From this period, the process of monopolization of

foreign trade by the state began in the foreign policy of the Turkestan Republic.

Subsequent decisions of the Soviet authorities did not resolve the issues of formation of customs policy. But the authorities legalized the customs department - the department of customs fees under the People's Commissariat of Finance. At this time, as Turkestan's relations with the Center (that is, with Moscow) are about to be completely severed, the Customs Department will take over the task of fulfilling the requirements imposed by the Center's sanction under this decree.

On April 22, 1918, the All-Russian Council of People's Commissars issued a decree "On the nationalization of foreign trade" [2], and its implementation was entrusted to the Foreign Trade Department under the Central Council of the National Economy [3]. It should be noted that the customs tariff sanction of the Russian Empire of 1903 and the tariffs applied before 1914 continued to operate in the Soviet state.

On May 29, 1918, the Soviet government issued a decree "On customs fees and institutions" [4]. According to him, the duty payments went to the state treasury. Customs offices were considered central Soviet bodies and were directly under the jurisdiction of the Customs Department of the People's Commissariat of Finance. Duty-free transfer of foreign goods from one customs authority to another was

carried out without any obstacles. Neither the regional nor other local Soviet authorities had the right to detain them. However, the central government has the right to requisition (compulsory seizure of property into state ownership for full or temporary use) and confiscation of unpaid goods. Customs officers are allowed to use edged weapons to dry customs warehouses.

On October 10, 1919, a temporary provision came into force on the involvement of the troops of the Red Army and the troops of the Internal Guard in the protection of the borders [5]. The People's Commissariat of Trade and Industry, in agreement with the People's Commissariat of Military and Internal Affairs, had the opportunity to attract them and place them at border points. Troops sent to guard the border receive financial support from their organizations.

The next resolution of the Soviet authorities was adopted on June 29, 1918 and concerned the transformation of the People's Commissariat of Finance into the Main Directorate of Customs Control of the Department of Customs Duties and its subordination to the People's Commissariat of Trade and Industry. Later, the customs authorities were subordinated to the reorganized People's Commissariat for Foreign Trade.

On July 16, 1919, the draft "Regulations on the Department of Foreign Trade" was considered and a

decision was made to approve it. In this regulation, it is necessary to take into account the demand and supply of goods imported and exported when exchanging goods with neighboring countries, establish the procedure for centralizing and financing all operations and settlements in agreement with the Financial Commissioner, develop in advance the materials necessary for concluding trade agreements and transactions with neighboring countries, preparation and direct participation in them are defined as the tasks of this department.

In the first half of 1919, under the Central Economic Council of the Turkestan Republic, a "Department of Internal and Foreign Trade" was created, which had insignificant funds and only four people worked in it. They did not even have the units needed to work on the ground. His activities were limited to settling the dissatisfaction of the Kashgar merchants and concluding a deal with one Afghan merchant [6]. Its main task was to monopolize domestic and foreign trade.

On November 26, 1919, the "Department of Internal and Foreign Trade" was abolished, and the "Department of Foreign Trade" was created, which dealt only with foreign trade under the Turkish Commission[7]. This section includes the calculation of supply and demand for export and import goods when exchanging goods with neighboring countries, establishing the procedure for centralizing and

financing all operations and settlements in agreement with the Financial Commissioner, developing and preparing materials necessary in advance for concluding trade contracts and agreements with neighboring countries were given the task of participating in their work.

In order to completely monopolize foreign trade, the import and export of goods from abroad must be carried out with the permission of the foreign trade department of the Commission for the Affairs of the Turkestan Republic of the All-Russian Executive Committee. They had at their disposal legally imported and exported, as well as smuggled goods. Supervision of customs procedures is entrusted to the collegium under the Department of Foreign Trade for the economic protection of the borders of Turkestan. Until September 1920, the Foreign Trade Department was part of the Turkish Commission. From this period, this department was withdrawn from the Turkocommission, included in the People's Commissariat for Foreign Trade and transformed into the Turkestan Department. Its internal structure changes several times. The border and customs department will be abolished due to the fact that the protection of the border, from an economic point of view, has been transferred to a special department of the Cheka (All-Russian Extraordinary Commission). In 1921, the Turkestan Department of the People's Commissariat of Foreign Trade with its departments

became part of the foreign economic department of the Turkestan Republic. These departments included the following: administrative, export-import, financial and accounting, statistical and economic, forwarding, customs control, which in May was transformed into a transport and material department. In July 1921, the Turkestan Administration was transformed into a representative office of the People's Commissariat for Foreign Trade in Central Asia, and a number of organizational changes were made [8]. In particular, the forwarding and transport and material departments will be expanded and transformed into a transport and material department, while the customs departments will be fully merged with the People's Commissariat of Foreign Trade. The management of local customs institutions is entrusted to the district customs administration [9].

## CONCLUSION

In conclusion, we can say that the establishment of the Soviet system in Turkestan quickly became the main issue of establishing state order in financial and economic processes. In the first years of the Soviet state, the emergence of an economic recession, complete control over domestic and foreign trade, the development of customs policy accelerated the formation of a customs and administrative structure. Taking into account the demand and supply of export and import goods in trade with neighboring countries, establishing the procedure for centralization and



financing in all transactions and settlements, the development and preparation of materials necessary for concluding trade contracts and agreements with neighboring countries, and the work of the customs legislation of the Turkestan ASSR caused development.

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