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ARCHIVE DOCUMENTS AS A SOURCE FOR THE HISTORY OF REPRESSIVE POLICY OF THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES

Submission Date: February 06, 2024, Accepted Date: February 11, 2024,

Published Date: February 16, 2024

Crossref doi: <https://doi.org/10.37547/ajsshr/Volume04Issue02-07>

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ABSTRACT

This article analyzes the issues of historiography and source studies of the researches related to the history of repression policy carried out by the Soviet authorities in Uzbekistan. In addition, the types of sources related to the history of repression policy and their classification problems were discussed. Moreover, important archival documents related to the topic were analyzed.

KEYWORDS

Uzbekistan, repression, National Archives of Uzbekistan, source, classification, fund, collection, land-water reforms, mass collectivization policy.

INTRODUCTION

The history of Uzbekistan, specifically, social and political processes of 1924-1941 is a period of unique conflicts and sharp struggles between social groups. During this period, not only in Uzbekistan, but also in all the republics under the control of the USSR, armed resistance and actions for independence were carried

out against the system of Soviet power. The Soviet government periodically carried out a series of repressive measures to consolidate its power and prevent the growth of armed resistance. In particular, many historical documents related to the repressive policies of the Soviet regime are today stored in

archives, and most of them have not been fully studied by scientific researchers.

Historiography and methodology

During the years of Uzbekistan's independence, historians conducted a number of studies related to the history of repression policy. These studies were carried out based on various approaches and research methods, each of which has its scientific value. In particular, R.Shamsutdinov researched the issues of Soviet dekulakization, mass collectivization and exile in Uzbekistan based on many archival documents [1].

In addition, E. Dostmatov, Zh. Rasulov analyzed the research carried out within the framework of the topic from the point of view of historiography [2], and Z. R. Ishankhadzhaeva conducted a special study on the repressive policies of the Soviet regime.

THE MAIN PART

Today, there are several studies devoted to the classification of sources related to the research topic, and they have different approaches. In her scientific article, D. Kh. Ziyaeva classified sources related to the history of victims of repression into the following groups: archival data; periodical press materials; memoirs; photos; documentaries; collections of published documents; Internet materials. In turn, she divided archival sources related to the research topic into the following groups: state archives of the

republic and their local branches (regional, city and district archives); Archives of the Administration of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan (former party archives - now the archives of the Administration of President Sh. Choriev); Archives of the Russian Federation; Archives of the Commonwealth of Independent States; film, photo and sound archives [3]. Agreeing with the opinions of D.Kh. Ziyaeva on the classification of sources related to the research topic, they can be grouped as follows:

1. Official documents
2. Archival sources
3. Periodical press materials
4. Memoirs
5. Published literature

The first group of sources includes laws, regulations and orders adopted by the Soviet government to eliminate the “kulaks” as a class at that time.

The second group of sources includes decisions, orders, reports, etc. that are preserved in the archives today. In turn, they can be divided into a number of categories.

In the third group, it is possible to highlight such newspapers as "Kyzil Uzbekiston", "Pravda Vostoka", which served the interests of the Soviet government at that time. These publications published information

about the false accusations of state leaders and ordinary people of the Uzbekistan SSR [4].

The sources of the fourth group include the memoirs of many Soviet government officials.

One of the major studies on the history of kulak politics in Uzbekistan was carried out by R.Shamsutdinov, the author noted that historical research on the topic of ending kulaks as a class in Uzbekistan was not conducted at all [5]. The research has been written as a reference, which covers information about the victims of the "Great Terror" policy of the Soviet regime in chronological and alphabetical system methods based on secret archive documents. In some of his articles, the author also focused on issues such as the destruction of kulaks as a social class and the restriction of its social rights[6].

Today, research on the history of the repressive policies of the Soviet regime is being conducted in a number of directions. However, according to archival materials on the policy of repression, the repressive policy of the Soviet government was carried out in the following areas: removal from office, destruction of culture, education, literature and art, eavesdropping, closure of mosques, madrassas, churches and traditional schools, termination of waqf property, etc. d.

After the establishment of Soviet power, economic reforms were carried out to use the allied republics as

a raw material base. The new form of colonialism or the policy of decolonization caused the resistance and protests of the peoples of Central Asia. It was the policy of repression that served as one of the important tools for strengthening Soviet power.

Initially, the land and water reforms of the Soviet authorities, and later, the policy of mass collectivization, also met with mass protests of the population. Information on the fact that the Soviet authorities made a number of mistakes in carrying out the policy of mass collectivization is clearly indicated in the archived report documents. In particular, the social condition of the population was analyzed and they were divided into middle-income, poor and self-sufficient households. Statistics on the number of rich households were formed and kulak policy was carried out[7].

The kulak policy was carried out by the Soviet government step by step, articles were published and discussed in the press. Information about their illegal income was widely disseminated among ordinary people who suffered from oppression by representatives of the wealthy class.

The Soviet government gained the trust of the poor population under the slogan that everyone should be equal according to communist ideas. At the next stage, this issue was given a political tone and discussed at government meetings. In 1925, at the plenum of the

Central Committee of the USSR (April 25-30) and the XIV conference of the RKB (b), kulaks were assessed as those who used the labor of hired workers and engaged in trade in villages. And M.I. Kalinin described kulak as a person who violated the labor legislation of the USSR and gained wealth through criminal means[8].

When the issue of kulakization rose to the political level, their lists began to be drawn up in the regions. Today, many such lists are preserved in the R-86-fund documents of the Central Executive Committee of the Uzbek SSR of the National Archives of Uzbekistan. For example, in the fund's 10th collection list, 111, 862 to - 866, 1231 to - 1235, the alphabetical lists of kulak households are preserved in the collection form [9]. Only in the 111th collection, which consists of 50 pages, 416 kulaks are listed [10].

The lists stored in this fund contain the names of many of our compatriots. For example, in one case, 416 “kulaks” were recorded.

It should be noted that under the Central Executive Committee of the Uzbek SSR there was a commission for amnesty of citizens, and many citizens of our republic sent many appeals to this commission regarding the unjust imprisonment of their brothers, fathers, spouses and other relatives who were subjected to repressive policies. In particular, in the 1st inventory of the fund of the Central Executive

Committee of the Uzbek SSR (R-86), in files from 7746 to 7960, documents of the commission for considering amnesty issues were preserved.

For example, one of the documents states that Sattarhoja Abdullahoja was imprisoned for 3 years because he was an imam and owed 955.2 rubles in agricultural tax. According to the document, Sattarkhoja Abdullahoja was the sole breadwinner of the family, his house was confiscated, and his wife and children were thrown out onto the street. His wife's complaint in this regard was not upheld [11]. Also in cases 7976–7979 of this inventory, complaints written by the “kulaks” themselves were preserved [12]. Several documents of this type are available in the funds of the People's Commissariat of Justice of the Uzbekistan SSR and the Supreme Court. However, documents from the above-mentioned funds are practically not used in scientific researches. It should be noted that these historical materials require special scientific research. Research on repressive policies has mainly focused on judicial documents, leaving amnesty applications outside the scope. However, examining these applications could provide valuable insights into the impact of these policies throughout history. According to an analysis of documents, almost 98% of requests were rejected. Appeal documents often contain detailed explanations of the social position of family members of the repressed. However, researching these documents requires new

approaches, such as historical-sociological or historical-psychological research methods, to reveal their mental experiences.

CONCLUSION

The policy of "dekulakization" pursued by the Soviet government remains a relevant topic today. While many studies have been conducted using the National Archives of Uzbekistan, there are still many unstudied documents. Further research is needed to fully understand the impact and significance of this policy. Many of our compatriots were repressed based on their religious beliefs, profession, social origin, and belonging to the old system or former. This occurred particularly in the funds of the Central Executive Committee of the Uzbek SSR and the People's Commissariat of the Labor Peasant Inspectorate. Despite these events, their application documents and statements are still stored in the archive and have not been scientifically examined. The policy of decolonialism caused resistance and protests among the peoples of Central Asia. Repression served as an important tool for strengthening Soviet power and was applied not only in Uzbekistan, but also in other union republics in various areas such as education, religion, culture, language, and politics. Special taxes were introduced for non-members of the collective farm, and trials were held in cotton fields to punish those who didn't meet cotton harvest targets. The population was intimidated to raise the image of the

harvest. Property of those who drove their family members onto the streets was confiscated, and people aged 60-70 were deprived of freedom for 1-3 years. These practices show how the government used harsh measures to control the population and meet production targets. It's sad to hear about the repressive policies that were implemented in Uzbekistan, which affected not only the local population but also representatives of different nationalities. It's unfortunate that counter-revolutionary articles were used to punish those who opposed the collective farm policy of the Soviet government. The consequences of these policies were severe, leaving many families without breadwinners and causing the local population to join armed resistance units.

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