

# The Contribution Of The Uzbek People To The Victory Achieved In The Second World War

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**Abstract:** This scientific article, based on new data, highlights the aggravation of the international situation on the eve of the Second World War, the outbreak of the war, the patriotism of our people, and their courage at the front.

The selfless labor heroism shown by the Uzbek people on the home front during the war years, nationwide assistance to the front, and the high humanism and tolerance of our people are accurately presented on the basis of sources.

**Keywords:** Germany, USSR, international situation, Second World War, Poland, Soviet-Finnish War, Uzbekistan, mobilization to the front, courage of Uzbekistanis at the front, home front, difficult situation, industry, agriculture, high humanism of our people, selfless labor, tolerance, contribution to victory.

**Introduction:** In the history of humankind, the Second World War was a very severe and terrible war in terms of its scale and the losses it caused.

If “36 states with a population of 1 billion were drawn into the First World War of 1914–1918, then 61 states with a population of 1.7 billion were drawn into the Second World War of 1939–1945. While 70 million people were called up to the armed forces during the First World War of 1914–1918, 110 million people were mobilized during the Second World War of 1939–1945.”

Indeed, the Second World War became the most terrible tragedy of the twentieth century and claimed the lives of more than 50 million people.

At that time, the population of Uzbekistan was nearly 6.5 million people, of whom 1.5 million people, that is, those capable of bearing arms, were mobilized to the front. More than 500,000 of them died on the battlefields, and many more went missing.

This terrible war was caused by conflicts between major states and by the aspirations of aggressive powers such as Germany, Japan, and Italy to dominate the world. From the mid-1930s, the situation in the world began to become increasingly tense.

In such a situation, on August 23, 1939, an agreement on non-aggression for a period of 10 years was signed between the USSR and Germany; this agreement is known in history as the Molotov–Ribbentrop Pact. It should be noted here that, until recently, the fact that the secret part of this treaty defined the future borders and spheres of influence of the two states had been kept secret. Instead, it was stated that this agreement gave the Soviet Union the opportunity to strengthen its western borders and prepare for war.

On September 1, 1939, the Second World War began with Nazi Germany’s attack on Poland. On September 3, France and England declared war on Germany. As noted above, on the basis of the agreement in the secret part of the treaty, Soviet troops invaded the territory of Poland on September 17. The partition of Poland began.

The outbreak of the Second World War alarmed all peoples. Nazi Germany armed its army to the teeth with modern weapons and further intensified preparations for war against the USSR.

In fact, with Nazi Germany’s attack on Poland, the flames of war had approached the borders of the former USSR.

In the summer of 1940, Hitler signed the “Barbarossa” document against the USSR. In order to unite their forces, in September 1940, a mutual alliance treaty was signed between Germany, Italy, and Japan. In the secret part of this treaty, they agreed “to destroy the Soviet Union and divide its territories among the states participating in the treaty.”

By the summer of 1941, the Soviet Union was on the eve of a difficult and terrible war. At that time, the peoples of all the republics within the former Union were working selflessly to fulfill the plans of the third five-year plan for the development of the national economy (1938–1942).

On the eve of the Second World War, many creative construction works were being carried out in Uzbekistan.

In particular, the method of public construction through hashar became widespread in Uzbekistan. By this method, the Great Fergana Canal was built within 45 days, from August 1 to September 17, 1939.

In addition to the Great Fergana Canal, “the Northern Fergana Canal, the Southern Fergana Canal, the Toshsoqa Canal in Khorezm, the Kampirravot Dam, the Tashkent Canal, and other irrigation facilities were built.”

At such a time, evil-intentioned Nazi Germany led by Adolf Hitler disturbed the peaceful life of the peoples of the multinational former USSR.

At dawn on Sunday, June 22, 1941, Nazi Germany, without declaring war, treacherously began a war against the Soviet Union.

At 12 o'clock on June 22, the news that the war had begun was announced to the people by radio, and the main task was set for all “peoples within the USSR to fight against the enemy, to deliver a crushing blow to it, and for workers, peasants, intellectuals, men and women to correctly assess the situation and direct all efforts toward defeating the enemy.”

On the very first day of the war, the resolution adopted at a meeting of the workers of the Tashkent Textile Combine stated: “From this hour on, we consider ourselves mobilized for the defense of the Motherland. We call on all working people of Uzbekistan to remain calm and patient and to work selflessly.”

On June 23, a rally of nearly 100,000 people was held in Samarkand, where the well-known writer S. Ayni, in his speech, said: “Every patriot, considering himself a soldier at his workplace, should know that every extra kilogram of grain or cotton, every new machine tool, machine gun, tank, and airplane will strengthen the defense of our country and make a great contribution to the rapid defeat of the enemy,” and called for

courageous and energetic labor for the front and for victory.

In those difficult days, the flow of applications submitted daily to military commissariats with the desire to be sent to the front became a clear example of the high national patriotic spirit of the people of Uzbekistan. In particular, “during the first four days of the war, 1,975 applications were submitted to the Tashkent Regional Military Commissariat.”

During the first week of the war, “1,735 people from Fergana Region applied with a request to be sent to the front, 425 of whom were women. By August 1, 1,156 applications had been submitted to the military commissariats of Khorezm Region, 197 of them from women, who asked to be sent to the front as volunteers. 2,868 applications were submitted to the military commissariats of Samarkand Region, 213 of them from women.”

The sudden treacherous war of the German fascists changed the life of the entire country. Indeed, the war that had begun required changes in all spheres of the country's life and the expenditure of great effort for strong defense.

On June 29, 1941, a special directive of the Central Committee of the VKP(b) and the Council of People's Commissars of the USSR set out the tasks of carrying out a rapid and decisive restructuring in order to put all work on a military footing. The main requirement of the directive was expressed in the slogan: “Everything for the front, everything for victory!”

This call of the government inspired our fighters at the front to victory throughout the war, and in the rear it mobilized our people to selfless labor with patience and fortitude.

It should be said that the initial period of the war was very difficult both for our fighters at the front and for the population in the rear.

The German fascists advanced rapidly into the interior of the country, and by November 1941, in the occupied territories “there lived nearly 40 percent of the population of the Soviet Union before the war; 41 percent of the USSR's railways were located there; they had 38 percent of the cattle and 60 percent of the pigs; moreover, 38 percent of the grain, 50 percent of the steel, 63 percent of the coal, 60 percent of the aluminum, 68 percent of the cast iron products, and 84 percent of the sugar were produced there; and a powerful machine-building base, including many defense enterprises, was located there.”

In short, territories with a large population and of important and major strategic significance had been occupied by the enemy. Therefore, “the main burden

of the wartime period fell on the Urals, Siberia, the Far East, and the Central Asian republics.”

During only the first three months of the war, “1,360 large industrial enterprises were relocated, including 455 to the Urals, 210 to Western Siberia, and 250 industrial enterprises to Central Asia and Kazakhstan.”

Under wartime conditions, locating, constructing, and quickly launching these industrial enterprises was very difficult.

It is known that victory in war is achieved not only by the strength of the army and weapons, but also depends on the people who inspire that army and work courageously day and night to provide it with arms, clothing, and food. The courage of those who devoted themselves to exactly such work is considered one of the decisive factors in strengthening the confidence of those at the front in victory, supporting them in every way, and ensuring victory. Therefore, the political leadership of Uzbekistan gave priority importance to restructuring the economy. From June 26, 1941, compulsory work outside working hours was introduced for workers and employees in the country. Leave was abolished.

Usmon Yusupov, First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Uzbekistan, who led the republic during the years of the Second World War, headed the mobilization of the people of Uzbekistan for the struggle against fascism.

A total of 104 plants and factories were evacuated to Uzbekistan. “Among them were the Leningrad Textile Machinery Plant, Rostselmash, the Krasny Aksay Sumsk Compressor and Dnepropetrovsk Carbonate Plants, the Elektrokabel and Podyomnik Plants in Moscow, the Machine-Building Plant of the People’s Commissariat of Railways, the Chkalov Aviation Plant, the Krasny Put Plant, the Transsignal Plant in Kyiv, the Stalingrad Chemical Combine, and others.”

In restoring the industrial enterprises relocated to our republic, all able-bodied people worked tirelessly despite the difficulties of wartime; work that would have been done over years before the war was completed at that time within days and months. As a result, the Rostselmash plant relocated to our republic began producing goods in 25 days, and the Qizil Oqsoy plant after 29 days. “By December 1941, nearly 50 of the evacuated enterprises had been restored, put into operation, and began producing goods.”

Local industrial enterprises also reorganized their work in accordance with the demands of the front.

“As early as 1941, 63 out of 137 state enterprises in Tashkent began producing military products. Most artels of cottage-industry and handicraft enterprises

also began producing goods for the needs of the front.”

Industrial workers made a great contribution to ensuring victory by working heroically to supply the front with weapons, combat military equipment, and material resources, despite hunger, extreme fatigue, and exhaustion.

During the war, they supplied the front with 2,100 aircraft, 17,242 aircraft engines, 2,318,000 aerial bombs, 17,100 mortars, 22 million mines, 560,000 shells, 1 million grenades, nearly 300,000 parachutes, 5 armored trains, and other items.

During the war years, the population of Uzbekistan showed remarkable examples of patriotism and became initiators of nationwide assistance to the front. “During the war years, the population of Uzbekistan donated 6,499 million rubles, 22 kg of gold and silver to the Defense Fund.”

Agricultural workers and peasants of Uzbekistan also made a worthy contribution to the nationwide struggle to defeat the German fascist invaders.

As in industry, the situation in agriculture was also very difficult. First of all, all specialist personnel and all experienced peasants were at the front. In agriculture as well, all work fell on the shoulders of the elderly, women, and adolescent children.

Despite the severe hardships of the wartime period, agricultural workers of Uzbekistan made a worthy contribution to the victory over the enemy by supplying the front with “4 million 148 thousand tons of cotton, 82 thousand poods of grain, 54 thousand 67 tons of cocoons, 195 thousand tons of rice, 57 thousand 444 tons of fruit, 36 thousand tons of dried fruit, 159 thousand 300 tons of meat, 22 thousand 300 tons of wool,” and other products.

Despite living in hardship under wartime conditions, the Uzbek people embraced more than 1 million people evacuated from Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus, including 200 children, and provided them with shelter, clothing, and food.

During the war years, workers of science, education, and culture also made a worthy contribution to the victory over the German fascists.

In our republic, “more than 30 concert brigades were organized; they gave more than 35,000 concerts in active army units and nearly 26,000 concerts for the wounded in units and hospitals of the Turkestan Military District, providing moral support to our fighters and inspiring them to victory over fascism.”

During the years of the Second World War, Uzbek fighters showed examples of courage and bravery in all battles fought against Nazi Germany and militaristic Japan. The courage shown by Uzbekistanis in battles

became an important component of the victorious end of the Second World War. For bravery and courage shown at the front, "280 Uzbekistanis were awarded the title of Hero, 75 of whom were Uzbek. Among Uzbekistani fighters, 82 people were awarded the full degree of the Order of Glory."

During the years of the Second World War, the Uzbek people once again showed their characteristic high human qualities. As the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sh.M. Mirziyoyev said: "In extremely difficult and arduous years, the humanism and tolerance of our people were clearly manifested. Our people gave shelter to nearly 1 million children, women, and elderly people of various nationalities evacuated from the western regions of the country where the war was taking place, and shared their last piece of bread."

In brief, during the years of the Second World War, the sons and daughters of the Uzbek people made an important contribution to the defeat of Nazi Germany and militaristic Japan through their heroic struggle against the enemy at the front and the selfless labor of our people in the rear.

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