

History of The Main Stages of Development of The Communication System in The Turkestan ASSR

Odilov Azizillo Qamardin o'g'li

Andijan State Technical Institute, Researcher Trainee, Andijan, Uzbekistan

Received: 14 March 2025; **Accepted:** 10 April 2025; **Published:** 12 May 2025

Abstract: In this article, the communication system in the Turkestan ASSR, the history and stages of the communication system, telegraph and post, railway and railway infrastructure, telecommunication networks and the development of telecommunication infrastructure, the history of the formation of television and radio, mobile communication and the Internet system are discussed in this article.

Keywords: Communication system, telegraph, post, railway, telecommunication, television, radio, mobile communication.

Introduction: Historically, the communication system—whether through automobiles, railways, airways, postal or telegraph connections—has been one of the key factors affecting the standard of living of the population. At the same time, this sector plays a vital role in meeting human needs and creating conditions for development. The level of development and efficiency of service institutions such as postal and telegraph communications is considered one of the main indicators of the socio-orientation of the economy and the availability of favorable conditions for satisfying human needs.

In industrially developed countries, sectors such as railways, airways, as well as postal and telegraph communications are equipped with the latest technologies and are regularly updated, which is not without reason. The Turkestan Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic (Turkestan ASSR, 1918–1924), and later the Uzbek SSR formed as a result of the national territorial delimitation by Soviet rule (1925–1991), experienced several stages in the creation and development of new means of communication. The development of this system was closely linked to the economic, political, and social conditions of that time. The collapse of imperialist Tsarist Russia, the forcible establishment of the Soviet system by the Bolsheviks, and the global spread of socialism brought many changes to the region.

The evolution of the communication system in the Turkestan ASSR and later in the Uzbek SSR can be conditionally divided into the following stages:

1. Communication system in the pre-Soviet era in Turkestan (late 19th century – 1917)
2. Changes in the communication system after the formation of the Turkestan ASSR (1918–1924)
3. Expansion of the communication system in the first decades of the Uzbek SSR (1925–1945)
4. Development of communication after World War II (1946–1960)
5. Communication achievements and challenges during the period of stagnation in the Soviet Union (1970–1980)

In this article, we briefly focus on the communication systems in the Turkestan ASSR and their specific stages of development.

Stage 1: Communication before the Soviet power in Turkestan (late 19th century-1917) During this period, the communication system in the Turkestan region developed as a part of the Russian Empire. International and local communication systems aimed at solving various logistical and administrative issues. Railway networks, postal services, telegraph, and telephone lines were gradually introduced by the Tsarist administration based on their interests. However, inter-provincial communication was not very

effective. Telegraph and postal communications were introduced at the end of the 19th century, following the occupation of the region by the Russian Empire. Initially, these systems operated only in major cities and economic centers, leaving out rural areas.

Railway communication began in the 1870s–1880s, with the first railway line reaching Samarkand via Ashgabat in 1888. The railway extended to Andijan in 1899, and by 1905, it connected Orenburg to Tashkent. By the time it reached Andijan, the length of the Turkestan railway system had exceeded 3,000 kilometers [1. pp. 55–56]. This improved the efficiency of communication but still did not cover large parts of the region.

The Tsarist administration funded the construction of some railways from the state treasury (e.g., Central Asia: 1880–1898, Tashkent–Orenburg: 1901–1906), while others (e.g., Fergana: 1911–1916, Bukhara: 1914–1916, Semirechye: 1912–1917) were built by joint-stock companies [2. p. 239]. The development of postal, telegraph, and telephone services also began during this period.

Stage 2: Development during the Turkestan ASSR (1918–1924)

After the establishment of the Turkestan ASSR, the Soviet government prioritized the systematic development of the communication sector, again based on its interests. New technologies and infrastructure facilities were built, contributing to the efficiency of the national economy.

Telecommunication networks were transferred to Bolshevik control. By the decree of the Turkestan Regional Council of People's Commissars (XKS) dated November 23, 1917, the People's Commissariat for Posts and Telegraphs was established, and all postal and telephone offices in Turkestan were placed under its control [3. pp. 4–7]. Starting from 1918, all postal and telephone branches in cities like Tashkent, Samarkand, Kokand, Verniy, and Andijan were nationalized [4. pp. 19–21].

The railway infrastructure was also expanded, establishing strategic connections with Russia. In the 1920s, telephone and telegraph services advanced further, especially in cities and along key transportation routes. The postal service became more centralized [5. pp. 21–22].

On September 9, 1922, by decision of the Turkestan ASSR XKS, the Commissariat of Posts and Telegraphs was reorganized into the Central Asian Communication Department [6. pp. 21–22], which became the central governing body of all communications in Central Asia.

CONCLUSION

The key stages in the history of the Turkestan ASSR's communication system were directly related to the political and economic development of the region. While Tsarist Russia implemented regionally focused systems, the Soviet period introduced a centralized and modernized network. After gaining independence, Uzbekistan's communication system became more diversified and began to focus on new technologies and international integration.

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