

# Coverage Of The Political Life Of Turkestan In The Newspaper "Tarjiman"

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**Abstract:** Ismailbek Gasparali's newspaper "Tarjiman" provided important information about the political life of Turkestan. It is known that during this period, Turkestan was under the rule of the Russian Empire, and the pages of the newspaper revealed the policy of the occupying government towards this country. Also, "Tarjiman" analyzed the political processes in Turkestan and touched upon the true nature of the empire's occupation of Turkestan and its colonial policy.

**Keywords:** "Tarjiman", statute, tax, governor-generalship, resettlement policy, qazi, "Plague Rebellion", "Andijan Uprising", colony.

**Introduction:** At the beginning of 1867, the Governor-General of Turkestan was established, and K.P. von Kaufman began his activities as Governor-General in Tashkent. The occupying government set itself the following goals for governing the country:

- To implement a policy of Russification in Turkestan;
- To turn Turkestan into a source of raw materials;
- To subordinate public education to the interests of Russia.

The administrators of the Governor-General, having become acquainted with the activities of schools and madrasas in Turkestan in the early years of colonial rule, realized that they were extremely dangerous for them. The Russian Empire began to develop its own program, starting with the field of education, with the policy of Russification. The first Governor-General of Turkestan, K.P. von Kaufman, was especially active in this area. At the Imperial State Council in 1880, von Kaufman raised the issue of joint education of children of Russians and local residents. He also considered the separation of Muslim and Russian schools economically and politically harmful. Kaufman's idea was developed by N.O. Rosenbach, who served as governor-general in Turkestan from 1884 to 1889, and developed a project to create a network of Russian-style schools. In 1884, the first Russian-style school was opened in Tashkent, and by the end of the 19th century their number had exceeded one hundred.

The economic policy of the empire aimed to turn Turkestan into a raw material base, to maintain it as a market for Russian goods, and to transport natural resources to the center, and it fully achieved this. In 1869-1896, the imperial treasury received 158 million rubles from Turkestan. The violent policy of the empire drained the strength of the Turkestan people. During the occupation, the people, who had lost many of their young men to defend the Motherland, constantly took up arms for freedom and fought against colonial oppression.

## METHOD

In the 1880s and 1890s, taxes on the population doubled. According to the tax law, regardless of the total income, merchants were obliged to pay taxes for the right to trade, and artisans for the right to produce goods. The rise and fall of prices, the decline in the income of local merchants and artisans were not taken into account in the new tax collection procedures. This led to numerous protests in the early and mid-1890s.

The newspaper also reported on the Andijan Uprising, a major political event in Turkestan. This liberation movement, known in history as the "Dukchi Eshon Uprising" was led by Muhammad Ali Eshon (1846-1898). Muhammad Ali Eshon was born in the village of Shahidon, a part of the city of Margilan, into the family of a farmer and craftsman Muhammad Sabir. His father took him to Bukhara as a child and educated him at the

Osmancha Okund Domla School. After graduating from school, he studied at a madrasa, and from the age of 16 he served as a religious scholar in Samarkand, then in Fergana. In 1887-1893, he went on a pilgrimage to India and Russia.

The main reason for the uprising was the conflict between the Russians who had migrated from Russia and occupied fertile lands with the Kyrgyz in 1896-1897. At the end of 1897, more than a thousand Kyrgyz in Ketmontepa and Kogart, led by Mullah Rakhmatilla, discussed the plan for the upcoming uprising with Muhammad Ali. It was agreed that Muhammad Ali would be the leader of the uprising. Muhammad Ali's actions were constantly monitored by imperial spies and there were cases of investigation. However, Muhammad Ali did not abandon his goal of fighting for freedom and called on the population to revolt. The newspaper "Tarjiman" covered the details of the events from May 17, 1898, when the uprising began. According to the newspaper, Muhammad Ali Eshon began an armed movement towards Andijan, cut the telegraph wires. On May 18 of the same year, he attacked 2 companies belonging to the 105th battalion, 22 soldiers were killed and 15 were wounded. In turn, the imperial soldiers also attacked. The rebels were forced to retreat, 11 of whom died. On May 20, the leader of the uprising, Muhammad Ali Eshon, was captured. For his ignorance of the origins of the uprising and negligence, the military governor of Fergana was dismissed. In subsequent issues of the newspaper, the details of this uprising were copied from the gazette of the Turkestan region, according to which the people of Muhammad Ali Caliph (Ismail Gasparali gave as the Caliph) numbered more than 1,000. It was revealed that on May 17, the pristovoy captain Sohibgiray Enikeyev reported to the head of the uyezd about the possibility of an uprising in the villages of Mingpeta and Tajik. The details of the capture of Muhammad Ali Eshon are described on the basis of an excerpt from the newspaper "Kavkaz".

The newspaper reported that, in addition to suppressing the uprising, the empire had developed measures to prevent emergencies. Acting Governor-General of Turkestan, Korolkov, issued an order for the Fergana and Samarkand regions, Tashkent, Shymkent, and Avliyo Ota uyezds. According to it, the consequences of opposing the government were determined, the railways were to be guarded, people arriving were to be immediately reported to the police, no gatherings were to be held except during prayers, the head of the family was to obtain permission to move to another place, and those who did not comply with the order were to be sentenced to 3 months in prison or a fine of 500 rubles.

The newspaper provided the following information on the punishment of freedom fighters by the occupying government after the uprising was suppressed: Out of 163 people sentenced to death in the Osh and Andijan courts for their participation in the Andijan uprising, 154 were hanged, and 8 were released. Of the 154 people sentenced to death by imperial decree, 149 were commuted to katorga (A place where punishment is served through labor, that is, a place where convicts sentenced to hard labor are sent). However, when comparing this information with historical research and other sources, a sharp discrepancy can be seen. For example, the book "New History of Uzbekistan. Turkestan under the oppression of Tsarist Russian colonialism" contains the following quote from an unknown source: In a letter to Nicholas II, the Governor-General of Turkestan: "For the fact that the rebels killed 22 of our sleeping soldiers, 22,000 of the rebels were sentenced to death and 300 were sentenced to hard labor. The place where the leader of the rebels lived was razed to the ground and a Russian village with 200 families was built there. Similarly, the local population was resettled from the villages of Hakan and Khartoum near the city of Andijan, and their lands were given to Russian families."

In his work "The Struggle Against Russian Aggression and Domination in Turkestan (18th - Early 20th Centuries)", historian Hamid Ziyoyev writes that a total of 777 participants in the Uprising were arrested and interrogated. Many died in prison after enduring beatings and torture. After the investigation, 415 people were tried, 32 of them were acquitted, and 380 were sentenced to death. One person was sentenced to life imprisonment and three were sent to a reeducation camp. Of the 380 people sentenced to death with the "blessing" of the emperor, 18 (according to another source, 21 people) were hanged. The remaining 362 people were commuted to various sentences: 3 people were sentenced to life imprisonment, 147 to 20 years, 41 to 15 years, 1 to 13 years, 1 to 8 years, 47 to 7 years, 4 to 4 years, 15 to exile to Siberia, and 3 young people to a correctional facility, according to the information. This information is referenced in issue 127 of the journal "Russky Invalid" from 1898.

The incorrect presentation of numbers and figures in the newspaper "Tarjiman" can be explained by the fact that the information was not obtained from the official office of Turkestan. Various figures in historical studies also indicate the need for a serious study of this issue.

In addition to exposing the brutality of the Russian Empire towards the rebels, "Tarjiman" reported that Turkestanis were forced to collect money for the families of Russian soldiers killed in the Andijan

uprising, including the fact that the governor of Samarkand collected 2,911 rubles from the population and sent it to Tashkent.

In "Tarjimon" information and reports on the activities of the Senate commission - the Palen commission - were regularly provided to Turkistan. Ismailbek Gasparali, while providing information about the inspection, was surprised by the indifference of Turkistanis. He told them that in order to prepare a new draft of the administrative procedure, the local population should inform the Palen commission of all their needs, that the commission had advertised in newspapers and accepted everyone with their applications, but that no applications had been submitted to the commission from Turkistanis, that Palen had not gone to Turkistan for tea, and that he could not find out everything on his own, warning that "if they do not speak out today, it will be too late tomorrow." The newspaper also published a response from Turkistanis who read this issue, noting that residents are applying to the Palen Inspection Commission with applications, but that this is of no use: "I read an article in your newspaper that Turkistanis are not applying to the Palen Commission. Turkistanis are applying as much as they can, religious affairs, endowments, complaints from administrators, but not much can be understood from the applications submitted by Turkistanis, so perhaps nothing will come of it."

The newspaper also reported that Palen arrived in Samarkand on October 1, 1908, and met with Mahmudkhodja Behbudi during the inspection. Mahmudkhodja Behbudi prepared a project on general affairs, Sharia, school and madrasa reform to be delivered to Palen, and he submitted it to a person named Haji Niyaz Mirzo, who had 300 people sign it. It should also be noted that no news or documents are known about the outcome of Behbudi's project.

Ismailbek Gasparali, while covering the work of the Palen inspection commission, made the following conclusions regarding the results of its work in Turkestan:

- Palen's report on the inspection of the Turkestan region was published at a cost of 30 thousand rubles;
- all issues were discussed in the Duma, only the land issue remained open;
- the activities of schools were studied and submitted to the Council of Ministers.
- a commission was formed to prepare a project for reform in Turkestan, and Palen and the Governor-General of Turkestan, Samsonov, were also included as members of this commission.

## **CONCLUSION**

In conclusion, the political life of Turkestan in the late 19th and early 20th centuries was covered as systematically as possible in "Tarjiman". In particular, interesting, new and critical articles, reports and excerpts were published, such as the colonial policy of the empire, the adoption of the Nizams and their implementation in the country, the inspection of Girs and Palens, the results and consequences, the protest movements of Turkestans against the occupying government, the "Plague Rebellion", the "Andijan Uprising", the immigration of Jews to Turkestan under the guise of "jadid" and their expulsion by government decree. This information is important and useful in clarifying some critical issues about the political life of Turkestan.

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