

The Evacuation Of Industrial Enterprises From The Western Regions Of The Union

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Abstract: This article highlights that under extremely difficult conditions for the country and the people, Uzbek rural workers successfully accomplished this complex task and achieved significant results by 1945. Along with large industrial enterprises, scientific, educational, and cultural institutions were evacuated to Uzbekistan from the western regions of the Union. In addition, thousands of homeless families and orphaned young children who had lost their parents were also evacuated. It is reported that a total of about 3 million people were relocated to Central Asia.

Keywords: Second World War, Great Patriotic War, Evacuation of industrial enterprises, Soviet wartime economy, Cotton monoculture, Agricultural labor during wartime, Uzbek rural workers, Evacuation of population, Women's labor contribution.

Introduction: In the initial months of the war, the reception and settlement of industrial enterprises evacuated to our region, along with their 19,565 workers and employees and 40,155 family members, were successfully carried out within a short period of time. They were accommodated in cities and district centers, collective farms, enterprises, and private households, while children were placed in schools, workplaces, kindergartens, nurseries, children's homes, and foster families. Within a short time, a total of 135,127 square meters of housing was allocated for them.

However, a memorandum of the USSR State Planning Committee dated December 10, 1941, pointed out certain shortcomings related to the evacuation process. In some cases, industrial enterprises were dismantled in a disorganized manner, which resulted in the absence of essential equipment needed to quickly restore production at the evacuation sites. Locating the missing machinery and restarting the production process required additional valuable time and financial resources.

In order to regulate these issues and promptly resolve matters related to the reception, placement, and commissioning of evacuated enterprises in Uzbekistan, a special commission was established. The government

of Uzbekistan undertook measures to receive the evacuated enterprises along with the workers and specialists who arrived with them, and to create the necessary living and working conditions.

For this purpose, on August 2, 1941, a resolution was adopted on the reception, placement, and commissioning of evacuated industrial enterprises, as well as on providing housing, food supplies, and appropriate conditions for specialists. In accordance with this resolution, a state commission was formed, and local departments were established to handle the reception of evacuees and to provide them with housing and food.

Additionally, on February 21, 1942, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Uzbekistan (Bolsheviks) reviewed the issue of living conditions and employment for evacuees. At this meeting, it was emphasized that party organizations, collective and state farms, as well as responsible officials at regional and district levels, were obligated to create all necessary conditions for the evacuees.

DISCUSSION

At the initial stage, 342 people evacuated from the frontline areas were provided with various forms of employment. F. L. Klochko, a native of Ukraine, arrived in the city of Karshi, where he supervised the work of

young people. In the workshop of Qora Tapa village under the Dasht village council, the Armenian Sakayan, along with Taktorchi, Okrogonova, and the Jewish evacuee Rozenburg, lived and worked together with local farmers.

During the subsequent five months of 1942, an additional 70,323 people were relocated to Uzbekistan. They were mainly settled in the territories of the Bukhara, Surkhandarya, and Kashkadarya regions. These evacuees were individuals who had been left homeless, without shelter, and without food as a result of fascist actions.

However, in Uzbekistan they did not remain homeless or destitute. With the assistance of government-established commissions, they were provided with housing and employment. They received both material and moral support, and pensions were granted to the elderly.

The Second World War began on September 1, 1939. On that very day, German troops invaded the borders of Poland from three directions. Within a short period of time, the war engulfed a large number of countries around the world. On June 22, 1941, 191 fascist divisions (153 of which belonged directly to Germany) launched a massive attack along the borders of the USSR, stretching from the Baltic Sea to the Black Sea. Thus began a terrible tragedy unprecedented in world history, one that humanity had neither heard nor witnessed before.

The outbreak of the Second World War, its causes, and those responsible for it have been widely discussed in historical literature. Today, it is no secret that the principal instigators and culprits of the Second World War were the ruling circles of Germany and the USSR, above all Adolf Hitler and Joseph Stalin. Both expansionist states set the ultimate goal of world domination. Each pursued this strategic objective through different tactical approaches, attempting to outmaneuver one another while striving to expand their borders and spheres of influence by various means.

However, both sides were fully aware that a devastating military confrontation between them was inevitable. In this context, the signing of the ten-year non-aggression pact on August 23, 1939, between Germany and the USSR—authorized by Adolf Hitler and Joseph Stalin and concluded by German Foreign Minister Joachim von Ribbentrop and Soviet People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs Vyacheslav Molotov—is particularly significant.

The international community perceived this agreement as a pact aimed at dividing the world between two predatory states. Following the signing of the treaty,

Germany effectively secured its rear by neutralizing its main rival, the USSR, and shortly thereafter, on September 1, launched an invasion of Poland. Moreover, according to the absolutely secret and confidential clauses of the agreement, the USSR provided Germany not only with moral but also with material support, effectively contributing to the armament of a state that would later rise against it.

This is evidenced by the strictly secret agreements concluded between V. M. Molotov and Count von Schulenburg on September 28, 1939, and January 10, 1941. According to these agreements, Germany agreed to renounce its claims to the territories of the Baltic states (with the exception of part of Lithuania). In return, the USSR consented to pay Germany 7,500,000 gold dollars, or 31.5 million German Reichsmarks. One-eighth of this sum—3,937,500 Reichsmarks—was to be paid by the USSR through the delivery of non-ferrous metals over a three-month period, while the remaining seven-eighths, amounting to 27,562,500 Reichsmarks, were to be paid in gold by February 11, 1941.

During the first three weeks of the war, the German fascist forces advanced deep into Soviet territory: from 400 to 450 kilometers in the northwestern direction, from 450 to 600 kilometers in the western direction, and from 300 to 350 kilometers in the southwestern direction. The Hitlerite troops occupied Latvia, Lithuania, part of Belarus, and the right-bank regions of Ukraine, and approached the western borders of the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic (RSFSR). They began to pose a direct threat to Leningrad, Smolensk, and Kyiv.

A mortal danger loomed over the Soviet state. The Communist Party declared the war the Great Patriotic War. The party's leader, Joseph Stalin, concentrated multiple key positions in his hands simultaneously: he became Supreme Commander-in-Chief, People's Commissar for Defense of the USSR, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party, Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars, and Chairman of the State Defense Committee.

In July 1941 alone, more than 300 women began working at the Ursatevsk railway station, over 250 in Samarkand, 220 at the "Tashselmash" plant, and more than 120 at the Andijan locomotive depot, bravely taking the places of their fathers, brothers, and husbands who had gone to the front. This "patriotic" movement spread widely throughout Uzbekistan, including its rural areas. The Uzbek people regarded the attacks on Ukraine, Belarus, the Baltic states, and the Russian Federation as an attack on their own homeland—Uzbekistan—and demonstrated extraordinary heroism on all fronts.

In accordance with directives issued by the Central Committee of the All-Union Communist Party (Bolsheviks) and the State Defense Committee, the USSR State Planning Committee (Gosplan) developed a wartime economic plan for the fourth quarter of 1941 and for the year 1942, which was approved by the Politburo on August 16, 1941. Under this plan, a decision was made to evacuate industrial enterprises from the western regions of the country to Central Asia, the Urals, and Siberia.

Within a short period—from July to November 1941—1,563 industrial enterprises (1,360 of which were part of the defense industry) were evacuated from Ukraine, Belarus, Moscow, and Leningrad to the eastern regions of the Union. More than 250 of these enterprises were relocated to the republics of Central Asia. The Soviet government was compelled by wartime necessity to relocate these industrial facilities to the territories of the Turkic republics. Prior to the war, not a single heavy industrial enterprise had been constructed or put into operation by the Soviet authorities in Central Asia.

Of the more than 250 industrial enterprises relocated to Central Asia, over 100 were assigned to Uzbekistan. These included the Moscow Aviation Production Association named after V. P. Chkalov; the Sumy Chemical Plant (now Chirchiqkhim mash); Elektrokabel; Krasny Dvigatel; Rostselmash; Krasny Aksay; the Sumy Compressor Plant; the Dnipropetrovsk Carborundum Plant; the Moscow “Podemnik” and “Elektrostanok” plants; the Stalingrad Chemical Combine; and others.

The relocation of such large industrial enterprises to Uzbekistan not only transformed the republic into a powerful military-industrial arsenal for the Soviet Army, but also significantly strengthened the country’s overall economic potential and increased industrial output. Alongside major industrial enterprises, scientific, educational, and cultural institutions were also evacuated to Uzbekistan from the western regions of the Union. Thousands of homeless families and orphaned children who had lost their parents were likewise relocated.

A total of three million people were evacuated to Central Asia: 2.3 million were settled in Kazakhstan, and 716,000 in Uzbekistan. This process was carried out on the basis of a special resolution adopted on December 3, 1941, by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Uzbekistan concerning the reception and settlement of evacuated Soviet citizens. The resolution paid particular attention to the care of orphaned children, and a special reception center was established in the city of Tashkent.

The Uzbek people welcomed the evacuated population with warmth and compassion, providing them with

housing, food, and care. A large number of orphaned children were sent to Central Asian republics, particularly Uzbekistan. In 1941 alone, 200,000 children were placed in children’s homes. Thousands of children were taken into Uzbek families. By 1943, 4,672 orphans had benefited from the kindness, compassion, and moral integrity of the Uzbek people.

“When I arrived in Tashkent and saw people standing in line in front of children’s homes waiting to adopt children, I was deeply astonished,” wrote the renowned children’s poet Korney Chukovsky. In the initial months of the war, the reception and settlement of industrial enterprises evacuated to our region, along with their 19,565 workers and employees and 40,155 family members, were successfully carried out within a short period of time. They were accommodated in cities and district centers, collective farms, enterprises, and private households, while children were placed in schools, workplaces, kindergartens, nurseries, children’s homes, and foster families. Within a short time, a total of 135,127 square meters of housing was allocated for them.

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Uzbek people.

“When I arrived in Tashkent and saw people standing in line in front of children’s homes waiting to adopt children, I was deeply astonished,” wrote the renowned children’s poet Korney Chukovsky. Such a complex and arduous task was unquestionably fulfilled by the working people of Uzbekistan. In his article “Victory Is on Our Side!”, published on October 21, 1941, in the newspaper Qizil Uzbekistan, Y. Okhunboboev wrote the following: “Everything is subordinated to the interests of the front. Uzbek collective farmers are showing great courage in harvesting the abundant cotton crop grown this year. The ‘fifteen-thousanders’ movement among cotton pickers has spread widely. Everyone’s attention is focused on harvesting the rich crop as quickly as possible and delivering it to the state. Every single gram of cotton we produce is an irreplaceable blow to the enemy!”

CONCLUSION

In general, Uzbek rural workers, laboring under extremely harsh and difficult conditions, made a worthy contribution to accelerating the victory over German fascism. During the war years, the farmers of the republic supplied the front and the victory with 4,148,000 tons of cotton—vital as air and water—82 million poods of grain, 57,444 tons of fruits and grapes, 36,000 tons of dried fruits, 159,300 tons of meat, 22,300 tons of wool, and many other products. This was an immense and unprecedented act of heroism, one of which we are rightfully and legitimately proud.

The war of 1941–1945 should serve as a historical lesson for us. Our people endured all the hardships caused by the war, worked tirelessly on every front without hesitation, and demonstrated a high level of consciousness and dedication. However, the colonial authorities interpreted this effort as a natural and unquestionable process and failed to appreciate the labor of the working people. This can be seen in Moscow’s postwar policy, which, guided by a great-power approach, continued to specialize Uzbekistan’s agriculture exclusively in cotton production.

This policy further strengthened cotton monoculture, turning Uzbekistan into a raw-material base of the USSR. This situation became a national tragedy for Uzbek workers and a fundamental cause of the republic’s political, economic, and spiritual impoverishment.

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