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From The History Of Constructing Reservoirs And Flood-Control Facilities In Namangan Region In The Second Half Of The 20th Century: The History Of The Andijan Reservoir

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Abstract: This article explores the historical background of reservoir and flood-control (selkhona) construction in Namangan Region during the second half of the twentieth century, focusing on the emergence and development of Andijan Reservoir as a major regional hydraulic facility. The study traces the project's early conceptual origins, Soviet-era planning and decision-making, and the key stages of construction and commissioning, highlighting how large-scale water infrastructure was linked to irrigation expansion, agricultural modernization, and broader economic objectives in the Fergana Valley. Special attention is given to the engineering and organizational context of the project, including the role of specialized design institutes, state financing, and the integration of reservoir functions with hydropower generation and regulated water delivery. The article also discusses the social and territorial consequences of reservoir development, such as land-use changes and resettlement-related issues, as well as post-Soviet challenges associated with cross-border water management and governance. By combining historical analysis with an infrastructure-focused perspective, the article clarifies the reservoir's long-term significance for regional water security and flood-risk regulation.

Keywords: Andijan Reservoir; Namangan Region; Fergana Valley; reservoirs and flood-control facilities; Soviet water-management policy; irrigation development; hydrotechnical construction; hydropower integration; transboundary water governance; Central Asia.

Introduction: The idea of building a reservoir in the Fergana Valley was first proposed in 1917 by the hydraulic engineer Ivan Aleksandrov. Subsequently, by a decision of the USSR Council of Ministers dated March 15, 1963, a resolution was adopted to proceed with the construction. The main purpose of the project was to supply water to the Great Fergana Canal area and to the agricultural lands in the southern part of the valley. The design of the new reservoir was developed by the research team of the Sredazgiprovodkhlopok Institute under the leadership of chief engineers N. S. Zhuykov and L. S. Litvak. For its construction, 297 million rubles were allocated from the USSR state budget, and completion was planned by 1970.

However, the construction of the reservoir began only in 1969 and was finally completed only in 1983. Archaeological excavations were carried out in the construction area by the Kampir-Ravat archaeological expedition, which continued until 1967. The construction of the reservoir led to the flooding of several thousand hectares of land on the territory of the Kyrgyz SSR. The loss of the flooded lands was compensated by transferring 4,127 hectares of land in border areas to the Uzbek SSR; later, several villages

and an airport (in Aksy Region) were built there. On September 23, 1965, an inter-republic protocol was signed titled "Minutes of the meeting of representatives of the Ministry of Water Management of the Uzbek SSR, the Ministry of Water Management of the Kyrgyz SSR, the State Construction Committee of the Kyrgyz SSR, and the design institutes 'Sredazgiprovodkhlopok' and 'Kyrgyzgiprovodkhoz' on the issues of using the water resources of the Karaijon River and the (Kampir-Ravot) reservoir."

The construction of the reservoir was linked to the construction of the Andijan Hydroelectric Power Station (HPP). In 2010, Andijan HPP-2 was built. The hydroelectric complex is located at the point where the Kara Darya flows into the Fergana Valley, near the city of Khanabad. Its primary purpose is to provide irrigation water.

Commissioning the reservoir made it possible to irrigate 44,000 hectares of new land and to increase irrigation of previously cultivated lands—257,000 hectares in Uzbekistan and 159,000 hectares in Kyrgyzstan. The Andijan Reservoir, located in Uzbekistan, is an important hydraulic structure that significantly affects water supply and irrigation in the region. Since its construction in the mid-20th century, the reservoir has played a major role in the agriculture and economy of the eastern part of the country.

Characteristics. In terms of its external form, the Andijan Reservoir is considered a canal-type reservoir. Its main purpose is irrigation and energy production. The maximum depth of the reservoir is 98 meters. It is 6 kilometers wide and 20 kilometers long. The long-term total storage capacity is 1.9 km^3, the useful (active) capacity is 1.75 km^3, and the design water surface area is 56 km^2. Tributaries of the Kara Darya—the Tar and Kara-Kulja rivers—flow into the reservoir.

Prerequisites for creating the reservoir. After the collapse of the USSR, the reservoir became a focal point of a territorial dispute between independent Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan. Despite the high population density of the Fergana Valley, the climate is arid, which makes the reservoir extremely important for both states. In Uzbekistan it is called the Andijan Reservoir, while in Kyrgyzstan it is known as Kempirobod. According to the Kyrgyz geographer Temirkul Eshengulov, the reservoir was named "Kampir-Ravatsky" in honor of mineral deposits. In addition, there was a village called Kampirravat near the present-day reservoir.

In the spring of 2021, it was reported that an agreement had been signed between the two countries to transfer the reservoir to Uzbekistan. However, the transfer was delayed due to protests in Kyrgyzstan against the agreement.

On 26 September 2022, a protocol on the delimitation and demarcation of the state border between Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan was signed. In protest against the agreement, on 6 October Kyrgyz citizens set up makeshift homes near the reservoir, which were later dismantled by law enforcement agencies. On 10 October, the Committee on International Affairs, Defense, Security and Migration of the Kyrgyz Parliament adopted a decision to approve the agreement with Uzbekistan. In response, activists announced the formation of a "Committee to Protect the Reservoirs." According to Kyrgyz President Sadyr Japarov, the agreement with Uzbekistan makes it possible to manage the reservoir on a 50/50 basis.

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