

# The Emergence of Local Industry in The City of Karshi During the Years of Soviet Rule (1st Half of the 20th Century)

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**Abstract:** From the first years of Soviet rule, efforts were made to organize all sectors from the perspective of the interests of the Union. Industrialization was carried out in a one-sided manner, and insufficient attention was paid to establishing large industrial enterprises and creating industrialized regions within the Central Asian republics and provinces. In these republics, attention was mainly paid to the cultivation of agricultural products. In the management of industrial enterprises, an administrative-command system was formed, and all the structures of industrial management were organized according to the models of the former Union organizations. As a result, in remote areas such as Kashkadarya region, handicrafts remained a priority area of industry.

**Keywords:** City, region, railway, state, policy, institution, model, body, organization, soum, cooperation, bank, industry, product, craft.

**Introduction:** The city of Karshi is one of the main cities in southern Uzbekistan and was considered an important stronghold of the Bukhara Emirate. As in the Bukhara Emirate, the economic life of the city in Karshi, following the establishment of Soviet power in 1920, was organized in a unique way, taking into account the characteristics of the era.

Karshi was a connecting point between Bukhara and the southern cities. Taking this into account, on December 22, 1923, the Council of People's Commissars of the BSSR adopted a resolution on the construction of the Karshi-Guzar and Termez-Kerki railways [1]. The construction cost was estimated at 1,250,000 soums in gold, so 50 percent was paid by the BSSR and the rest by the Union authorities [2]. The resolution stipulated the completion of the railway construction and the commissioning of the railway lines in 1924. In November 1924, repair work on the Qarshi–Kitob railway was completed, and train operations began [3]. Kashkadarya Region was established on November 1, 1924, with the city of Karshi designated as its administrative center. Karshi served as the regional center until 1938, when Kashkadarya Region was

incorporated into Bukhara Region. [4]

The centers of the regional economic, trade, cooperative and other organizations were located in Karshi. The "Uzselkhozsklad" was located in Karshi, which provided farmers with various agricultural tools. A branch of the agricultural bank, which provided loans to farmers, was opened in the city. The branches of "Uzbektorg" and "Selsoyuz" in Karshi were engaged in the establishment of state and cooperative trade, while "Selsoyuz" was also engaged in the cooperation of peasant farms. [5] The Karshi agro-section established in the city operated among the city's residents involved in agriculture. Its specialists taught farmers new forms of agricultural work, the need to switch to high-quality crops and mechanized labor, the use of chemical fertilizers, and trained the first tractor drivers from among Uzbek workers.

## Relevance and current state of the topic:

However, the authoritarian Soviet regime did not want to build real industrial enterprises in Karshi. In the city, attention was paid to the construction of enterprises providing services to agriculture, as well as enterprises

producing less important and primary products. From the early years of Soviet rule, efforts were made to organize all sectors with a focus on the interests of the Union. Industrialization was pursued in a one-sided manner, and insufficient attention was paid to establishing large industrial enterprises or creating industrialized regions within the Central Asian republics and provinces.

In these republics, attention was mainly paid to the cultivation of agricultural products. In the management of industrial enterprises, an administrative-command system was formed, and all the structures of industrial management were organized according to the models of the former Union organizations. As a result, in remote areas such as Kashkadarya region, handicrafts remained a priority area of industry.

Karshi has long been a city where craftsmanship has flourished, and the products made by artisans have been renowned in many countries for their quality, durability, and durability. The city has neighborhoods specializing in the production of certain products. However, in the early years of Soviet rule, stagnation was also evident in the handicraft sector, as the ongoing political struggles in the country completely disrupted economic life. Craftsmen lacked funds, raw materials, and equipment for production. The neglect of the state to establish industry in the city, the lack of formation of the working class seriously hindered the development of local industry.

In 1928, an important event occurred in the economic life of the city. In April 1928, the city of Karshi received an independent budget. That year, the city budget amounted to 933,600 sums [6].

The construction of the first industrial enterprises and craft enterprises began in the city. In 1926-1928, a city power station with a capacity of 75 kW was built, 80 light bulbs were installed on the city streets, a slaughterhouse, a regional printing house, a large mechanized mill at the Karshi station, and a fruit juice production plant were built. Attention was also paid to the restoration and development of handicrafts in the city. In the early years of Soviet rule, 262 craft workshops were registered in Karshi, including 2 large tailoring artels (with 273 members), transport artels with 214 members, 3 blacksmithing and locksmithing artels, and others [7].

In 1925, 879 households in Karshi were engaged in the production of outerwear and headgear, 818 households were engaged in weaving, 515 households were engaged in food processing, and 279 households were engaged in carting [8]. In 1927-1928, a policy of unifying handicraft enterprises across the republic began. In this regard, in 1927, the first congress of

handicraft enterprises of the Kashkadarya district was held. At the conference, the national handicraft industry association was established. A. as the chairman of the association. Kamolov, head of the organizational department I. Antonov, to the sales department U. Gelbaum was elected chief. [9]

The handicrafts sector began to be managed by the state. The industrialization of the national economy required substantial funds. Therefore, the Soviet authorities issued industrialization bonds in order to collect such funds. Although subscription to these types of loans was declared voluntary, in practice, they were distributed on a mandatory basis.[10] During the years of industrialization, loans totaling 200 million soums were distributed across the Kashkadarya region.

#### **Experimental part (research):**

Instead of introducing effective measures such as increasing labor productivity and reducing product costs in production, the Soviet government tried to establish "socialist" competition, Stakhanovism movement and various congresses of workers, inter-enterprise competitions in all areas of the economy. In order to achieve high performance in the industry, the Stakhanovist movement of workers was intensified. For example, on March 15, 1936, a 10-day Stakhanovist strike was announced for the workers of the Karshi depot of the Karshi railway station. [11] The artificial introduction of such actions did not produce the expected results. Such actions were carried out only for the sake of formality.

The policy of the Soviet state in the field of industry, in turn, struck the craft traditions, which were considered one of the national values. The complete state ownership of the economy, the rejection of the market economy, and the restriction of the activities of individual craftsmen have led to a homogenization of the living standards of the population. A strong barrier has been placed on material self-interest. The competition between craftsmen disappeared, and the path of unreasonable equalization was followed.

The Soviet government tried to place representatives of European nationality in the governing system throughout the country, even in the most remote cities.

In particular, this trend became a priority in the city of Karshi. The leaders of the city organizations were mainly people of European nationality. For example, Mironov, the head of the municipal utility department, K.V., the head of the finance department. Zinovev, head of the general department A.M. Pozdnyakova, head of the local industry department F.T. Sazanov, chairman of the planning commission G.G. Nesterov is one of them.

### Analysis of the obtained results:

With the outbreak of war, the entire country's financial, material, and labor resources were directed to meeting the needs of the front. Industrial enterprises began to produce products mainly for the front. Mandatory work outside of regular hours was introduced for workers and employees. The workday for adults was extended to a six-day workweek. Plans for going on vacation were cancelled. A plan was developed to shift Uzbekistan's industrial production to a wartime footing between September and December 1941.

Many industrial enterprises from the western regions of the former Soviet Union were relocated to the Central Asian republics. The relocated industrial enterprises also operated in the city of Karshi. For example, the Karshi Garment Factory was established on the basis of a garment factory relocated from Dnepropetrovsk during the war years. [12]. On July 19, 1943, the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan adopted a resolution "On the establishment of the Karshi Sewing and Shoe Factory No. 10," and the organizational committee for the establishment of the enterprise began its work.

The construction of the factory has started by the trusts "Oblmestprom" and "Oblmognopromstroy" in the Kashkadarya region [13]. Part of the factory equipment was supplemented by machine tools of enterprises transferred from the west. A family sewing-shoe workshop with 3 production crews and 15 sewing machines and 3 electric irons started working at the enterprise. [14] The factory began producing men's warm clothing, suits, traditional Uzbek attire, women's headscarves, underwear, and various types of footwear. Various training courses were organized to staff the enterprise with qualified personnel. During the war years, active workers such as Kravizhskaya, Smolinkova, and Izrailova worked at the enterprise.

In 1946, the Karshi weaving factory produced products worth 427,000 soums. Compared to last year, the number of factory workers has doubled. However, a number of shortcomings were also made in the operation of the enterprise. In June-July 1947, the factory produced a large number of low-quality products. In most cases, there was a shortage of raw materials for production. The director of the factory, Mayaev, could not create sufficient conditions for the workers. According to the sources, serious production errors occurred due to his lack of sufficient knowledge of the enterprise's technological processes, engineering work, and economic knowledge in general. In 1947, the shoe shop in particular produced a lot of unusable products. Acquaintance and nepotism were strengthened in the factory, creating "family

management" [15]. The head of the shoe shop, T. Terminov, made his daughter one of the main managers in the shop. Such circumstances led to the decline of the enterprise's work and the deterioration of product quality.

Such negative aspects in the tailoring factory can be observed in the activities of other enterprises as well. During the Soviet era, the main focus was on the execution of production plans, and the quality of the finished product became secondary. The performance of the Qarshi garment factory did not improve in the following years either. Kayumov managed the factory from 1949 to 1950. He also repeated the mistakes of his predecessors. In 1949, the enterprise fulfilled only 50% of the production plan. [16]

### Analysis of the obtained results:

In the post-war decades, the establishment of a number of light and food industry enterprises in Karshi was included in the state plan. In particular, in 1946-1948, a meat-canning plant was set up to process 1,360 tons of meat worth 3 million soums and produce 6 million cans of canned food, in 1948-1950 a cotton factory with a capacity of 9.5 million soums was built at the Karshi station, and in 1949-1950 a brewery was set up in the city of Karshi, but in practice they were not implemented on time. [17]

From February 1, 1949, the Karshi Motor Repair Plant was renamed the Karshi Repair Plant, expanding the capabilities of the enterprise. [18] This is because the number of vehicle fleets, tractors, and automobiles in the region has increased in recent years. There were also problems with the organization of craft artels in the city. First, sufficient measures were not taken to provide the artels with technical equipment, raw materials, and personnel. In 1947, among the city's cooperatives, only the "Uchqun" cooperative team met its assigned targets. Specifically, the performance of the "Ittifoq," "Yangi Hayot," "Tikuvchi," and "Qizil Sharq" cooperatives was rated as unsatisfactory. For example, the food producer "Kyzil Sharq" cartel fulfilled only 18% of the 1947 plan. [19]

### CONCLUSION

During the Soviet era, the issue of craftsmanship was not given enough attention. Plans were not implemented due to the lack of adequate working conditions, raw materials supply, and low wages of workers in handicraft production artels. Residents of "Uchqun" artel did not fulfill their orders. 717,700 soum sewing orders of the population and the planned 32.1 tons of confectionery products were not prepared [20]. 4 mln. He could not deliver the product worth 570,000 soums. This happened because Samsonov, the secretary of the city party committee, and Khristenko,

the head of the industrial department, did not fully understand their duties and could not manage the work properly. [21]

After the establishment of Soviet power, Soviet-style government institutions began to be built in the city of Karshi. The activities of the economic sphere were developed in accordance with the interests of the Center. A one-sided approach to planning industrial enterprises and construction work prevailed in the city. More than 90 percent of existing industrial enterprises in the city of Karshi specialize in the production of light and food products.

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