

The Evolution of Entrepreneurial Peasant Farms During the Period of the New Economic Policy in Uzbekistan (1921-1929)

Mahmudkhan Mahmudov
Andijan State Medical Institute

ANNOTATION

The period of the former Soviet power occupies a special place in the history of our country. This period, although historically short, is distinguished by its complexity and contradictions. It started a new page of colonialism in the history of the people of Uzbekistan, which lasted for about 75 years. As a result, the tsarist colonial empire was replaced by the "red empire". The peoples of the country, who lived under the oppression of the new colonialism, experienced all the terrible hardships of the Bolshevik "socialist experiment". The saddest thing is that the extremely complex and conflicting course of the socio-political historical process in the republic led to many victims and cultural and spiritual losses.

KEYWORDS: Turkestan, "military communism", new economic policy, NEP, food system, food tax, decree, agriculture, industry.

After the October coup, a large part of Uzbekistan, which was in the territory of Turkestan, was incorporated into the RSFSR as the Turkestan Autonomous Republic. In 1924, as a result of the forced national-territorial delimitation, the Uzbek SSR was established and included in the USSR. By its essence, the USSR was a unitary (joint) state. As a result, Uzbekistan became completely dependent on Moscow. The Uzbek SSR was independent in name only. The leading bodies of the republic were appointed by the Union government and fully subordinated to it.

The Mustabid regime sought to permanently preserve Uzbekistan as a colony within the Center and further strengthen its position as a raw material base of the metropolis. As a result of such a policy, the economic development of the republic was one-sided, its agriculture became more and more focused on cotton production, thus the cotton monopoly was established. The industry of Uzbekistan was mainly directed to serve the needs of agriculture. In the industry, the primary processing sectors of agricultural products occupied the main place.

The colonial policy of the Soviet state in Uzbekistan found its clear expression in the cultural development of the republic. Although some positive developments have been achieved in this area, the spiritual life of the peoples of the republic was completely influenced by the prevailing ideology and politics of the time, and there was an effort to russify the republic under the guise of internationalism. The national cultural values, rich spiritual heritage and traditions of the Uzbek people were forgotten. The Uzbek language was made a secondary language, and the Russian language became the state and main language of communication.

At the same time, during the years of Soviet power, many plants and factories were built with the selfless work of our people, millions of hectares of new land were developed, large canals were dug, the material and technical basis of agriculture was strengthened, and the volume of

its products increased. Dozens of higher and secondary special educational institutions were established, where specialists were appointed for all sectors of the national economy, a wide network of general education schools and vocational-technical educational institutions was established, and many cultural and educational institutions were established. As a result, the educational and cultural level of the Uzbek people increased.

It is impossible to assess the complex and conflicting historical path of the peoples of Uzbekistan for almost 75 years. That is why it is necessary to study and study the Soviet era as it actually happened, taking into account all the positive and negative aspects, achievements and declines, all the ups and downs of the historical process. After all, it is necessary to study this period as the history of the creative and selfless Uzbek people.

The analysis of the materials related to the history of Uzbekistan's agriculture during the period of the new economic policy shows that the New Economic Policy was implemented by the leadership of the country only as a temporary measure to correct the crisis situation in the country's economy. This measure allowed the Bolshevik leadership to maintain power, prevent the economy from completely derailing, and improve relations with the masses of peasants, who make up a significant part of the country's population. In turn, the conflicting characteristics caused by the state regulation of the social processes taking place in the villages caused the evolution of the wealthy and entrepreneurial strata of the village to become complicated.

The transition to a new economic policy created objective opportunities for the development of wealthy and enterprising peasant farms, in the context of the liberalization of economic relations, it caused an increase in the production efficiency and productivity of these layers of the countryside. Thanks to these opportunities, the weight of wealthy peasant farms among the rural population increased. Taking advantage of the available opportunities and conditions, entrepreneurial farmers began to expand their production activities. The villages of the Turkestan ASSR, and then the Uzbekistan SSR, generally developed under the conditions of the new economic policy, and in turn, different rates were observed in the evolution of the wealthy and entrepreneurial strata of the village. Also, the conflicting situations caused by the addition of economic bases of development and administrative methods of its control became a characteristic of this period. The experience of taxing and providing credit to peasant farms, the emergence of the market for means of production, rent and hired labor relations showed that in the years of the new economic policy, a clear and integrated system of state regulation of entrepreneurial and business-oriented farms was not created. In the first years of the new economic policy, the Communist Party and the Soviet government provided a number of privileges and opportunities to the wealthy and entrepreneurial strata of the village, but from the second half of the 1920s, the activities of the wealthy strata were restricted by various means. As a result, the dynamics of the national economy recovery process was shown in various indicators. That is, the development of some social groups of the village was carried out at the expense of destroying or restricting the activities of other groups. In the last years of the new economic policy, the restriction of production opportunities and activities of entrepreneurs and wealthy farmers of the Uzbek countryside led to a decrease in the general indicators of agricultural production.

As a result of large-scale agrarian reforms carried out in 1925-1929 after national-territorial demarcation was carried out in Central Asia and the establishment of the Uzbekistan SSR, significant changes occurred in the social structure of the population. The agrarian reform of

1925-1929 in the republic was aimed primarily at the loss of the rich. In a certain sense, this reform acted as a rehearsal of the processes of mass liquidation of "kulak" farms and wealthy peasant farms in general, which would later take place during the period of total collectivization of agriculture.

The redistribution of land and liquidation of rich farms was one of the priority directions of rural social development in the 20s of the 20th century. At the same time, the policy of cooperation, which ended with total collectivization, had a great impact on the fate of the peasants. With the transition to the new economic policy, the cooperative process of peasant farms became more widespread. In the first half of the 1920s, authorities followed the principles of voluntary cooperation of agricultural producers, but from the middle of the 1920s, the trend of strict centralization and strengthening of state cooperation began. Accordingly, the cases of artificially increasing the rate of cooperation of Uzbek farmers have escalated.

Based on political interests, the authorities granted special privileges to production cooperatives, which were intended to further integrate landless and landless peasants into agricultural artels and kolkhozes. However, the share of middle-class peasant farms in collective farms was still low.

Various state bodies of the Soviet government constantly instilled the idea of "class struggle" into the Uzbek countryside and in practice tried to destroy the concept of private property. In order to support the poor peasants, the government often tried to ensure their welfare by redistributing land and property belonging to different social classes in the village. At the same time, poor peasants also actively participated in "revolutionary reforms" in order to obtain land, livestock, and agricultural implements from the government.

In the period when Soviet power was established and developed, that is, in the 20s of the 20th century, during the implementation of the "agrarian revolution" in the countryside, there were no clear criteria for considering one or another owner as a "rural exploiter". In such a situation, no one knew who was poor, who was middle-class, and who was deaf. Farmers belonging to different social strata also did not know what would happen early: whether the land they were cultivating would remain with them or it would be taken away due to the next redistribution.

Such uncertainty has created a mood among farmers to temporarily own their farms. They neglected the productive and efficient use of land and this resulted in huge losses. Literally, the peasants were alienated from the land. This situation, along with raising the prestige of the poor, created a feeling of "not being rich" among the villagers. Because the prosperity of the farm in various forms put it at risk of confiscation. Later, this mood became a heavy burden in increasing the economic and political activity of the rural working class in the forced collective farms.

In fact, it was possible to get out of the crisis by relying on the producers of goods in the form of entrepreneurs and wealthy farmers and protecting their interests. At the same time, one of the optimal options for agricultural development would be to consistently develop the activities of individual farmers in agricultural production along with collective farms on a voluntary basis.

In general, the experiences of the development of individual farms during the period of the

new economic policy can be used to establish and improve the activities of farmers' farms in the Republic of Uzbekistan today. In this case, it is appropriate to develop different forms of farming and land use in an alternative way and to set equal privileges for different forms of ownership.

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