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## IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL-TERRITORIAL DEMARCATION IN CENTRAL ASIA AND TERMINATION OF KHOREZM REPUBLIC

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**Annotation:** This article analyses the implementation of national-territorial demarcation in Central Asia, as well as the termination of the Republic of Khorezm. By the mid-20s of the 20th century, not only the Republic of Turkestan, but also the People's Republics of Bukhara and Khorezm were involved in national-territorial demarcation. At that time, the republics of Bukhara and Khorezm were still legally independent sovereign states. The issue of national demarcation of Central Asia was fully supported in Moscow. Because by this time, the issue of demarcation had become a clearly stated main goal of the party leadership of the Centre. In February-March 1924, the issue of national demarcation of Central Asia was also discussed at the councils held in Khorezm. In particular, the issue of the need for the national demarcation of the Republic of Khorezm was the cause of heated discussions in the councils of Khiva city officials.

**Key words:** USSR, Khorezm Soviet Socialist Republic, national-territorial demarcation in Central Asia, Turkestan Autonomous Soviet Republic, national-territorial demarcation, Uzbeks, Kazakhs, Karakalpaks, Turkmens.

By the beginning of 1924, the achievements in the field of restoration and development of the national economy and economy in the Khorezm Soviet Socialist Republic (XSSR) were accompanied by many difficulties and problems in solving the national issue. Uzbeks have always been the majority in the territory of the USSR. However, Turkmens, Kazakhs and Karakalpaks also existed here as local residents. Most of the Turkic population living here at the beginning of the 20th century and later called themselves Khorezm people or Khiva people.

In the republics of Turkestan, Bukhara and Khorezm in 1918-1924, the Soviet authorities and the Bolsheviks achieved certain results in solving the national issue. During this period, the Turkmen region was established as part of the USSR, then the Kazakh-Korakalpak autonomous region. The Transcaspian Province within the Turkestan ASSR was transformed into the Turkman [Turkmenistan] Province in 1924. In the autumn of 1920, the Kyrgyz ASSR [in fact, the Kazakh ASSR] was formed and included in the RSFSR.

According to official data, in 1924, 66.5% of Uzbeks living in Central Asian republics lived in Turkestan ASSR, 22.2% in Bukhara and 11.3% in Khorezm republics. 43.2% of all Turkmens in Central Asia lived in Turkestan, 27% in Bukhara and 29.8% in Khorezm. 47.7% of Tajiks in Central Asian republics lived in Turkestan ASSR, 52.3% in Bukhara Republic [1].

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National-territorial re-demarcation of the Turkestan region was developed by the Centre and the Central Asian Bureau of the Central Committee of the RKP(b) and at the beginning of 1924 it entered its final stage.

At its meeting on January 31, 1924, the Organizational Bureau of the Central Committee of the RKP(b) considered, among other issues, the issue of the national-territorial demarcation of the Republics of Turkestan, Bukhara, and Khorezm, and Y.E. Rudzutakka instructed to discuss in advance how this idea can be realized in practice together with the officials of these republics [2].

As noted in the recently published two-book fundamental study entitled "History of Uzbekistan", the independence of the People's Republics of Khorezm and Bukhara was highly imaginary by the end of this period. In fact, they had lost their independence. The economic unification of the three republics and the establishment of the Central Asian Economic Council, the entry of the Communist parties of Khorezm and Bukhara into the RKP(b) and the establishment of the Central Asian Bureau of the Central Committee of the RKP(b), the conclusion of new economic agreements between Russia and the Republics of Bukhara and Khorezm, the integration of money circulation (as a result of which the Russian Chervan was taken as a basis), the political, economic, and financial domination of these countries was entirely at the discretion of Moscow.

Thus, the idea of the Bolsheviks to re-delimit the Turkestan Autonomous Soviet Republic, which was part of the RSFSR, by the middle of the 20s of the 20th century turned into a far-reaching task - the issue of not only the Republic of Turkistan, but also the People's Republics of Bukhara and Khorezm. At that time, the republics of Bukhara and Khorezm were still legally independent sovereign states. The issue of national demarcation of Central Asia was fully supported in Moscow. Because by this time, the issue of demarcation had become a clearly stated main goal of the party leadership of the Centre.

In February-March 1924, the issue of national demarcation of Central Asia was also discussed at the councils held in Khorezm. In particular, the issue of the need for the national demarcation of the Republic of Khorezm was the cause of heated discussions in the councils of Khiva city officials.

Shortly before national-territorial demarcation was carried out in Khorezm in the fall of 1924, the territory of the USSR was administratively divided into three regions and one district. In the north of the republic is the Kazakh-Korakalpak region (province); in the middle part is Tashavuz region; the southern part – New Urganch region on the banks of Amudarya; Khiva district (district) was established in the southwestern and southeastern parts of the oasis.

The regions and the Khiva district within the USSR consisted of the following councils<sup>1</sup>:

*Kazakh-Korakalpak region:* Kungirov, KokhnaUrganch, Khojayli, Shumanay.

*New Urganch region:* Beshariq (Bogot), Gurlan, Darganota, Kipchak, Qiyot-Kungirov, Kat, Mangit, New Urganch, Pitnak, Sadivar, Shavot, Hazorasp, Khanka, China (Qtay).

*Tashavuz region:* Anbar-Manoq, Ilyali, Qilichboy, Kokchaga, Porsu, Tashavuz, Takhtabozor.

*Khiva district:* AkhDarband, Astana, Ghazavot, Guji, Kirman, separate Khiva district, Yangariq[3].

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<sup>1</sup>A small administrative-territorial form of government equivalent to the parish executive committee is called a shura in Khorezm. The territory of the Soviets at that time was approximately equal to the territory of large districts in modern Uzbekistan.

As it can be seen from this list, the names of some of the Shuras in Khorezm are various Turkic clans that have been absorbed into the composition of the Uzbek people: Kunghiro, Kipchak, Qiyat, Mangit, Khitay [qtay; khidan] names. As mentioned earlier, the name of even one region is Kazakh-Korakalpak, which consists of the names of two peoples: Kazakhs and Karakalpaks. Among such Turkic clans, there were clans with great prestige, such as Kungiro, Mangit, Kipchak. We hardly see such a situation in the naming of districts and towns in the Fergana and Samarkand regions of the Republic of Bukhara and Turkestan ASSR.

The issue of National Delimitation in the Khorezm Republic was initially discussed in February 1924 at one of the meetings of the Central Committee of the KhorezmCompartmentum. But at that time the Assembly was transferred to the Executive Bureau of the Central Committee of the CCP(b) member of the Central Asian Bureau of the Central Committee of the CCP was limited to Mejlauk's offer to receive information about this issue [4].

Different attitudes towards national delimitation had arisen in the leadership of the KhorezmCompartmentum. Member of the Central Asian Bureau of the Central Committee of the RKP(b) in information order at the meeting of the Executive Bureau of the CCP on March 3, 1924 I.Mejlauk's report on national-territorial delimitation was heard and discussed [5].

This issue was raised again at a meeting of Party-Soviet activists held in Khiva in mid-March. According to the decision adopted by the meeting, "The Republic of Khorezm will be demarcated according to the national symbol, and the relevant regions will be included in the newly established republics of Central Asia (Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, etc.), and in the event that such republics are separated."

On April 5, 1924, the Politburo of the Central Committee of the RKP(b) preliminarily considered the proposal of the Central Asian communist organizations on the national delimitation of Turkestan, Bukhara and Khorezm. The Central Committee of the RKP(b) basically approved this proposal, but delayed the resolution of the issue until the end of May, burdening the delegates representing the Turkestan, Bukhara and Khorezm Communist Party with the obligation to bring the necessary materials for the XIII Congress of the RKP(b). It was suggested to prepare and submit their comments on national-territorial demarcation with geographical maps for consideration by the members of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the RKP(b) [6].

All issues of national-territorial delimitation in Central Asia were transferred by the Centre to the Central Asia Bureau of the Central Asian Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. Some legitimate objections of the population and national leaders in the republics of Turkestan, Bukhara and Khorezm in this area were not taken into account. In particular, the leadership of the Republic of Khorezm and the Communist Party of Khorezm, many national workers from Khorezm put forward their opinions in this area and opposed the policy of the Centre.

However, on April 28, 1924, at the meeting of the Central Asian Bureau of the Central Asian Committee of the Central Asian Republic, it was considered that it was time to delimit the Central Asian republics according to national-territorial symbols, and a special decision was made about it. A central commission (in some documents it is referred to as a general commission) was established on all issues related to national-territorial demarcation in Central Asia. This commission was supposed to

finish its work by May 10 and report all its proposals to the Central Asia Bureau of the Central Asian Committee of the RKP(b) [7].

In addition to general commissions, national auxiliary commissions (sub-commissions) or small commissions were also established. Their first meeting and council took place in early May 1924. These auxiliary commissions developed their proposals for the establishment of Central Asian Soviet national republics and autonomous regions, roughly defined the borders of national republics and regions, and considered other issues.

The reports of the sub-commissions were heard at the meeting of the Special Commission of the Central Asian Bureau of the Central Asian Bureau of the RKP(b) on May 10, 1924, and on May 11 at the Central Asian Bureau of the Central Asian Bureau of the Central Asian Committee of the RKP(b). The Bureau discussed the results of the work of the special commission and its sub-commissions and approved the specific plan of the national-territorial demarcation of Central Asia developed by them. The decision was made as follows:

"1. It should be considered necessary to demarcate the Republics of Turkestan, Bukhara and Khorezm according to their national-territorial characteristics, and not to form a federation from newly formed national-territorial associations.

2. The Republics of Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan should be established and they should have the rights of independent SSR and enter the USSR directly. An autonomous region of Tajikistan should be established within the Republic of Uzbekistan.

3. The Kyrgyz Autonomous Region should be established: The question of which republic the Kyrgyz Autonomous Region should be included in should be left open."<sup>2</sup>

However, the leadership of the Republic of Khorezm had its own views on this issue. Qalandar Odinaev, the responsible secretary of the Central Committee of the Khorezm Communist Party, MatkarimAbdusalomov, a member of the Central Committee, and other national leaders openly opposed national-territorial demarcation. Taking into account the unique natural and geographical and national-cultural characteristics of Khorezm, they put forward the proposal to join the USSR as a separate federal republic. These national leaders have several times sent various letters and appeals to various higher bodies in Tashkent and Moscow, expressing their ideas and proposals.

On May 8, 1924, the responsible secretary of the Central Committee of the Khorezm Communist Party Q. Odinaev sent a letter stating that national-territorial demarcation should not be carried out in the Khorezm SSR. In addition to this letter, Khorezm's ambassador in Moscow, M. Abdusalomov, Consul General of the USSR in Tashkent R. Yakubov and Shulimov, the chairman of the USSR Gosplan, also signed [8].

At this time, the members of the Khorezm delegation, who came to participate in the work of the Central Asian Economic Conference, handed over to the chairman of the Central Asia Bureau of the Central Asian Committee of the RKP(b) a "Letter on the resolution of the national issue in Khorezm", in which Khorezm should be left as an independent administrative region within its previous framework, as well as Turkestan with the Republic of Khorezm. It was proposed to unite the Amudarya

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<sup>2</sup>Ўзбекистон тарихи (1917 - 1991 years). Two books. The first book. 1917-1939 years. - P.297.

region of the ASSR. As mentioned above, in fact, this meant the rejection of demarcation in Khorezm. Therefore, the Central Asia Bureau rejected this idea and included the Republic of Khorezm in the first paragraph of its decision.

The Executive Bureau of the Central Committee of the Khorezm Communist Party took a firm stand during this period and opposed the demarcation in Khorezm. The responsible secretary of the Central Committee of the Khorezm Communist Party Q. On June 2, 1924, Odinaev sent a telegram to Ya. Rudzutak, the chairman of the Central Asia Bureau of the RKP(b) Central Committee, in which he once again asked to preserve Khorezm as a federal republic. In addition to this telegram, the member of the Executive Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party M. Abdusalomov, ECOSO chairman Oroz Irmanov, GPU chairman Karim Boltaev, Khorezm consul in Tashkent R. Yakubov had signed<sup>3</sup>. In some historical literature, the chairman of the special commission sent to this telegram from the RSFSR, G. Brodyo is also falsely shown to have signed.

In this regard, on June 12, 1924, at the meeting of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, the Central Asian Bureau was forced to make appropriate amendments to the materials prepared for the meeting. The Politburo decided to leave the Republic of Khorezm in its previous state without involving it in national demarcation.

However, this decision was a tactical retreat of the Centre, and soon they sent the people who were carrying out their goals to Khorezm, and they managed to solve the "demarcation issue" in Khorezm with their own hands. That is why, by the decision of the Central Asia Bureau of the Central Asian Committee of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the leaders of the "Independent Republic of Khorezm" and the Communist Party of Khorezm were replaced.

On June 15, 1924, the Central Asian Bureau of the Central Asian Committee of the RCP(b) issued a special decision, releasing Qalandar Odinaev, the responsible secretary of the Central Committee of the Khorezm Communist Party, and calling him to the Central Asian Bureau of the Central Asian Committee of the RCP(b) for "re-education". Young and enthusiastic communist IsokKhonsuvorov, a graduate of the Eastern Peoples Communist University in Moscow, was appointed to this position. IsoqKhonsuvorov had to carry out the tasks of the Centre in Khorezm without deviating from the "Leninist-Stalinist wise national policy of the party".

In addition, in August 1924, BekjonNazarov, the chairman of the Khorezm People's Council of Supervisors, was dismissed, and SadullakhojaTursunkhojaev, who was sent from Tashkent, was appointed to this position. The chairman of the Central Executive Committee of Khorezm was replaced by Turkmen NodirboyAytokov sent from Tashkent [9]. Other changes were made in the structure of government and public administration.

It was the new leaders of the USSR and Khorezm Communist Party who began to actively implement socialist changes in Khorezm. They involved Khorezm in the process of national-territorial delimitation in Central Asia, and decided on these and other political activities based on the Center's instructions.

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<sup>3</sup>Ўрта Осиё коммунистик ташкилотларининг тарихи. – Р. 784.

So, after the Central Asia Bureau of the Central Asian Committee of the RKP(b) renewed the Central Committee of the Khorezm Communist Party and replaced the Khorezmites in the management with "experienced party, Soviet and economic leaders" sent from Tashkent and Moscow, it began to smoothly implement its plans. The updated composition of the Central Committee of the Khorezm Communist Party on June 26, 1924 cancelled the decision previously taken on June 9 and recognized the need for national demarcation for Khorezm as well. The Politburo of the MK of the RKP(b) returned to this issue at the suggestion of the Central Asia Bureau and added Khorezm to the process of national-territorial demarcation along with the republics of Bukhara and Turkestan.

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