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CHANGES IN THE HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM AND EVACUATION PROCESSES IN THE UZBEK SSR DURING THE SECOND WORLD WAR

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Abstract: This article examines the changes that occurred in the higher education system of the Uzbek SSR during the Second World War and analyzes the impact of evacuation processes on educational and scientific institutions. The study highlights the relocation of higher educational institutions, research centers, and military academies from the western regions of the Soviet Union to Uzbekistan, as well as the challenges associated with their accommodation and operation. Particular attention is paid to the reorganization of academic activities under wartime conditions, the shortage of teaching personnel, the adaptation of curricula to military needs, and government measures aimed at maintaining the continuity of higher education. The article also evaluates the contribution of evacuated institutions to the development of science, education, and professional training in Uzbekistan during the war years.

Keywords: Uzbek SSR, Second World War, higher education, evacuation, universities, research institutes, military academies, educational policy, teaching personnel, wartime education, scientific development.

From the very first days of the war, universities in Uzbekistan began reorganizing their activities in accordance with wartime requirements. The academic year commenced on August 1, 1941. On that day, as in all higher educational institutions, the Rector of the Central Asian State University, S. Muraveyskiy (1936–1942), addressed the university staff and outlined the main priorities of the institution’s activities during the wartime period. In particular, he emphasized the need to strengthen labor discipline, enhance order, and encourage university employees to work with dedication and commitment. He stressed that such efforts would contribute to the future victory over fascism. It was also noted that the new academic year had begun under difficult circumstances. In particular, as was the case throughout the republic, 70 percent of the professors and teaching staff of the Central Asian State University had been sent to the front.

In the first days of the war, on June 28, 1941, university scholars, including V. Romanovsky, I. Raykova, T.A. Sarimsoqov, T.Z. Zohidov, Sh. Tolipov, and others, addressed the public through the newspaper *Pravda Vostoka*. In their statement, they declared their complete readiness to carry out any directive issued by the government and the Party, emphasizing that they were prepared to devote their knowledge and efforts, and, if necessary, even sacrifice their lives in order to defeat the enemy.[1]

From the very first days of the war, the People's Commissariat of Education of the Uzbek SSR focused its attention on reorganizing the activities of universities in accordance with wartime requirements. Throughout the republic, the 1941–1942 academic year began on August 1, 1941. At a meeting held at the Central Asian State University on August 5, Rector Professor S.D. Muraveyskiy delivered a report entitled “On the Beginning of the Academic Year and the Tasks of the University in the New Academic Year.” In his speech, taking into account the specific circumstances of the time, he outlined the main directions of the university’s work. The resolution adopted on this issue emphasized the need to ensure unity among professors, instructors, and students, strengthen labor discipline, further enhance ideological and educational activities, increase participation in teaching and educational work, and organize and mobilize the university community for devoted labor in order to defeat fascism.

[1] Правда Востока, 29 июня 1941 г.

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By the end of 1941, the situation at the university had become more difficult. One of the main reasons was that the number of professors and instructors who had voluntarily left for the front had reached 70, which was a significant figure for that period. In fact, this number was equal to nearly half of the university's teaching staff. In addition, four of the nine senior administrative officials (I. Romanov, D. Lobashev, N. Chernesov, and A. Abzalov) were conscripted into the ranks of the Red Army[2].

Despite all the difficulties of the wartime period, the university adapted its educational and methodological activities to the requirements of war. On July 8, 1941, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Uzbekistan issued the resolution "On Strengthening Political Propaganda and Agitation in the Republic Under Wartime Conditions." In accordance with this resolution, groups of propagandists consisting of 100 members and their teams carried out active work in all faculties of the university. A university-wide seminar for propagandists was also organized.

Beginning in 1943, lectures and seminars on the subject "The Great Patriotic War of the Soviet Union," with a total duration of 20 hours, were introduced for all senior students. Starting from the 1944–1945 academic year, political instruction hours were established in all study groups. These classes included discussions of political information and were required to be held at least once a week. The content of the political lessons focused on explaining the most important events in the domestic and international life of the country, reports from the Great Patriotic War, and decisions of the Party and the government. Political classes were mainly conducted by instructors from the departments of social sciences. Among the most active and effective lecturers were M.A. Makarova, A.B. Jamolova, Sh. Abdullaeva, G. Najimova, A. Ortiqov, E.A. Voskoboynikova, and others.

A number of university employees were assigned to work in state institutions during the war and led some of the most important areas of ideological activity. I.K. Dodonov was responsible for the propaganda sector of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Uzbekistan; N.M. Miroshkhina headed the Lecturers' Bureau of the Central Committee; T.Z. Zohidov directed the Department of Science and Education of the Central Committee; and A.T. To'laganov served as Head of the Higher Education Department of the People's Commissariat of Education of the Uzbek SSR. University staff members Y. Ostrov, E. Povelkina, and S. Saydaliyev were assigned to work in the apparatus of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Uzbekistan. By decision of the Central Committee, lecturers of the Department of the Foundations of Marxism-Leninism, including G.G. Ragachurin, A. Qodirov, F.I. Polkin, and A.G. Zamostayanniy, were mobilized to work in the political departments of Machine and Tractor Stations (MTS) and state farms throughout the republic.

During the first years of the war, the university community actively participated in all patriotic campaigns aimed at supporting the front. Public and educational meetings involving active staff members and teachers were organized, during which decisions were adopted to allocate funds for the front and contribute loans to the Defense Fund. Every month, until the end of the war, one day's salary was deducted and transferred to the Defense Fund. By August 1943, university employees had contributed a total of 68,000 rubles to the Defense Fund, 47,000 rubles to strengthen the combat capacity of the army and navy, as well as additional assistance in the form of state loans. Every member of the university community sought to assist their homeland to the best of their ability.[3]

Particularly intensive efforts were made to collect warm clothing for the army. On September 9, 1941, a general meeting of the Central Asian State University community was held, at which the

[2] N.L Chernesov-Marksizm-leninizm kafedrasi o'qituvchisi, urushning dastlabki kunlaridanoq frontga jo'nab ketdi. U yerda janglarda jasorat ko'rsatganligi uchun, "Lenin" ordeni bilan taqdirlandi. Moskva himoyasida mardlarcha halok bo'ldi.
[3] Л.В. Гентшке, Г.Л. Дмитриев, Ш.О. Оразимбетов, М.Г. Рахимов Очерки истории Ташкентского государственного университета им. В.И. Ленина Т., Фан. 1980, –с. 55–56

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Chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Uzbek SSR, Yuldash Akhunbabayev, delivered a speech. During the meeting, professors, instructors, and workers donated all the items they had brought with them for their compatriots serving in the armed forces. These included sheepskins, fur coats, felt boots, fur hats, woolen socks, gloves, and other essential items.

In addition, detachments named “Uzbekistan Monrovets,” “Soviet Uzbekistan,” and “Komsomol of Uzbekistan” were organized to provide assistance and gifts to the heroic defenders of Leningrad and Moscow after their liberation from Nazi occupation, and funds were collected for this purpose.

The patriotism of the Uzbek people was also demonstrated through their constant care for the families of soldiers serving at the front. A special commission was established under the chairmanship of the university rector, Professor S.D. Muraveyskiy. Information was collected on 190 university employees who had gone to the front and on their families. At the initiative of the university administration, monthly financial assistance was provided to the families of servicemen. During the war, one-time financial aid was also allocated for the repair of their homes. The families of soldiers serving at the front, as well as former university employees who had returned from military service, were provided with employment. Many families were attached to the university canteen, while others were employed in industrial enterprises and fuel production facilities.

The most important task of higher educational institutions was the training of qualified specialists. One of the primary responsibilities of government authorities was to preserve the student body. On May 5, 1942, the Central Committee of the All-Union Communist Party (Bolsheviks) and the Council of People’s Commissars of the USSR adopted the resolution “On the Admission Plan to Higher Educational Institutions in 1942 and Measures to Strengthen the Material and Technical Base of Higher Educational Institutions[4]

This was of great importance for improving the activities of universities under wartime conditions. In 1942, admission to the university was carried out without entrance examinations, second-year students were exempted from military conscription, and scholarships for students and postgraduate researchers were increased. In the same year, the five-year course of study was restored due to wartime circumstances. During the 1942–1943 academic year, the university exceeded its enrollment target: instead of the planned 450 students, 490 were admitted.

In order to prepare students from the local population for higher education, a Preparatory Department was established at the Central Asian State University in 1943. At the university’s methodological and reporting-election meeting held on November 17, 1943, a report by the Secretary of the University Party Bureau, V. Sergeyeva, was heard, and a resolution of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Uzbekistan on the establishment of a preparatory department for 230 Uzbek and other local nationality students at the university was announced. By the end of the war, 120 students had successfully studied in the preparatory department.

During the 1943–1944 academic year, efforts were made to restore the correspondence division, which had existed since 1938 but had been abolished shortly before the outbreak of the war. By the end of the war, correspondence departments operated within the faculties of History, Mathematics, Philology, and Geography. Associate Professor A.Sh. Shokirov served as Vice-Rector for Correspondence Education for a long period, from 1938 to 1947.

The government's support for higher educational institutions had a positive impact on the educational process and was warmly welcomed by the entire university community. The university party organization paid considerable attention to military training, repeatedly discussing the work of the military department and the implementation of the curriculum at party meetings. Under the revised

[4] Мамедова Л.С. Руководство Компартии Узбекистана деятельностью интеллегенции а годы Великой Отечественной войны. Автореферат канд. дисс. Ташкент, 1971, с.17

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curriculum, the number of hours devoted to military training was significantly increased, and several subjects related to national defense were introduced.

During the war years, students were taught courses such as military meteorology, acoustics, military geography, probability theory and its military applications, the fundamentals of internal and external ballistics, artillery fire control, chemical defense services, the chemistry of toxic substances, and degassing doctrine. In the humanities faculties, special courses were also introduced, including methods of political education in the Red Army, the organization of political work, and the use of literature in political instruction.

University lecturers and professors also underwent military training. On April 24, 1944, the university administration reviewed and discussed a report entitled "On Military and Physical Education at the University" and emphasized the need to strengthen the military department. As a result, beginning in September 1944, the university's military department started training reserve officers for the Red Army. Major General V.N. Zagladin, who had served in the Red Army since 1918 and possessed extensive military experience, was appointed head of the department.

Students acquired various military specializations, including sniper training, radio operation, and military translation. In particular, the sniper school that had been established at the Central Asian State University before the war was significantly expanded, resulting in the training of 237 snipers.

"Osoaviakhim," established at the university during the initial period of the war,[5] The Osoaviakhim unit of the Central Asian State University played a highly significant role in carrying out mass defense activities. In 1941–1942 alone, 1,095 individuals successfully completed training standards in air-raid protection and chemical defense. The military knowledge acquired at the university later proved to be of great assistance to those who were subsequently conscripted into the ranks of the Red Army[6]. Students of the university serving in the ranks of the Red Army proved themselves to be loyal sons and daughters of their Motherland. Many university students became officers during the war and were awarded numerous state decorations. Students of the Central Asian State University fought on the fronts of the Great Patriotic War and maintained close ties with their alma mater, its Party and Komsomol organizations, and their teachers.

In this regard, an order of the Central Asian State University dated September 19, 1942, preserved in the university archives, is of particular interest. It records that "Malla Abdullayev, a former postgraduate student of the Faculty of History and a member of the All-Union Communist Party (Bolsheviks), having been conscripted into the Red Army and having demonstrated heroism in the fight against German fascists, was awarded the Order of the Red Star."

On the eve of the war, Aleksandr Prokhorov, Secretary of the University Party Bureau, and Mikhail Oksman, Chairman of the Trade Union Committee and a student of the Faculty of History, left for the front as ordinary soldiers and completed the war with the rank of colonel in the Soviet Army. Associate Professor I.S. Arzhanikh and Assistant M.S. Aripov became commanders of artillery and mortar batteries. Many postgraduate students and lecturers of the social sciences departments served as political officers in the army.

Captain I.A. Rogkevich, a lecturer of the Military Department, attained the rank of Lieutenant General during the war years. I.D. Kurganskiy, a student of the Faculty of Biology, rose from the rank of ordinary soldier to lieutenant colonel and commanded a regiment of the 8th Guards Rifle Division

[5] Общество содействия обороне, авиационному и химическому строительству (сокращённо Осоавиахим, ОАХ) — (Mudofaa, aviatsiya va kimyoviy qurilishni rivojlantirish jamiyati (qisqartirilgan Osoaviaxim) - 1927–1948 yillarda mavjud bo'lgan Sovet ijtimoiy-siyosiy mudofaa tashkiloti)

[6] Л.В. Гентшке, Г.Л. Дмитриев, Ш.О. Оразимбетов, М.Г. Рахимов Очерки истории Ташкентского государственного университета им. В.И. Ленина Т., Фан. 1980, –с.55-56

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named after I.V. Panfilov. By decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR dated March 24, 1945, I.D. Kurganskiy was awarded the title of "Hero of the Soviet Union" for his bravery and outstanding military leadership.[7]

Conclusion: During the Second World War, the Central Asian State University successfully adapted its educational, scientific, and organizational activities to wartime conditions. Despite the mobilization of a large number of professors, lecturers, and students to the front, the university continued to fulfill its primary mission of training qualified specialists and supporting the needs of the state. The introduction of military-oriented subjects, the strengthening of ideological and political education, and the expansion of military training programs reflected the university's efforts to meet the demands of wartime society.

At the same time, the university community actively participated in patriotic initiatives, including financial contributions to the Defense Fund, assistance to soldiers' families, and the collection of supplies for the front. The establishment of preparatory and correspondence departments, as well as government measures aimed at supporting higher education, helped preserve and even expand student enrollment during the war years.

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