

Socio-Economic Life in the Uzbekistan Ssr in the 1980-1990s

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Abstract: This article provides information on the changes in economic sectors implemented in the Uzbek SSR during the perestroika period and the shortcomings in these areas. The administrative management system, instead of stimulating effective economic activity, caused unevenness and adverse effects in the distribution of resources, which led to the cessation of economic growth and serious difficulties in the effective management of production processes. The political and economic problems that arose during the reforms led to a deepening of the socio-political crisis in the country. In particular, the additions to the cotton policy, the attitude of society to the perestroika reform, the issue of national relations during this period, the shortcomings of the socialist economy and efforts to reform it, and the shortcomings in the fields of agriculture and animal husbandry are described in detail.

Key words: Perestroika, M. Gorbachev, administrative-distribution, cotton, economy, negative relations, agriculture, economic crisis, national relations, low wages.



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Introduction. Reconstruction meant reforming the economic system. The centralized and planned economic system of the Soviet Union created problems in ensuring economic efficiency. M. Gorbachev sought to introduce some elements of a market economy, develop the private sector, and increase the efficiency of state-owned enterprises within the framework of economic reforms. [1.13-14]. Under the Soviet regime, the monopoly of state property and the dominance of the administrative-distributive system were increasingly strengthened. This led to a slowdown in production growth, a decrease in the volume of gross domestic product, and a significant decrease in labor productivity. At the same time, the alienation of producers from the means of production and the results of labor deepened. The situation in the republic is much more complicated, for the reasons that people, although they do not question the essence of perestroika, are not rightly satisfied with its results, they are tired of waiting. In such conditions, various forces are trying to turn the masses against the party, Soviet, and economic bodies, taking advantage of the emerging difficulties and protests.

The sharpness of interethnic relations and the resulting socio-political tension are explained primarily by the fact that every family, every person living in our republic, especially in rural areas, regardless of their nationality, from year to year, day by day, feels that it is becoming increasingly difficult to provide themselves with the necessary things for survival and normal life. The administrative management system, instead of stimulating effective economic activity, has created uneven and adverse effects in the distribution of resources, which has led to a halt in economic growth and serious difficulties in the effective management of production processes.

Literature review. Analysis of scientific sources shows that during this period, labor productivity indicators deteriorated sharply, as a result of which the profits from the funds also decreased significantly[2.]. In the literature of this period, Alexander Yakovlev is known as one of the scientists who tried to implement liberal reforms in the Soviet Union. He conducted scientific work, in particular, on the policy of "glasnost" (openness) and its political impact. He was a close associate of Gorbachev and had a great influence on changes in Soviet politics. Vadim Medvedev conducted several studies on the reform of the Soviet economy and its economic impact. He played an important role in analyzing changes in the economic system during the perestroika process. In the world, Stephen F. Cohen is an American scientist who conducted extensive scientific work on the political and social systems of the Soviet Union, as well as on the policies of perestroika and glasnost. His book "The Soviet Union: A History of Opportunities and Crises" (1990) is very popular. In addition, it is worth mentioning Robert Conquest. He wrote many works on the study of the history of the Soviet Union, including his analysis of the perestroika period. In our republic, M. Shodiev, R. Fayzullayev conducted scientific research on this topic. The above scientific literature helps us analyze that period and gain a broader understanding.

Research methodology. The article considered the methodology of studying history based on sociological, logical-experimental, classification, description, comparison, statistical analysis, archaeological scientific sources, systematic analysis of educational and methodological literature, observation, SWOT systematic analysis, functional and literary analysis methods.

Analysis and results. Cotton growing is the main branch of the republic's economy. It is no exaggeration to say that the well-being of not only farmers, but also all working people of the republic depends on the successes in this area [3]. The people have accumulated rich experience in irrigated agriculture and cotton cultivation. People have mobilized all their strength for the cotton policy of national importance. However, the slowdown in the development of cotton growing has had a significant impact not only on the republic, but also on the economy of the entire country. In 1984-1988, an average of 5 million 200 thousand tons of raw materials were produced in the republic, that is, the same amount as ten years ago. In 1988, only 24.3 centners of cotton were harvested per hectare. In 307 collective farms and state farms or farms, the yield was 20 centners or even less. [4.3]. The issue of increasing the price of cotton has been around for a long time, but the interested bodies have not approached this problem seriously and scientifically. This explains the fact that the only, well-thought-out proposal on how much and why the price should be increased has not been accepted to this day. It has long been known that the fair ratio between the prices of agricultural products and the prices of industrial products supplied to the countryside has been violated. The situation in the countryside in general is explained to a certain extent by the unreasonably low purchase prices of many other products, including cotton [5.11].

The standard of living of the population of Uzbekistan remains low today. In terms of per capita income, food security, consumption of daily necessities, housing, education, healthcare and other social sectors, the country lags behind many developed countries of the world. This situation is directly related to the shortcomings in the development of the country's socio-economic infrastructure, the efficiency of resource allocation, and the pace and breadth of reforms being implemented by the state. To solve such problems, there is a need to ensure economic growth, implement effective reforms in social sectors, and fairly distribute resources. It is important to

develop Uzbekistan's social systems, improve the living conditions of the population, as well as improve the economic and social situation of the population in rural areas, and introduce a sustainable growth model [6.41-42]. The main direction of economic activity in the country was focused on cotton cultivation, with great attention paid to obtaining high yields from cotton. As a result, there was a significant lag in the development of other areas of social life. The most sad thing is that although 84 percent of the labor in the cotton growing process fell on our people, only 16 percent of the income from primary processing went to them[7.238]. That is, the labor went to the workers of Uzbekistan, and the profit from the income went to the center.

Due to the unrealization of production, cotton farmers worked 12-16 hours a day to fulfill the plan, and were forced to work even on weekends and holidays. Despite this, the labor of farmers was very undervalued. Since 1990, the central government has decided to increase the amount of 1 soum per 1 kilogram of cotton that had been paid to the collective farm for growing cotton by only 32 percent. That is, the value of 1 soum became equal to 32 tyis. Cotton farmers worked in the fields throughout the year, that is, for 12 months. When one ton of "white gold" was worth 30 thousand US dollars on the world market, in the Uzbek SSR only 3-3.5 thousand soums were paid for each ton (in terms of fiber), that is, almost 15 times less than the price paid for cotton.[8] The essence of the agrarian policy pursued in this regard, in particular, the sharp expansion of irrigated land, the irrational use of water resources, and the monopoly of cotton, also led to the emergence of the global problem of the "Aral Sea problem".

Our people have accumulated rich experience in irrigated agriculture and cotton cultivation. Our people cultivate white gold of national importance with unquenchable love, ardent hearts, boundless faith, great devotion, and a clear conscience, sparing no effort or skill. These figures show the insignificance of agricultural workers and their tireless, year-round hard work in the fields. This situation reflects the serious neglect of the economic situation and working conditions of cotton growers, and the fact that their wages remain relatively low. [9.147].

Conclusion. It should be noted that Perestroika had a very strong impact on the backwardness of the USSR economy. This impact did not bypass the economy of the Uzbek SSR. The development of the Uzbek economy, including industrial sectors, was carried out on the basis of administrative orders. The standard of living of the population of Uzbekistan was extremely low, and it was one of the last in the Union in terms of per capita income, consumption of food and daily necessities, housing, public education, healthcare, and all sectors of the social sphere in general. This, in turn, led to a decrease in production efficiency and a decrease in economic growth. Cotton growing is the main branch of the economy of the Uzbek SSR. The workers cultivate cotton of national importance with unquenchable love, ardent need, a clear conscience, great devotion, unwavering faith, and their skills. The issue of increasing cotton prices requires a serious and scientifically based approach. Cotton farmers' incomes have been relatively low for a long time, which has worsened their economic situation. The imbalance between prices and costs, as well as the price differences between industrial products and agricultural products, further exacerbate the problem. Increasing cotton prices will not only bring economic benefits, but also improve the living conditions of the rural population and cotton farmers. Setting a fair price for cotton farmers will ensure economic stability and help develop the agricultural sector.

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