Web of Scholars: Multidimensional Research Journal
ISSN: 2751-7543
Volume 05 Number 03 (2026)
https://journals.innoscie.com/index.php/wos

Article

The Spiritual Feat of the Uzbek People During the Second World War: Reception and Care for Children Evacuated From the Territories Occupied by the Fascists

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Abstract: *This article is devoted to the spiritual feat of the Uzbek people during the Great Patriotic War. The processes of receiving the evacuated population from the western territories of the Soviet Union occupied by the Nazis, providing them with housing, clothing, food, work and education, individual and collective reception of children, as well as difficulties that arose in the activities of the republic's orphanages, were analyzed.*

Keywords: *World War II, spiritual feat, evacuation of the population, occupation of territories by fascists, orphanages, education, admission of children to families.*

Citation: Safarova, Z. S. The Spiritual Feat of the Uzbek People During the Second World War: Reception and Care for Children Evacuated From the Territories Occupied by the Fascists. Journal of Advanced Research and Scientific Progress 2026, 5(3), 86-91.
Received: 10th Mar 2026
Revised: 21th Mar 2026
Accepted: 24th Mar 2026
Published: 17st May 2026

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1. Introduction

The Great Patriotic War became one of the most important tests in the history of the USSR, having a huge impact on the fate of millions of citizens of the country.[1] One of the key strategies for ensuring the safety of the population and maintaining the combat capability of the state was the large-scale evacuation of industrial enterprises, the population, including children and able-bodied citizens, as well as cultural and material and value resources to the safe territories of the country. [2] The experience of evacuation to Uzbekistan, which during the war became one of the largest front-line evacuation centers, turned out to be especially significant.

The massive movement of the population, industrial enterprises, property of MTS, collective farms and state farms, cultural and scientific institutions, food, raw materials and other material values to the east during the first period of World War II became an outstanding heroic and dramatic epic in world history. [3]

Uzbekistan, being a region remote from hostilities, played a key role in ensuring the safety of the population and infrastructure. A huge number of evacuees were accommodated on its territory, mainly from the western and central regions of the Soviet Union, faced with numerous challenges - lack of housing, food, medical care, as well as the need to organize conditions for the reception and adaptation of evacuees.[4] An important task of this article is to study the scale, features and consequences of evacuation measures in Uzbekistan during the Great Patriotic War, as well as to identify the role of this experience in the formation of the humanitarian, social and economic aspects of the region in wartime.[5]

Modern studies of evacuation processes in Uzbekistan make it possible not only to assess their scale and complexity from a historical point of view, but also to understand their role in the formation of regional institutions of social support and interaction in emergency situations. [6] As part of the study, sources, documents and evidence reflecting the experience of evacuation in Uzbekistan will be analyzed, which allows us to conclude

that this historical stage is important and multidimensional.[7]

2. Methods:

The article uses such research methods as veracity, consistency, comparability, analysis-synthesis, statistics. The research relied on the principles of historical objectivity, consistency, and comparability in order to ensure a comprehensive interpretation of wartime events and social processes. Various primary and secondary sources, including archival materials, official decrees, memoirs, historical literature, newspapers, and scholarly publications, were analyzed to identify the scale and characteristics of evacuation activities in Uzbekistan during the war years. Special attention was given to documentary evidence describing the establishment of orphanages, evacuation centers, and public initiatives organized for displaced children and families. Statistical data concerning the number of evacuees, orphaned children, and adopted minors were examined to evaluate the humanitarian response of local communities and state institutions. In addition, the study employed analysis and synthesis methods to compare different regional experiences within Uzbekistan and to determine the socio-cultural significance of public solidarity and interethnic cooperation during wartime. Memoirs and eyewitness testimonies were also interpreted through descriptive analysis to reveal the emotional and moral dimensions of assistance provided to evacuees. Through this integrated methodological framework, the research highlights the historical importance of compassion, hospitality, and collective responsibility demonstrated by the Uzbek people under extremely difficult wartime conditions. [8]

3. Main part:

With the outbreak of war, tens of thousands of people from the territories of the former Soviet Union occupied by Nazi Germany began arriving randomly in Uzbekistan. More than a million people were admitted to Uzbekistan from Ukraine and Belarus alone [9]. From October 1, 1941 to October 1, 1942, 43 thousand children were evacuated to Uzbekistan from 78 orphanages located in front-line cities. 50 orphanages were preserved as independent. They were placed in various cities of Uzbekistan.[10] For example, at the beginning of the war, 26 orphanages, ten thousand children of various nationalities, as well as one hundred thousand people of the population arrived in the Andijan region. Four orphanages that arrived from Donbass were placed in orphanages located in the Oyim district, as well as in the village of Butakorin under the village Council in the Andijan district. [11].

In the newly organized 8 orphanages in the Samarkand region, 4270 children of various nationalities were placed. In addition, orphanages with Polish and Spanish children were resettled in the cities of Uzbekistan. In particular, an orphanage for Polish children was opened in Samarkand. A boarding school was organized for 120 Spanish children resettled from Moscow.[12]

Only from besieged Leningrad shelter in Uzbekistan found about 5 thousand children. From the memoirs of Margarita Merkulova: "I myself am from Leningrad, we were taken out of the besieged city back in August 41 together with the Vulkan plant, where my father was the director. A month later, in Tashkent, he began to produce products for the army, although he did not even have walls and a roof. I went to the ninth grade, we had Combat Watches at the station. Trains came at night, announced that children from Leningrad were in such and such cars. We raced there with stretchers and first aid kits. Children aged 4 to 14 years were taken out of the "heaters," barely standing on their feet. Many did not know their names and surnames, who died of starvation of their parents. [3]

The population resettled from the front-line territories had to be resettled in cities and villages. It was a very difficult and hard, but honorable job. Along with other regions of Uzbekistan, rallies and meetings were also held in Kashkadarya region regarding the reception and accommodation of the population and children evacuated from the front line. The main purpose of these assemblies was to provide them with housing, food and other necessities. The reception of the evacuated population from areas at high risk of occupation by the enemy and their resettlement turned into a wide social movement and acquired a bright patriotic and interethnic character.[13]

By the Decree of the Council of People's Commissars of July 5, 1941 "On measures for relocating the population during the war period," a warm welcome and provision of evacuees with housing, food and other necessities was entrusted to the Councils of People's Commissars of the Union Republics, as well as to regional, city and district executive committees. From the first days of the war, the Council of People's Commissars determined the procedure for the evacuation of the population and children and methods of its organization. In connection with the evacuation, a special evacuation commission was created to receive and distribute the population and children. The random arrival of children from the front-line areas created big problems. First of all, they had to be found and registered. A reception center for minors was opened in Tashkent, which dealt with the distribution of children under 18 years of age in orphanages and the employment of older ones [14]. Immediately, branches of the admissions committee were opened in the regions and districts of the republic, the main task of which was to receive and place children and prevent neglect.

Such commissions and departments were created on November 3, 1941 under the leadership of Sh. Murodkhodzhaev in the Kashkadarya region. The departments and commissions included experienced teachers, qualified medical workers, representatives of public organizations and representatives of the military commissariat. At all stations, including at the station in the city of Karshi, round-the-clock duty with the necessary supplies was organized. They were provided with money, clothing, food, transportation and other necessities by the state and the public. In the city of Karshi, the reception, accommodation and provision of people who left their native villages and cities, orphans who lost their parents and relatives, children lost during the evacuation were led by Choli Begimkulov [15].

In the first months of the war, the acceptance and placement of industrial evacuated enterprises and their 19,665 workers and employees, 40,155 members of their families was successfully resolved in a short time. The evacuees were placed in city and regional centers, on collective and state farms, private houses, children were sent to school, to work, to kindergartens and nurseries, orphanages and families. By the second half of 1942, the state allocated 3 billion rubles to the evacuees [7; p.109.]. By November 1941, 29,938 were accepted in the Kashkadarya region. Initially, 3,469 people were placed in the Guzar region, 2,460 people in the Karshi region, the rest were sent to the Kamashi, Shakhrisabz and other regions, also to the peasant farms of Nishan and Kokdali. Large houses, mosques and madrassas were vacated and prepared for the evacuees in the regions. Almost all the administrative buildings of the Katsky village council, mosques and a number of houses of the local population were transferred to their discretion. In 1941-1942, 716,543 evacuees were settled in the cities and villages of the republic, including 126,514 people instead of the planned 84 thousand people in Bukhara and Kashkadarya.

About 30 thousand people from Kharkov, Poltava, Voroshilovgrad, Odessa and other territories were resettled to the Kashkadarya region. More than 2,000 of those evacuated to Kashkadarya were Poles with their children. They were stationed in Shakhrisabz, Kitab, Guzar, Yakkabag and Karshi regions. Not far from the center of the Guzar district, on the eastern side, a special plot of land was allocated for a cemetery, specifically for the Poles who died of hunger and disease. [7] Major General of the Polish Infantry Krushinsky and other deceased who lived in the Yakkabag district of the Kashkadarya region were buried here.

During the most difficult period of the war, it was difficult to resolve the issue of housing for evacuees. Local executive committees were required to immediately begin work to accommodate displaced persons in Uzbekistan. Palaces, garages, semi-basements, mosques and madrassas, warehouses, some government and administrative buildings were transferred for the use of the evacuees, and unfinished houses of local residents were ordered to be completed from the state budget and transferred for use to the displaced. As a result of measures taken by local organizations, housing issues were partially satisfied. Most of the evacuees were accommodated among the local population. [4]

In connection with the massive resettlement of the population and children to our republic in November 1941, the Council of People's Commissars of Uzbekistan decided to accommodate the evacuated children. According to this decision, a central reception point

for children was created at the Tashkent Central Station. Branches of the collection point were organized at the Kagan, Samarkand and Kokand railways. These central points and their departments controlled the organization of reception, accommodation, provision of necessary supplies, medical care and other necessary services to evacuees. Evacuation points played a significant role in the reception of children, their placement in orphanages, groups, for upbringing in families, as well as in the search and registration of missing, lost, homeless, street minors. The evacuation point included employees of the People's Commissariat of Education of the Republic N.P. Kraft, S.S. Sibgatulina, wife of U. Yusupov Stepanenko, from the public, wife of A. Gorky B. Peshkova and her daughter-in-law N. Peshkova, from the families of famous writers, spouse A.N. Tolstoy L.I. Tolstaya, wife of Pogodin A. Stukalova, Sora Eshonturaeva, E.V. Rachinskaya, Lutfi aya Sarimsakova, Bakhri aya Akramova, Bakhri aya Ashurkhodzhaeva and others. [8]

At the suggestion of B.P. Peshkova, to search, register and place children in orphanages, an address desk was created, which acquired an organizational character and was legalized [5; p.173.]. The activities of the address desk service began with schools, reception centers, orphanages, foster families and hospitals. The address desk service was tasked with determining what kind of care the children were sent to - individual or collective, to which organization, to whom and when they were transferred, under whose name they are, address and other data. First of all, the evacuated children underwent a medical examination, then after bathing them, changing them into clean clothes and feeding them, they were distributed to their places. Children were also sent to individual education. This work was carried out with honor by kind, hospitable and affectionate women.

4. Result and discusiion

Under the extreme conditions of war, Uzbekistan was not prepared to accept the huge number of evacuated children. There were not enough sanitary and hygienically appropriate buildings to accommodate them. Despite this, activities were carried out to accommodate, provide food and clothing, and restore the health of evacuated children. Thanks to the climatic conditions of Uzbekistan, and, most importantly, the diligent help of people, the lives of a huge number of children were saved. Many of the rescued children even became big celebrities.

Our people accepted children who lost their breadwinners, orphans or temporarily orphaned children with incredible parental love. They took on a responsible but honorable task such as raising and educating children in difficult conditions. Before taking children into their care, parents wrote statements with the following meaning: “I undertake to raise, educate, love and cherish the child as my own and am responsible for his health.” This clearly defined the responsibilities of citizens adopting children. In Uzbekistan, already large families adopted Russian, Belarusian, Ukrainian, Moldavian, Polish, Greek and other orphans, gave shelter to refugees, shared with them the last piece of bread, sugar, the last bowl of pilaf or milk. How many orphans from the republics captured by the Germans found their new parents in Central Asia.

The story of front-line soldier Margarita Merkulova about how Tashkent welcomed evacuees from Leningrad: “I am from Leningrad myself, we were taken out of the besieged city back in August 1941, along with the Vulcan plant, where my father was the director. Within a month in Tashkent, he began producing products for the army, although he did not even have walls or a roof. I went to ninth grade, we had “Combat duty” at the station. The trains arrived at night, at 2-3 o'clock, the announcer announced that children from Leningrad were in such and such carriages. We rushed there with stretchers and first aid kits. Children aged from 4 to 14 years old who could barely stand on their feet were taken out of the "teaboxes". Many did not know their names and surnames of their parents who died of hunger. First of all, right at the station, the orphans were fed semolina porridge and given half a mug of warm water. It was no longer possible, the doctors forbade it. Then clothes were disinfected, a haircut was taken, and we were taken to the bathhouse on Poltoratskogo Street (now Nukus Street). Again, they settled for the night at the station. And the next morning, the children were sent to the orphanages of the republic. And small Uzbekistan, in which only 6.5 million people lived before the war (1.5 million went to the front and 420,000 died), accepted about a million refugees - 200,000

of whom were children. In January 1942, the women of Tashkent issued an appeal to all women of Uzbekistan to show maternal care for the evacuated children. Thousands responded. Uzbek women often came to the station and took the children to their families". There were queues at orphanages for the adoption of affected children - this is a unique fact. Families of several children at once accepted them as their own and surrounded them with care and attention, not only to feed and raise them, but also to heal their emotional wounds. In total, during the war years, more than 5,500 orphans were adopted into Uzbek families.

The initiators of accepting evacuated children into the family were Shoakhmad Shomakhmudov and his wife Bakhri aya Akramova. Blacksmith of the Telman artel of the Oktyabrsky district of the city of Tashkent Shoakhmad Shomakhmudova and his wife Bakhri aya Akramova adopted 15 children and children of different nationalities resettled from the front line. In 1943 alone, the blacksmith Shamakhmudov became the father of four children. The children were of different nationalities and different surnames: Raya Maltseva was Belarusian, Malika Islamova was Tatar, Volodya Urusov was Russian, and the fourth son of the blacksmith was an unnamed two-year-old boy of unknown origin. Shamakhmudov himself gave him the name - Nemat, which means "gift". In total, among the adopted children there were Russians, Belarusians, Moldovans, Jews, Latvians, Kazakhs, Germans and Tatars. The Shamakhmudov family was awarded the Order of the Badge of Honor. Bakhri Akramova was also awarded the title "Mother Heroine". The Shamakhmudovs became the prototypes for Rakhmat Faizi's novel "His Majesty the Man" and the films "You Are Not an Orphan" and "My Children of Leningrad." [9; p.182.]

One of the streets in Tashkent is named after Shamakhmudov. On May 26, 1982, in Tashkent, on the square called "Friendship of Peoples," a monument to the Shamakhmudov family was erected - the Monument to Friendship of Peoples.

In total, during the war years, more than 4.5 thousand orphans were adopted into Uzbek families. The family of Kh. Samadov adopted 13 children, F. Kasymova - 10. 50-year-old Bakhrikhon aya Ashirkhodjaeva took in 22 children of various nationalities before the war and during the war years, Kurban ota Bekmukhammedov 28 children, Usman Yusupov 4 children. The chairman of the Engels peasant farming of the Samarkand region, Fatima Karimova, in addition to her children, took in 10 evacuated orphans. Having sent her husband to the front and being left with her only child, Ikbola Khaliyorova from the city of Karshi, took in 14 children [6; p.57.]. A war veteran from the Kattakurgan district of the Samarkand region, in addition to her six children, she raised and raised 17 children of 9 nationalities.

5. Conclusion:

During the Second World War, the main spiritual and moral features and humanism of the Uzbek people were clearly manifested. Following the best traditions of Eastern spirituality, the Uzbek people in the tragic years of the war opened their friendly hearts to the peoples of the occupied territories of the Union. Our people warmed the mourners, victims of war with the warmth of their hearts, supported them with care and hospitality, helped fraternal peoples restore their economies and establish cultural construction. Despite the fact that during the war years the inhabitants of the republic themselves were extremely promised, they extended a helping hand to the fraternal peoples. This is a vivid example of the Uzbek people's desire for unity and fraternal friendship, an excellent proof of their great spiritual strength and sincere nobility. This was reflected in the care of those who were forced to leave their homes and homes, of the wounded and disabled of the war, of the wives and children of those who went to the front.

The people of Uzbekistan warmly received the children separated from their parents and home. Uzbeks did everything possible to warm the souls of unfortunate children, raise their spirits, create favorable conditions for them to live, study and work. Republican, regional and district evacuation centers worked around the clock. Hundreds of Uzbek families adopted children who were evacuated to our republic and separated from their parents due to the war. The network of orphanages, boarding schools, kindergartens and nurseries has expanded in the republic, where evacuated children and children of front-line soldiers were mainly admitted.

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