



## Administrative-Territorial Reformes Conducted In Central Asia And Its Results

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Article History	Abstract
Received: 06 June 2023 Revised: 05 Sept 2023 Accepted: 23 Nov 2023	<p><i>This article talks about the regionalization processes carried out in 1926 and their special role in the development of the newly formed republics and autonomous regions in this direction. Information is also provided on the administrative units of the newly formed republics in Central Asia, the preparatory processes for determining their borders and territories, and the total population of the Soviet republics and autonomous regions. In particular, it was emphasized that the administrative and economic zoning carried out in the Uzbek SSR, the first regions created in the republic, on the one hand, for the development and economy of the national economy, and on the other hand, for the division into new administrative regions and management systems, were of great importance .</i></p> <p><b>Keywords:</b> National-territorial demarcation, zoning commissions, district, district, new administrative division, Tajik ASSR, Uzbek SSR, Turkmen SSR, Kazakhstan ASSR, Kirghiz Autonomous Region, Karakalpak Autonomous Region.</p>
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### 1. Introduction

The policy of regionalization and national-territorial demarcation, carried out in Central Asia at the end of 1924 - beginning of 1925, was closely connected with the administrative division of the Uzbek SSR. Since June 1924, the activity of the Central Asian Zoning Commission, created under the leadership of I. Magidovich, has intensified. The last stage of the regionalization policy in Central Asia took place in 1926-1927. Before dwelling on this issue, I would like to make a brief statement about the newly formed Central Asian republics and Kazakhstan. First of all, I would like to note some of the work carried out by the Soviet state on zoning in the RSFSR.

The 10th session of the RCP(b) (March 1921) decided to transition to the New Economic Policy (NEP). The economic zoning of the RSFSR was carried out on the basis of the GOELRO plan. After the formation of the USSR (December 30, 1922) and the RSFSR joining it in 1923-1930, a new administrative-territorial division was implemented: instead of provinces, districts, volosts - regions, lands, districts were introduced. Reforms in this area were carried out in the RSFSR under experimental conditions in 1923 in the Ural region and in 1924 in the North Caucasus region. Later, 6 more countries: Siberia (1925), Far East (1926), Middle Volga region (1928), Lower Volga region (1928), Northern (1929), Nizhny Novgorod (1929) and 5 regions: Leningrad (1927), Central Karatuprok (Established 1928), Moscow (1929), Industrial-Ivanovo (1929), Western (1929) regions. The provinces, districts and volosts that previously existed in the RSFSR were abolished. The country and regions were divided into districts (the districts were soon abolished), and the districts were divided into districts, and the districts were divided into village councils [1: – P. 240].

The total population of the Central Asian Soviet republics and autonomous regions (including the Turkestan region, which is part of the Kazakh Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic), according to the Central Statistical Office of Uzbekistan [2: –P. 90.], at the end of 1924 and at the beginning of 1925

there were 8,040,505 people, and the total territory of these republics was 1,527,363 square meters. verst [1 verst is a measure of distance equal to 1.0668 km].

In 1925, when the Uzbek SSR was formed, its area was 184,836 km<sup>2</sup> or 164,150 square meters (this territory does not include the territory of the Tajik ASSR, which was part of the Uzbek SSR at that time). The population of the Uzbek SSR at that time was 4,058,500 people [2: –S. 91.] (this amount does not include the population of the Tajik ASSR).

A single administrative division was introduced on the territory of the Uzbek SSR: district (regional), district, volost and village councils. Initially, 7 regions will be created in Uzbekistan: Zarafshan, Kashkadarya, Samarkand, Surkhandarya, Tashkent, Fergana, Khorezm and one autonomous region governed from the center (Konimekh district). At that time there were 23 districts and 240 volosts in Uzbekistan. The Tajik ASSR was also part of Uzbekistan.

A decision was made by the Central Regional Committee of the Uzbek SSR, the administrative centers of their constituent regions and counties were determined, and a list of cities was approved.

Regions of the Uzbek SSR:

1. Zarafshan district includes 4 counties, which are divided into 23 volosts. The center is the city of Bukhara.
2. Samarkand region includes 4 counties, which are divided into 57 volosts. Its center is the city of Samarkand.
3. Surkhandarya region is divided into 3 districts, and the districts into 10 volosts. Its center is the city of Sherabad.
4. In the Tashkent region there are 2 counties, which are divided into 26 volosts. Its center is the city of Tashkent.
5. Fergana region includes the following 4 counties, which are divided into 72 volosts. The center is the city of Kokan.
6. Khorezm region includes 3 counties, which are divided into 23 volosts. The center is the city of Khiva.
7. Kashkadarya region includes 3 counties, which are divided into 13 volosts. The center is the city of Behbudi (now Karshi) [2: –S. 90, 547].

In 1925, the territory of the Tajik Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic was 120.6 thousand verst<sup>2</sup>, the population was 745,092 people. [2: –S. 542.]. In Central Asia, national territorial delimitation was carried out, and in December 1926, the Tajik ASSR was formed as part of the Uzbek SSR, which was divided into the following 8 regions: 1) Dushanbe, 2) Sarios, 3) Kurgantepa, 4) Kulyab, 5) Garm, 6) Gorny Badakhshan, 7) Oratepa, 8) Penjikent [2: –S. 543.]. Some regions were divided into districts and districts, and some regions into volosts. Later, as in other Central Asian republics, provinces and districts were abolished in the Tajik ASSR and divided into counties and volosts. Tajikistan is divided into the following 7 districts: 1) Panjikent, 2) Uratepe, 3) Garm, 4) Dushanbe, 5) Kulyab, 6) Kurgantepa, 7) Sariosiysk. The capital of Tajikistan was Dushanbe.

On November 3, 1926, by decision of the Revolutionary Committee of the Tajik Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic, the kents were abolished on the territory of the republic. On July 16, 1927, the Presidium of the Council of Soviets of the Tajik Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic adopted a resolution “On zoning in the Tajik Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic.” According to it, instead of all regions in Tajikistan, districts were formed, and the districts were divided into districts. In the Tajik Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic, 5 districts were formed: Garmsky, Hisarsky, Kulyabsky, Kurgantepa, Penjikent. In addition, it included the mountainous Badakhshan Autonomous Region [3: –P. 396.].

The Turkmen SSR was formed on February 20, 1925. At that time, its territory was 418,529 km<sup>2</sup> or 367,776 verst<sup>2</sup>, and its population was 751,387 people. Administrative division was carried out in the Turkmen SSR, and the territory of the republic was divided into the following 5 districts: Poltoratsky, Marvsky, Leninsky, Karkinsky, Toshovuzsky districts and 26 districts. The capital of Turkmenistan was Poltoratsk (now Ashgabat).

Regions of the Turkmen SSR:

1. Poltoratsky district consisted of 5 districts. The center is the city of Poltoratsk.

2. Marvsky district is divided into 5 districts. The center is the city of Marv (Maria).
3. Leninsky district also consisted of 5 districts. The center is the city of Leninsk (formerly Chorjoy, now Turkmanabad).
4. Karkinsky district is divided into 6 districts. The center is the city of Karki.
5. Toshovuz district is divided into 4 districts. Its center is the city of Tashavuz (now Doshavuz) [2: – S. 593.594].

The Kyrgyz [Karakirgiz] Autonomous Region (as part of the RSFSR) was formed on May 25, 1925. At that time, its territory was 170,534 versts<sup>2</sup>, and its population was 787,413 people [2: –S. 90, 649.]. By decision of the Revolutionary Committee of the Kyrgyz Autonomous Region dated December 8, 1924, the territory of Kyrgyzstan is currently divided into the following 4 districts: Pishpek, Karakul-Norinsky, Jalalabad, Osh. The districts included 75 volosts [4: –S. 327.]. The capital of Kyrgyzstan is the city of Pishpek (now Bishkek). At that time, there were 6 cities, 721 villages and more than 700 farms in Kyrgyzstan.

Districts of the Kyrgyz Autonomous Region:

1. Pishpek district (divided into 20 volosts), the center is the city of Pishpek.
2. Karakul - Norinsky district (divided into 16 volosts), the center of which is the city of Karakol (formerly Prezhevsk).
3. Jalal-Abad district (divided into 19 volosts), the center of which is the city of Jalalabad.
4. Osh district (divided into 20 volosts), the center is the city of Osh [2: –S. 649650.].

In 1927-1928, cantons were created in Kyrgyzstan instead of districts. At that time, there were 5 cantons in Kyrgyzstan: Osh, Karakol, Norinsky, Talas, Frunzensky and areas under the jurisdiction of the MEC [5: –S. 155.].

It is known that during the national-territorial demarcation in Central Asia, a very large part of the territory of the Turkestan Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic (almost the entire Syrdarya and Yettisuv regions) was transferred to the Kirghiz Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic [Kazakh Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic], formed as part of the RSFSR in October 1920. The Syrdarya province of the Kazakh SSR was created in these territories [2: –S. 671.]. In some documents this area is called “Turkestan region of the USSR” [2: –S. 90.] is also mentioned. The center of the Syrdarya region is located in Shymkent. It is divided into Syrdarya and Yettisuv provinces of the Turkestan region. According to the Central Asian Settlement Committee, in 1924, 1,458,872 people lived in the Syrdarya and Yettisuv provinces (Turkestan region).

At the beginning of the formation of the Kirghiz Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic (Kazakh Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic), its first capital was the city of Orenburg. However, on January 26, 1925, the capital of the autonomous republic was moved from Orenburg to the city of Perovsk (now the Red Horde) in connection with the zoning of the territory of Kazakhstan at the beginning of 1925. By the decision of the Presidium of the All-Russian MIC on April 6, 1925, the Orenburg province (also a city) was transferred directly from Kazakhstan to the RSFSR, and a special commission was created to resolve territorial and economic issues. Part of the Ural province and part of Kazakhstan also passed to Russia. On April 15-19, 1925, the V Congress of Soviets of the Republic in the new capital of Kyzyl Urda changed the name of the Kirghiz ASSR to the Kazakh ASSR, and the name of the Kirghiz to Kazakhs [6: – P. 235.].

The administrative zoning of the Kazakh Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic was largely completed at the beginning of 1925. As new territories on the site of the former Turkestan Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic, Adaevsky district (equivalent to a province), Aktobe, Akmalenskaya (Akmal), Ural, Semipaletinsk, and Kustakai provinces were formed. Included are the Yettisuv, Syrdarya territories and the Karakalpak Autonomous Region. As a result, the territory of the Kazakh Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic is 2.7 million km<sup>2</sup>, and the population exceeded 5 million people [6: – pp. 234-235.].

The Karakalpak Autonomous Region was formed on February 17, 1925 as part of the Kazakh Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic. Kazakhstan itself at that time was part of the RSFSR as an autonomous republic. At the time of the formation of the Karakalpak Autonomous Region, its area was 103,349 km<sup>2</sup>, population – 229,136 people [2: –S. 90.], the capital was the city of Turtkul (1925-1929).

In 1925, the Karakalpak Autonomous Region was administratively divided into 2 counties and Kungirost, Khojaly and Shumanay districts. Karakalpaks, Uzbeks and Kazakhs lived in this territory.

The Karakalpak Autonomous Region, formed as a result of national-territorial demarcation, was actually formed on the basis of the Amudarya region of the Turkestan Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic and the Khojaly and Kungirost regions of the Khorezm SSR. Later, Karakalpakstan was redistributed into the following 4 districts: Tortkol, Chimboy, Khojaly and Kungirost districts. In turn, these districts were divided into 26 volosts [7: – pp. 136-137].

In 1926, the zoning policy was seriously implemented in Uzbekistan. At the beginning of March 1926, the Central Political Commission for Zoning was created under the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Uzbekistan. The commission included 16 people, and Akhmadbek Mavlonbekov was appointed its chairman. The Central Political Commission, in turn, established 4 subcommittees: technical, scientific, Soviet construction and financial and economic subcommittees. The technical subcommittee was involved in the preparation of maps and materials, inspection and organization of other work. The scientific subcommittee brought together scientific and practical workers well versed in economics, geography, ethnography, natural-historical conditions and features, seriously studied the economy, water system, communication routes, population structure of individual regions, and based on these materials developed methods and principles of zoning, identified and began to discuss them. The Subcommittee on Soviet Construction was to decide on the future Soviet management system, replacing the existing four-tier management structure with a three-tier management structure.

The work plan of the Central Political Commission for zoning was approved at a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Communist Party of Uzbekistan on March 14, 1926. According to the plan, the commission's activities were to begin from April 1 to May 10, 1926, with descriptive inspections in all regions of Uzbekistan. According to the decision, in 1926 it was necessary to complete work on the zoning of Uzbekistan. For this purpose, on March 15-25, regional and county political commissions were formed consisting of the secretary of the regional committee, the chairman of the regional committee and regional plan, the county secretary, as well as the county executive committee, the regional land committee, the administration, water management department, chairmen of the regional branch of the cotton committee, a representative of the Koshchinsky Union and others were represented.

The issue of zoning was on the main agenda of the plenum of the Central Political Commission on zoning, held in May 1926, the 2nd convocation of the 3rd plenum of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Uzbekistan and other meetings. Done on this issue. The reports and resolutions adopted by Mavlonbekov reveal the essence of the zoning policy.

On June 10, 1926, at the IV session of the first convocation of the Central Executive Committee of the Soviets of the Uzbek SSR, the main speech of the Chairman of the Central Political Commission for Regionalization A. Mavlonbekov was heard [8.] In order to eliminate the remaining remnants of the old administrative division, as well as in the interests of bringing the Soviet apparatus closer to the masses, Uzbekistan decided carry out regionalization in the USSR. Instead of the existing 4-level (village council, volost, district, district) administrative division, the transition to a 3-tier administrative division (village council, district, district), due to the redundancy of volosts and counties, it was decided to liquidate them and create instead the required number of administrative and economic centers. the newly created regions had to be brought closer to each other from an economic point of view, and from an economic point of view they had to be united by a strict system of districts.

In general, regionalization in Central Asia, including in Uzbekistan, should be carried out taking into account the national composition of the population, the integrity of the irrigation system, the direction of the economic forms of individual regions, economic relations of the population and other important factors of economic and cultural life.

Based on instructions from the Central Executive Committee of the Uzbek SSR, the Zoning Commission of Uzbekistan developed a new zoning project. The project was widely discussed. In particular, a number of changes were made regarding the definition of the territory and boundaries of village councils. According to the draft of a new administrative division in the Uzbek SSR, instead of the previous 7 regions, 10 districts were created: Andijan, Bukhara, Zeravshan [Middle Zeravshan], Kashkadarya, Samarkand, Surkhandarya, Tashkent, Fergana, Khojent and Khorezm regions [except Tajikistan]. ASSR]. Instead of the previous 23 counties, the first 87 districts were created. In the republic, 239 volosts were abolished, the number of village councils increased from 1152 to 1720, that is, an increase of 43.3%. At that time, the territory of the Tajik ASSR, which was part of the Uzbek SSR, was divided into a separate national district of Tajikistan. It was shown that it will be organized from 12 districts and 306 national councils [9: – pp. VI – VII].

By the decision of the Presidium of the MEC of Soviets of the Uzbek SSR dated June 19, 1926, the composition of the Central Zonal Commission of the Uzbek SSR was approved as consisting of 40 people: Akhmadbek Mavlonbekov (chairman of the commission), E. Zelkina and Katsennelenbogen (deputy chairmen), Korastelev (executive secretary and member of the Presidium) [ 10. ]. On June 25 - July 7, the Central Commission heard the report of the zonal commission in each region and compared their comments and prepared drafts with the draft of the Central Commission. From July 10 to August 12, 1926, the last project was widely discussed by workers and peasants [11: – P.346 – 347.].

After the goals and objectives of zoning became clear and all the envisaged work was carried out, in accordance with the decision of the Presidium of the Central Asian Commission on Zoning dated August 19, 1926, the Central Commission on Zoning under the MEC of the Uzbek SSR sent out directives to the localities explaining issues of zoning, including including opinions on village councils, and informed the Soviets that it would continue until the next re-elections[12.]. (In the Uzbek SSR, re-elections to village councils took place on December 13, 1926. The chairman and members of 1,144 village councils were elected in the elections.)

On September 16, 1926, the plenum of the Central Asian Zoning Commission discussed issues of zoning in Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and partly in Turkmenistan.

On September 25-29, 1926, the V session of the Central Executive Committee of the Soviets of the Uzbek SSR was held in Samarkand, at which issues such as the zoning project, the state budget, and the state of the economy were considered and approved. . At the first meeting of the session, the Chairman of the Presidium of the Central Executive Committee of the Uzbek SSR, Yuldash Akhunbabaev, made a report on the zoning project. In his report, he analyzed the economic situation in the economy of Uzbekistan and noted that the issue of zoning plays an important role for the further development of the republic. Regarding Yu. Okhunboboev's lecture, 14 speakers spoke at the meeting. This issue caused intense discussions and disagreements during the session itself. For example, disputes flared up on issues such as the designation of the cities of Mirbazar or Kattakorgan instead of Sherabad, which is indicated in the project as the center of the Surkhandarya region, Kumkurgan instead of Karman, which is written as the center of Orta. Zarafshan district, the inclusion of Novsky district into the Khojent district and the creation of a separate Isfara district. After the commission's final consideration of these issues, the main final draft of the zoning decision was prepared, which was presented to the meeting participants on September 29. On September 29, 1926, the V session made a historic decision on zoning. This decision was published on October 18, 1926 in the newspapers "Red Uzbekistan" and "Pravda Vostoka" [13.]. According to this decision, administrative and economic zoning was introduced in the Uzbek SSR, regions, counties and volosts were abolished. Then, instead of 7 regions, a separate Konimekh Kazakh region, 23 counties, 241 volosts and 1163 rural communities, new administrative units were formed: 10 districts, 87 districts and 1720 village councils (village councils) [9.].

The resolution informs the Presidium of the MEC of Soviets of the Uzbek SSR that the issue of the number and composition of the village councils provided for by the project will be resolved within two weeks, and their names will be announced in the resolution. press together with the settlements. So, the zoning carried out in Uzbekistan was completed in mid-February 1927.

In short, the regionalization carried out in 1926 occupies a special place in the development of the newly formed republics and autonomous regions in this territory. In particular, the administrative-economic zoning in the Uzbek SSR in September 1926 by district, created for the first time in the republic, on the one hand, became important for the development and economy of the national economy, and on the other hand, for the division into new administrative regions and management system.

#### **4. Conclusion**

The division of the Uzbek SSR into new districts and regions made it possible to improve the work of the Soviet apparatus, bring it closer to the population, reduce costs for administrative institutions, and ensure the development of the productive system of the republic. strength. In addition, both the economic and administrative regionalization policies pursued in Central Asia served the interests of the Center. The Soviet government and the Bolsheviks tried to use the results of regionalization for their own purposes.

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