BG Pulse Journal USA
ISSN:1947-2536 http://www.bgpulseusa.com/index.php/bg
BG PULSE JOURNAL

UZBEKISTAN'S CONTRIBUTION TO VICTORY IN WORLD WAR II IN THE RESEARCH OF R. AMINOVA

Bekzodbek Abdullayev
researcher of Andijan state university

Annotation

This article examines the monograph "Uzbekistan During the Great Patriotic War (1941–1945)" (Tashkent: Fan, 1966), authored by R. Kh. Aminova and T. D. Juraev, analyzing its scholarly significance as a fundamental historical study of Uzbekistan's contribution to victory in the Second World War. The article explores the thematic scope, source base, and methodological framework of the monograph, highlighting its comprehensive coverage of the socio-economic, cultural, and military dimensions of wartime Uzbekistan.

Key words: Uzbekistan, Second World War, Great Patriotic War, R. Kh. Aminova, T. D. Juraev, Soviet historiography, home front, military mobilization, women's labor, industrial evacuation, Shomakhmudov family.

The work titled "Uzbekistan During the Great Patriotic War (1941–1945)" dedicated to one of the most complex periods in the twentieth-century history of Uzbekistan, was published in 1966 by the "Fan" publishing house in the city of Tashkent. This work was prepared by the Institute of History and Archaeology of the Academy of Sciences of the Uzbek SSR, and was published under the editorship of R. Kh. Aminova, Corresponding Member of the Academy of Sciences of the Uzbek SSR, and T. D. Juraev, Doctor of Historical Sciences[1]. As noted in the Introduction of the work, the authors set as their primary goal the filling of existing gaps in the historiography of Uzbekistan's history during the Second World War. From this perspective, the book provides a comprehensive examination of one of the most complex and significant periods in the history of Soviet Uzbekistan, offering broad analysis of the selfless labor of the Uzbek people both at the front and on the home front, their contribution to the victory over fascism, and the relations of solidarity and friendship that formed among the peoples of the USSR during the war years.

This research held significance as a fundamental, synthesizing work for its time. Drawing on archival materials, statistical data, and official documents from those years, it extensively illuminated the changes that took place in the socio-economic and cultural life of Uzbekistan, and provided a scholarly substantiation of the level of mobilization of the republic's population under wartime conditions. Although the book was originally intended for a wide readership, it served as an important source for subsequent research.

The work offers a broad portrayal of life in Uzbekistan during the war years, interpreting the activities of the republic's population both at the front and on the home front as a single, unified historical process. Through the book, the authors strive to depict not only the military events themselves, but also how the war affected the lives of ordinary people. In this respect, the work stands as one of the important studies illuminating the social environment, labor mobilization, and psychological state of the population during that era[2].

[1] Aminova R., Juraev T. *Uzbekistan v gody Velikoy Otechestvennoy voyny (1941–1945)*. Tashkent: Fan, 1966. – 206 pp.
[2] History of the Uzbek SSR. Vol. IV. The Period of Completion of Socialist Construction and the Transition to Communism (1938–1965) (editors-in-chief: R. Kh. Aminova, M. A. Akhunova, Kh. Sh. Inoyatov). Tashkent: "Fan". — 583 pp.

The book's central focus is directed at the adaptation of the republic's economy to a wartime footing. The authors emphasize that Uzbekistan, within a remarkably short period, was transformed into a major industrial and agricultural center serving the needs of the front. Particular attention is given to the processes of relocating factories and plants evacuated from the western regions of the country to the territory of the republic and putting them into operation within a short span of time — processes that demanded enormous labor and organizational effort. Through this account, the authors seek to demonstrate the resilience and selfless dedication of Uzbekistan's population in their labor.

A substantial portion of the work is dedicated to the activities of Uzbekistani servicemen who fought at the front. It provides information about soldiers and officers from Uzbekistan who participated in the battles near Moscow, the defense of Stalingrad, the fierce engagements for the Dnieper, and the operations to liberate the territories of Europe. The authors portray the valor of the fighters with particular emphasis, presenting them as exemplars of Soviet patriotism and the solidarity of peoples. At the same time, the book also reflects, to a certain degree, the fates of those who perished at the front, were wounded, or endured grave hardships.

Life on the home front also receives particular attention in the book. Detailed information is provided about the republic's population collecting funds for the defense fund, contributing to the construction of tank columns and aircraft, and preparing food and clothing for the front. Additionally, the book covers Uzbekistan's humanitarian efforts, including receiving the evacuated population, caring for wounded soldiers in hospitals, and taking in orphaned children. In particular, the story of the Shomakhmudov family, who took into their care orphaned children of various nationalities, is interpreted in the book as a symbol of humaneness and generosity of spirit[3].

The work also reflects the fundamental transformation of women's role in Uzbekistan's industry during the Second World War. As a large portion of men were mobilized to the front, the main burden of labor in the republic's economy and production system fell upon women. From that period onward, women became the primary labor reserve of industry, participating actively not only in light industry, but also in heavy industry, transport, and mining.

The share of women's labor grew with remarkable speed during the war years. Whereas in 1940 women constituted 34 percent of the workforce in the republic's large-scale industry, by 1941 this figure had risen to 50 percent. As of 1 January 1943, women made up 63.5 percent of all industrial workers.

From the very first days of the war, thousands of housewives, soldiers' wives, and female students entered factories and plants to work. In particular, the work states that in Tashkent alone, during the first months of the war, more than 20,000 women came to work at industrial enterprises, of whom 5,000 were housewives who had previously had no involvement in production. In Samarkand, 2,500 wives of servicemen mastered various industrial professions, while at Ursatyevskaya railway station, 300 housewives were drawn into the workforce[4].

Komsomol organizations also played an important role in mobilizing young women into production. In 1942 alone, more than 10,000 women were brought to work at Tashkent enterprises. This process served not only to compensate for the shortage of labor resources, but at the same time contributed to raising the social activity of women. The war years became a period during which many women mastered professions that had previously been entirely foreign to them.

[3] Aminova R., Juraev T. Uzbekistan v gody Velikoy Otechestvennoy voyny (1941–1945). Tashkent: Fan, 1966. – 206 pp.–P.43.

[4] Aminova R., Juraev T. *Uzbekistan v gody Velikoy Otechestvennoy voyny (1941–1945)*. Tashkent: Fan, 1966. — P. 18.

The entry of women into heavy industries and those traditionally considered "male professions" was among the most significant social changes of that era. In 1942, in response to a call for workers at the mines and coal faces of the Angren coal basin, 1,700 young women from Uzbekistan entered employment. In 1943, thousands more young women joined this call. Women's labor also grew sharply in the field of railway transport. In 1942, 5,774 women were taken on by the Tashkent railway system, where they participated in dispatching, repair, technical servicing, and freight operations. In the oil industry as well, women began mastering complex machinery. As noted in the work, particularly worthy of attention in this regard is the activity of Maria Babkina, who was among the first women to operate a drilling rig at the end of 1941, successfully mastering the operation of heavy equipment[5].

During the war years, women who labored at industrial enterprises not only filled the place of men, but in many cases succeeded in exceeding production quotas as well. They played an important role in supplying the front with weapons, clothing, fuel, and food. In the work, the labor of Uzbekistan's women on the home front is highly acclaimed as one of the principal factors that secured victory during the war years.

The authors also examined the fields of culture, science, and education as an important component of the wartime period. It is emphasized that the creative work of representatives of literature and the arts served to raise the spirit of the front, and that theatre and the press played a significant role in strengthening the morale of the population. At the same time, it is noted that despite the harsh conditions of the war, the operation of schools and higher educational institutions continued without interruption, and the work of scientific institutions did not come to a halt. In particular, the establishment of the Academy of Sciences of the Uzbek SSR in 1943 is assessed as one of the most significant events in the republic's scientific life.

The photographs and copies of documents included in the monograph are among its most valuable materials. They corroborate the information presented in the text and make it possible to visually reconstruct the life of Uzbekistan during the war years. Through photographic materials, the authors endeavor to illuminate the themes of the front, home front labor, culture, and humanitarianism. A large portion of the photographic materials is dedicated to the theme of the front and military heroism. The work includes photographs of former Heroes of the Soviet Union — fighters such as V. V. Karpov, M. Umurdinov, M. Z. Shcherbachenko, and V. T. Sayenko[6]. Likewise, among the most moving images in the book are the portrait of Sabir Rakhimov, the first Uzbek general, and photographs depicting his meeting with his parents. Through these images, the authors strive to present the heroes of the front not merely as military figures, but as ordinary human beings as well. Of particular note, the inclusion of a copy of the official letter from Mikhail Kalinin, Chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, conferring upon Sabir Rakhimov the Order of Suvorov of the Second Degree, further enhances the scholarly value of the book[7].

The work also includes photographs depicting young Uzbekistani fighters during military training. Through these images, the mobilization of the republic's population under wartime conditions and the processes of military preparation are illustrated. At the same time, the inclusion of a photograph of a letter sent from the front evokes a sense of the spiritual bond that existed between the front and the home front during the war years. A photograph depicting a tank column

[5] Ibid. — P. 59.
[6] Aminova R., Juraev T. *Uzbekistan v gody Velikoy Otechestvennoy voyny (1941–1945)*. Tashkent: Fan, 1966. — P. 37.
[7] Aminova R., Juraev T. *Uzbekistan v gody Velikoy Otechestvennoy voyny (1941–1945)*. Tashkent: Fan, 1966. — P. 130.

built at the personal expense of Uzbekistan's workers serves as a symbolic expression of the material support rendered to the front.

Another portion of the photographs is dedicated to illuminating the solidarity between the front and the home front. Images of republic leaders Usman Yusupov and Yuldosh Okhunboboyev among a delegation of workers departing for the front reflect the political atmosphere of that era. The book also includes photographs capturing the journey of the first workers' delegation, led by Yuldosh Okhunboboyev, to the Western Front.

Photographic materials related to industry and agriculture also occupy an important place in the monograph. Photographs depicting a rally marking the commissioning of the Urtachirchiq Hydroelectric Station and the construction of the Farkhad Hydroelectric Station illustrate that major economic projects continued to be carried forward even during the war years. Portraits of labor heroes such as Mukhabbat Nasirova, a leading weaver at the Tashkent Textile Combine, and Mamura Makhmudova, a worker at the "Red Engine" factory in Samarkand, served to promote the heroism of home front labor. Photographs depicting elderly collective farmers of Kogon district in Bukhara region tending to cotton fields reveal the arduous toil of the rural population[8].

Photographs dedicated to the themes of humanitarianism, culture, and the arts also hold special significance in the book. The well-known photograph depicting the family of Tashkent blacksmith Shoakhmad Shomakhmudov taking in orphaned children of various nationalities is presented as a symbol of generosity and humaneness during the war years. Likewise, a photograph of the celebrated artist Tamara Khanum performing before sailors aboard the guard ship "Kavkaz" illustrates the role of culture and the arts in lifting the spirits of fighters at the front. Theatrical photographs — depicting the play "Front" staged at the Hamza Theatre and the opera "The Great Canal" performed at the Navoi Theatre — convey that cultural life did not come to a standstill during the war years.[1]

On the whole, the photographs and copies of documents assembled in the monograph have considerably enhanced both its scholarly and visual value. They make it possible to understand the life of Uzbekistan during the war years not merely through figures and official data, but also through the fates, labor, and everyday lives of ordinary people.

One of the most important aspects of this monograph is also its solid source base and the fact that a large scholarly collective worked on the book. This circumstance demonstrates that the work was created not as simple propaganda or a brief essay, but as a fundamental research study for its time. In illuminating the history of Uzbekistan during the war years, the authors drew upon a wide range of archival documents, official materials, and periodical press sources of that era. In the process of preparing the work, materials from party and Komsomol archives were extensively drawn upon. In particular, the documents of the Archive of the Central Committee of the Komsomol (VLKSM), the Institute of Party History under the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Uzbekistan, the Central Committee of the Leninist Communist Youth League of Uzbekistan (LKSM), and the party committees of Tashkent, Andijan, and Samarkand regions served as important sources for the research. Through these materials, the authors endeavored to illuminate the mobilization of the population, the participation of young people at the front and on the home front, ideological work, and the activities of party organizations during the war period[9].

[8] UzNA, F. R-2928, List 1, File 107, Sheet 13.
[9] UzNA, F. R-2928, List 1, File 133, Sheet 7.

At the same time, data obtained from state and departmental archives also enriched the source base of the book. Extensive use was made of materials from the Ministry of Defence of the USSR, documents of the Council of Ministers of the Uzbek SSR, data from the Ministry of Water Resources, and materials from the Central Archive of the Academy of Sciences of the Uzbek SSR. These documents were of great importance in researching the adaptation of the republic's economy to wartime needs, the activities of industry and agriculture, evacuation processes, and the work of scientific institutions.

The authors also shaped the theoretical and methodological foundation of the research in accordance with the requirements of Soviet-era historiography. The resolutions of CPSU congresses, plenums, and conferences, materials of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Uzbekistan, and the official decrees of the union and republican governments were employed as the principal political and methodological sources. Although the book was written under the influence of the dominant Soviet ideology of that period, the scholarly significance of the statistical data and archival materials assembled within it remains extraordinarily high.

REFERENCES

1. History of the Uzbek SSR. Vol. IV. The Period of Completion of Socialist Construction and the Transition to Communism (1938–1965) (editors-in-chief: R. Kh. Aminova, M. A. Akhunova, Kh. Sh. Inoyatov). Tashkent: "Fan". — 583 pp.
2. UzNA, F. R-2928, List 1, File 133, Sheet 7.
3. UzNA, F. R-2928, List 1, File 107, Sheet 13.
4. Aminova R., Juraev T. *Uzbekistan v gody Velikoy Otechestvennoy voyny (1941–1945)*. Tashkent: Fan, 1966. — P. 130.