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From the History of the Activity of Trade Unions and Komsomol Organizations in Uzbekistan in the Post-War Years

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Abstract: This study examines the role of trade unions and Komsomol organizations in shaping post-World War II societal dynamics, particularly in supporting youth. While trade unions significantly influenced community life during this period, the contribution of Komsomol as a youth-focused institution remains underexplored. The research aims to bridge this gap by analyzing the activities and societal impact of these organizations. Using historical analysis and archival data, the study reveals that trade unions played a pivotal role in economic recovery and social stability, while Komsomol organizations became essential in mobilizing and supporting youth. These findings highlight the importance of organized social institutions in post-war reconstruction and provide insights for understanding youth engagement in broader societal frameworks.

Keywords: Trade union organization, Komsomol organization, Communist party, Administrative-command and totalitarian system, Soviet ideology, Socialism.

1. Introduction

Although trade unions and the Komsomol were formally independent organizations, in practice they carried out the instructions and tasks set forth by the Communist Party. The Communist Party of Uzbekistan exercised political leadership over them through its members working in these organizations [1].

The Central Committee of the Communist Party of Uzbekistan assisted the republic's trade union organizations in reorganizing their work. Realizing how great a force the working class was, the party sought to vigorously develop the working class activity of trade unions, to direct the strength and energy of the working class to fully and exceedingly fulfill state tasks in each enterprise, to fight for technical progress, to boldly support production advances, and to improve the working and living conditions of workers.

2. Materials and Methods

Shortly after the end of the war, on August 13, 1946, the Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Uzbekistan adopted a resolution "On measures to improve the work of trade unions in connection with the Law on the Five-Year Plan for the Reconstruction and Development of the National Economy of the USSR." This resolution set out ways to restructure trade union work and the tasks of party organizations to improve the work of assisting trade unions [2].

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In 1946, the Council of Trade Unions of Uzbekistan was established in the republic. This greatly contributed to the restructuring of the work of trade union organizations and their increasing role in the dissemination of Soviet ideology and socialist ideas among the masses [3]. The staff of Uzbek trade unions grew and by the end of 1949 reached 591 thousand people. On October 1, 1949, Uzbekistan had one central trade union organization, two Central Asian trade union committees, 33 republican, 47 regional trade union committees. They united 115 city trade union committees, 693 district and 7,687 factory and local committees.[4]

The number of republican trade union activists also grew. In December 1949, there were 10,740 trade union group organizers in the Uzbek SSR. In 1949, the X Congress of Trade Unions was held in Moscow.[5] The congress heard and discussed reports of the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions and the audit group, and summed up the work of trade unions over the past period. The congress approved the political and practical work of the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions, and noted the active participation of trade unions in building socialism, in the defeat of fascist Germany, and in organizing the restoration and development of the national economy after the war. At the same time, it was revealed that many trade union organizations, including Uzbek trade union organizations, made serious shortcomings in the management of "socialist competition", labor protection work, the provision of material and household services to workers and employees, and so on. After the congress, the activity of trade unions of the Uzbek SSR became noticeably more active.

3. Results

The Komsomol, a loyal assistant to the party, plays a major role in the nationwide struggle for the restoration and development of the national economy. As a result of the improvement of the party's leadership over the Komsomol, educational work among young men and women has intensified, and the Komsomol has acted as a propagandist of socialist ideas [6]. The party organization of Uzbekistan has helped the Komsomol bodies to reconsider their work in the new conditions. The Central Committee of the Communist Party of Uzbekistan has set the republican Komsomol the following tasks: to skillfully direct the activity of youth to the implementation of state plans, to carefully study and develop all new, progressive initiatives arising in the production process, to organize the work, study, recreation and life of young people, and most importantly, to widely promote and monitor Soviet ideology among young people [7].

In April 1946, the 15th Plenum of the Central Committee of the All-Union Leninist Communist Youth Union discussed the issue of the implementation of the fourth five-year plan and the participation of the Komsomol in the activities of the Communist Party and called on all Soviet youth to set an example with their selfless work in the struggle to fulfill the tasks of the five-year plan and strengthen the role of the Communist Party of Uzbekistan in all aspects of public life [8]. The republican Komsomol organizations paid serious attention to improving propaganda and cultural work among young people. 3 thousand circles were organized for Komsomol members and young people to study the Law on the Five-Year Plan and strengthen political propaganda.[4] The Komsomol actively participated in the political life of the country. For example, in connection with the preparations for the elections to the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, at the end of 1945, about 25 thousand propagandists from the Komsomol were involved in propaganda and explanatory work among the youth of the republic and the entire population. More than 35,000 Komsomol youth carried out explanatory work among the population of the republic on the tasks of the new five-year plan [9].

The active work of the Komsomol in various spheres of society increased its authority and influence among young people, and strengthened the desire of young

people to join the Komsomol. If in 1945 the Komsomol organizations of Uzbekistan accepted 2-2.5 thousand people into their ranks every month, then in February 1946 3.9 thousand people were accepted into the Komsomol, in March 6.3 thousand people, and in April 7.3 thousand people were accepted.[10] However, there were shortcomings in the work of many Komsomol organizations. These organizations did not deeply study the life of young people, were little concerned with production issues, allowed formalism and stereotypes in educational work, did not think about the development of primary organizations, and did not take care of young people who were not in the Komsomol. In 1946, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Uzbekistan held a council of republican party and Komsomol activists, the council discussed the state of Komsomol work and measures to improve it. Similar councils were also held at the regional and district party committees [11].

The XI Congress of the Komsomol of Uzbekistan, held in February 1947, demanded that all Komsomol organizations radically restructure their work, improve mass-political and educational work among young people, pay increased attention to the education, selection and placement of personnel, and strengthen the organizational and political aspects of primary Komsomol organizations. Particular attention was paid to raising Uzbek women to leadership positions [12].

The Congress noted that many shortcomings in the work of the republican Komsomol organization arose as a result of the weakening of leadership by the Central Committee of the Komsomol of Uzbekistan, regional, city and district Komsomol committees, and the lack of sufficient clarity and efficiency in their work. The Komsomol organizations, implementing the decision of the Congress, intensified the work of intensification of the "socialist competition" among young workers and collective farmers. In 1947, 1,148 Komsomol youth brigades in Uzbekistan,

80,000 young workers, fulfilled the plan ahead of schedule in the second year of the five-year plan.[13] Many of the collective farm boys and girls, as well as agricultural mechanizers, joined the "socialist competition." Many of them achieved good results in increasing the yield of cotton and other crops, livestock productivity, the efficiency of the use of machinery, and so on.

The movement for economic savings and the preservation of public property, which began on the initiative of the Stalingrad and Leningrad Komsomols, reached a high level. This movement also took on a mass character in the Uzbek SSR. Hundreds of Komsomol youth posts and raid brigades were created in factories and plants. They took control of the consumption of electricity, fuel, and equipment, and monitored cleanliness and order in production. For example, after discussing the issue of savings, the Komsomol organization of the Tashkent Electric Cable Plant identified a number of measures. As a result of the implementation of these measures, about 130 thousand soums of state funds were saved.[14]

4. Discussion

The Komsomol educated young workers in the skills of a true labor culture. For this, an exemplary order was established in factories and plants, in each section, which helped to avoid unnecessary costs in production and increase labor productivity [15]. The Komsomol of Uzbekistan also plays a serious role in training personnel for the national economy. Vocational, railway educational institutions, factory and factory training schools trained thousands of young Komsomol specialists.

The young men and women of the republic actively participated in the nationwide movement to improve cotton growing. In particular, the Tashkent Komsomol members helped the rural Komsomol organizations in Karakalpakstan, Khorezm and Tashkent

regions by taking them under their fatherhood. In March 1948, the Central Committee of the Komsomol of Uzbekistan adopted a resolution calling on all Komsomol members to actively participate in the struggle for cotton [16]. The Central Committee of the Komsomol of Uzbekistan organized agricultural training, introduced personal accounting, and established mobile Red Banners for cotton-growing Komsomol youth units and brigades [17].

Komsomol organizations carried out all these various activities under the leadership and with the assistance of the Uzbek party organization. The issue of the activities of the republican Komsomol was repeatedly discussed at meetings of the regional, city, and district committees of the bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Uzbekistan [18]. In January 1948, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Uzbekistan held a republican council of secretaries of district, city, and regional Komsomol committees.[19]

As a result of the intensification of Soviet ideological work and the organizational strengthening of Komsomol organizations, the ranks of the Komsomol of Uzbekistan also grew further. In January 1947, the Uzbek Komsomol had 209,000 members, but by the 12th Congress of the Central Committee of the Uzbek Komsomol (January 1949), the number of Komsomol members had reached 280,000.[9] During this time, many primary Komsomol organizations emerged in the republic, especially in rural areas, in new construction sites, and in similar places [20].

5. Conclusion

The work of trade unions and Komsomol organizations in Uzbekistan was reorganized in 1945-1955. In the post-war years, these organizations became loyal assistants of the Communist Party, which held a dominant position in the country. They functioned as organizations implementing the administrative-command and totalitarian system, propagating Soviet ideology to the broad masses, and mobilizing for the full and complete completion of socialist construction in the country.

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