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## **The Population of Uzbekistan During the Soviet Period**

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### **ANNOTATION**

There are many peoples and nations in the world. One of them is the Uzbek nation. The Uzbek people have a centuries-old and rich history. Over a long period of time, our nation has passed through several socio-economic stages and has been formed into a people and then a nation. They were formed in the Movarounnahr, Khorezm, Yettisuv regions of Central Asia. This article describes the social life of the Uzbek people during the Soviet era and information about the population.

**KEYWORDS:** population, urbanization, agriculture, economy, culture, authority, tolerance, hospitality, unity.

### **INTRODUCTION**

Uzbekistan is the country with the largest population among the countries of Central Asia. In the territory of our country, the population is densely located in oases and valleys, which have been developed since ancient times and are suitable for irrigated agriculture.

The cities and towns that were created as a result of the development of the deserts of Mirzachol, Surkhan-Sherabad, Karshi and Central Ferghana, as well as on the basis of the discovery of deposits of various mineral resources, also made changes to the territorial structure of the population. However, the new settlements could not make a big change in the territorial forms of the population that have been formed over the centuries. Most of the population lives in the places where they were born and raised. The most important features of the demographic situation in Uzbekistan are the decreasing population growth rate, the decrease in the rate of natural population increase, the negative results of external migration, and a number of similar features.

### **MAIN PART**

The population of Uzbekistan was 4.2 million in 1924, 6.5 million in 1940, 6.2 million in 1950, 8.4 million in 1960, 11.8 million in 1970, 15.8 million in 1980, and 20.2 million in 1990. During the years of Soviet power, the population of the republic increased by 16 million. Only in 1924-1940, the population of Uzbekistan increased by 2.3 million, population growth was 3% per year [1]. In the last 100 years, the population of Uzbekistan was registered several times in 1897, 1920, 1926, 1939, 1959, 1970, 1979, 1989. If we look at the statistics, the population did not increase between 1940 and 1950, on the contrary, it decreased. This process was related to the World War II that took place at that time. The World War II had a very negative impact on the population of Uzbekistan, its structure and location. As a result of the war, the republic lost more than 1 million inhabitants. In 1940-1945, it decreased from 6.6 million people to 5.2 million people. In the post-war period, there

were positive changes in the population growth rate. The population increased from 5.2 million to 8.4 million [1]. 263,005 people were killed, 132,670 people went missing, and 60,452 people returned disabled from Uzbekistan who were mobilized for World War II [2]. This undoubtedly had a negative impact on the demography and labor resources of Uzbekistan. In this case, the weight of the population transferred from abroad was greater than the pure natural increase.

In the 60s and 80s of the 20th century, the number of Uzbeks in the population of the republic increased regularly at a high rate. In 1989, Uzbeks made up 71.4% of the republic's population.

As a result of the development of medicine, the death rate of the population has decreased. Due to this, the population grew rapidly. In 1886-1920, the number of deaths per thousand people in Uzbekistan was 40-34, after 1920, this figure decreased by 5-6 times [1].

The population of the republic is concentrated in the oases and valleys, which have been developed since ancient times and have favorable conditions for irrigated agriculture. The average population density was 9.5 people per square kilometer in 1924, and this indicator reached 45 people in 1990. During 70 years, the population density has increased by 5 times [1].

The population density in the oases of Uzbekistan was the highest in the former USSR. In some regions, there were up to 400 people per square kilometer and even more, in desert areas (in Karakalpakstan ASSR, Bukhara region) 3-5 people [2].

According to the data of the beginning of 1970, 1 million 385 thousand people lived in Tashkent, the capital of the republic. It was considered the largest city east of the Volga and Caspian, the largest economic and cultural center of Central Asia. During this period, each of Bukhara, Samarkand, Andijan, Namangan, Chirchik and Ko'kan had more than 100,000 inhabitants [2].

The age structure of the population in Uzbekistan depends on its demographic characteristics and standard of living. Uzbekistan is one of the countries with a relatively high birth rate in the world. However, the high birth rate in the country has not always been able to ensure regular population growth. In the first half of the 20th century, child mortality was high in Uzbekistan, and 50-60% of children born died in childhood. In 1926-1939, children aged 0-9 made up 23-24% of the total population, and in 1959-1989, this figure was 28-32% [1]. The increase in the weight of children in the population was primarily due to a sharp decrease in child mortality.

Urbanization comes from Latin "urb" which means city, increase of city population, spread of city culture. Uzbekistan is one of the first centers of urbanization in the world. The cities of Bukhara, Samarkand, Khiva, Karshi, Termiz, Shahrisabz, Tashkent have a history of 2000-2700 years. The population of the city increased slowly from 1865 to 1917. At the beginning of the 20th century, the population of the city grew unevenly as a result of the stabilization of the political situation, which was certainly influenced by the national-administrative repartition of Central Asia in 1924. According to the data of 1926, the total population reached 4 million 621 thousand people, 1 million 12 thousand of them lived in cities, 3 million 657 thousand lived in villages. In relation to the total population, the urban population was 21.9%, and the rural population was 78.1%. Representatives of many nationalities lived in the

territory of Uzbekistan as collective groups. According to the 1926 census, there were 490,000 Tajiks, 130,000 Kazakhs, 81,000 Kyrgyz, 72,000 Arabs, and 36,000 Uighurs [2].

During the activities held under the slogan of industrialization, new cities were added to the existing 12 cities, and as a result, the population of the city increased rapidly. The population of the city increased especially rapidly between 1973 and 1986. This was caused by the change of the demographic norm necessary to grant the status of a city to populated areas in Uzbekistan in 1972, that is, the population was reduced from 10,000 to 7,000. As a result, many villages became cities. There were 42 cities in total in 1970, 13 in 1973, 9 in 1974, 5 in 1975, 6 in 1976, and 5 more in 1977. The total rate of urbanization in Uzbekistan was more than 42% in 1984. In the future, the scale of urbanization is also affected by the decrease in the natural growth rate of the city population.

In 1917-1924 and during World War II, the balance of migration was negative for the republic. Especially in the 5 years after the war, there were more immigrants than those who left. During these years, external migration made up one third of the annual population increase. In 1950-1974, the balance of inter-republic migration in Uzbekistan was equal to 832 thousand people.

Negative signs of external migration appeared in the 80s of the 20th century. In 1989, 83.9 thousand people immigrated to the republic, and 167.3 thousand people left. The negative balance of migration was 83.4 thousand people [1].

In 1937-1938, the authoritarian regime forcibly relocated 74,500 Koreans from the Russian Far East and brought them to the territory of Uzbekistan. 170 thousand Koreans were forcibly relocated to the territory of Central Asia and Kazakhstan in accordance with the decision of the Soviet state on August 21, 1937 "On the resettlement of the Korean population from the border regions of the Far East".

In the mid-40s of the last century, the Kalmyks living on the lower reaches of the Volga and the shores of the Caspian Sea, Karachays, Chechens, Ingush and Bulgarians living in the North Caucasus were exiled to Siberia and Central Asia. In 1944, Crimean Tatars, Greeks, and later Meskhetian Turks were also deported from their homeland to Siberia and Central Asia [2].

In particular, 175,000 Chechens, 157,000 Ingush, 150,000 Crimean Tatars and 4,500 Bulgarians were brought to Uzbekistan. Loans were allocated to the resettled people for farm land, house building and farm management. Those who were relocated gradually adapted to new places with great difficulty.

Uzbekistan is one of the multi-ethnic republics of the world. Even after the national-territorial demarcation in Central Asia, the republic was multi-ethnic. A total of 8,131,062 people lived in Central Asia, and 3,963,285 of these people went to Uzbekistan in the USSR. Uzbeks made up 3,381,579 of them. About 90% of all Uzbeks living in Central Asia were in the territory of the USSR [2]. According to the data of previous years, in 1939, 97, in 1959, 113, in 1979, more than 120, and in 1989, more than 125 representatives of nationalities lived.

According to the All-Union Census of 1926, 3,475,500 Uzbeks, 967,700 Tajiks, 246,500 Russians, 107,000 Kazakhs, 90,700 Kyrgyz, 31,400 Uighurs, 28,400 Tatars, 26,600 Karakalpaks, 25,900 Turkmens lived in Uzbekistan. In addition, 25.8 thousand Ukrainians, 27.9 thousand Arabs, 18.2 thousand Bukhara Jews, 14.9 thousand Armenians lived there.

There are also a small number of ethnic groups. These are: 4.6 thousand Germans, 3.7 thousand Gypsies, 3.5 thousand Belarusians, 3.4 thousand Poles and others [4].

During this period, the population was mainly mobilized by the Soviet leadership for hard work. They were mobilized as a labor force in the development of new lands, especially deserts, the increase of cotton cultivation areas, and the new industrial enterprises being built by the Soviets. During World War II, the population was mobilized for war. Those behind the front worked hard for the front. People's culture and local traditions were not taken into account, efforts were made to Russify the local population and spread Russian culture.

## CONCLUSION

During the 20th century, the people of Uzbekistan went through a lot of difficulties. The Uzbek people lived under the pressure of the Soviet state. People with mature thinking and fighting for their homeland were mercilessly repressed. However, despite this, the Uzbek people gained a reputation for tolerance and hospitality during the war years. The Uzbek people made a great contribution to the victory in the World War II with their enthusiasm and hard work. Even now, the Uzbek people, with their unity, are on their way to development.

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