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"COTTON QUESTION" IN THE MEMORIES OF THE KARAKALPAK PEOPLES

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ABSTRACT

The article emphasizes the role of memoirs of political leaders, representatives of science and culture in covering the history of the so-called "cotton business" in Karakalpakstan. Along with archival documents, memoirs, by right, occupy a leading place in the source corpus of the new history of the region. The studies of the memoirs of this time, undoubtedly, fills in the gaps in the «cotton business» and help an objective study of history.

KEYWORDS: *A New History, Karakalpakstan, Repressions, "Cotton Business", Sharaf Rashidov, Kallibek Kamalov, Sultan Kaniyazov, Erezhep Aitmuratov, Memoirs, Analysis, The Meaning Of Memoirs.*

INTRODUCTION

The political history of Karakalpakstan of modern times, perhaps to the greatest extent, turned out to be overflowing with a heap of dilapidated and shabby in recent year's ideas. Historians have not yet created a picture of the "cotton affairs" of the second half of the 1980s in Karakalpakstan. "Cotton case" is the collective name for a whole series of criminal cases related to corruption and registrations on the territory of the Uzbek SSR in the last years of the existence of the Soviet Union. The first secretary, Sharaf Rashidov, then led the Communist Party of Uzbekistan so the shadow fell directly on him. A natural reaction to this state of historical science was the appeal of the public to the literary version of the political events that took place [1, 76.]. Publicists and literary men were least of all concerned with the theoretical and methodological side of the matter in an effort to be in the spotlight.

The mistakes of the union government in carrying out economic reforms in the region were also aggravated by the campaigns that began in those years to defame the peoples of Uzbekistan and Karakalpakstan, which found eloquent expression in the so-called "cotton business". Only in Karakalpakstan 133, people were under investigation during these years [2, 154.].

At the beginning of April 1983, an investigation group of the USSR Prosecutor General's Office T.Kh. Gdlyan and N.V. Ivanov were created in accordance with the Resolution of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee on the investigation of abuse in cotton growing in Uzbekistan.

The sadistic methods of investigation were perfected. For example, someone was arrested for receiving or transferring bribes, and he denied his guilt, then he was reminded that because of his stubbornness, he was putting his family, the whole clan at risk. The arrested person continued to be silent, and then the threats were carried out. The closest relatives ended up in the cells. Children were sometimes placed in cells adjacent to their parents. They did it deliberately, played on parental, family feelings.

During the investigation, 8 innocent relatives of K. Kamalov, K. Nurumbetov, 15 - Khudaybergenov were arrested according to the decisions of the Gdlyanovsk investigators [3, 34; 4, 54]

Erezhep Aitmuratov: "I was arrested on August 20, 1987, in Tashkent. He was kept in remand prison for several days, and then transported to Moscow. From that moment on, regular interrogations began, led by Gdlyan and Ivanov. They explained to me for a long time about the significance of a frank confession, advised me to confess everything, threatening to make me a "steam locomotive" in the case otherwise, they threatened to sort out the postscripts in the republic, to which, allegedly, I, being the secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Uzbekistan, had a direct relationship. They declared that those who did not confess to them would be shot, and those who went with them would have almost nothing, and they could even release them from custody. They also intimidated that if I continue to be silent, they will arrest my wife, son, daughter, brother".

Kasym Nurumbetov: "Under the dictation of Gdlyan, I began to write a statement about whom and from whom I received bribes. It went something like this. Gdlyan asked me which of the higher leaders came to our area. Moreover, when I called them, he made them write that I had given them bribes. Then he ordered me to list all the chairs of collective farms, directors of state farms, and heads of trade and name them all among the bribe-givers. I wrote all this. After I wrote the list, again under the dictation of Gdlyan, I wrote the amount of money that I received from each person I named, and the amount of money that I transferred to the higher-ranking officials. Only after that, I had to come up with for each bribe giver and bribe taker when and for what the sums of money were transferred. That is, I gave credibility to my statements".

Sultamurat Kanyazov: "Ivanov entered the office and said in a stern tone: "Write a statement addressed to the Prosecutor General of the USSR, where you will indicate that you took bribes from 45-47 people from below for at least 500 thousand rubles, as well as at least 12-15 episodes you will show "up" so that there were Osetrov, Orlov, Abdullaeva, Ishkov and others".

Among those convicted in the so-called "cotton cases" were 430 state farm directors and collective farm chairmen, 1300 their deputies and chief specialists; 84 directors of cotton plants and 340 chief specialists of these plants; 150 workers in the light industry of Uzbekistan, the RSFSR, Ukraine, Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan; 69 party, Soviet workers, specialists from the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the prosecutor's office. 58 thousand officials were arrested, 800 criminal cases were opened, 4 thousand people were convicted [5, 322]. 172 workers who were included in the nomenclature of the Central Committee of the CPSU, 1813 were included in the nomenclature of the Central Committee of the KPS were removed from their posts.

On December 25, 1991 (that is, the day before the legal establishment of the termination of the existence of the USSR), the first President of Uzbekistan, I.A. Karimov, pardoned all those convicted in the Uzbek case who were serving their sentences on the territory of the republic. [6, 37]

In social and political life, the repressions of 1983-1988, which fell on Uzbekistan and Karakalpakstan, had a frightening effect on the population. In an effort to stop, the aspirations aimed at gaining real sovereignty, the allied leadership tried, as part of the overdue struggle against the corrupt nomenclature, to create a stir around the fabricated "cotton business". At the IV plenum of the Karakalpak regional party committee in June 1984, "more than 90% of the leadership of the regional party committee and 85% of the leaders of the city and district level were renewed. [2, 160]. In the cotton complex of Karakalpakstan, 27 cases were initiated, in which the following were convicted: in 1986 - 10; in 1986 - 56; in 1987 - 55; in 1988 - 24; in 1989 - 14, 159 people. [2, 160]

Speaking at the VI Plenum of the Karakalpak Regional Party Committee on November 30, 1989, I.A. Karimov stated, "The process that was started 5-6 years ago around the cotton business in Uzbekistan, including in the Karakalpak Autonomous Republic, continues to this day torment everyone". [2, 165]

The study of memoir literature shows that society is beginning to get tired of the continuous stream of exposures and discrediting of the Bolshevik regime, descriptions of the crimes of Stalin and his henchmen, which make up the lion's share of newspaper and magazine publications, but give little for understanding the deep essence of the processes leading to the crisis of the political system.

The genre of political biography, which has become widespread in response to the call to write history in faces and portraits, to overcome the schematic and dry academism inherent in official historiography, does not bring satisfaction. Any full-fledged research of this kind is hardly possible without recreating the proper historical background, a kind of portrait of the era. Only then, can you understand and explain the deeds, actions and thoughts of people of their time, when they had to live and act.

For the history of Karakalpakstan in 1950-1991, the analysis of the hidden mechanisms and springs, with the help of which the party organization and its nomenclature, actually exercised power and control, is especially important. The opening of archival funds has so far only allowed lifting the veil over these secrets. In the memoirs of N. Mukhitdinov, K. Kamalov, A. Kunnazarov, K. Uteniyazov hidden control mechanisms are shown.

When working with sources on the "Soviet history" of Karakalpakstan, we must take into account the known specifics. We have had to deal with a much larger volume of publications and archival documents than, for example, a 19th century historian. At the same time, it should be borne in mind that the system created under Stalin has developed a number of techniques and methods for manipulating public consciousness by dosing information, hiding the truth. The sources are in many ways saturated with distortions, default figures. The memoirs largely make up for these reservations.

Thus, the range of the identified problems of memoiristics, leading, in our opinion, to the creation of a truly scientific history of modern times, is quite wide and voluminous.

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