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Historiography Of Electrification In Uzbekistan During The Modern Period

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Abstract: Electrification as an important part of economic and industrial history and the historical process is being studied quite intensively by researchers. Many scientific literatures created at the end of the last and the beginning of this century contain information about electrification, which were studied directly in connection with socio-economic history. This article details their historiographical analysis.
Keywords: History, historical literature, historiography, research, electric power industry, industry, national economy.

Introduction: In a number of scientific works published in recent years, domestic and foreign researchers have continued to engage in scientific debates and discussions to clarify the issue of electrification, and its solution is being comprehensively explored through various processes (socio-economic, political, cultural).

Main part: Scholarly literature published during the years of independence is distinguished by its broader and more objective approach to the region's history –specifically its socio-economic conditions—examining issues from the perspective of the interests of our people and the region as a whole.

In his monograph – which focuses on the socio-economic landscape of Turkestan during the era of Russian imperial colonization and the emergence of capitalist production relations – N. U. Musaev, drawing on archival data, notes that in 1917, there were 1,428 industrial enterprises in Turkestan (including the Emirate of Bukhara and the Khanate of Khiva), 34 of which were power plants. In another work, he observes that while comprehensive data regarding industrial enterprises in the Transcaspian and Semirechye regions during the colonial period has not survived, an analysis of various sources and statistical reviews indicates that 45 power plants were in operation across the region by 1915 [1].

Works prepared and published by the Center for the New History of Uzbekistan shed light on the economic history of Turkestan during the periods of Russian imperial colonization and Soviet rule, and also contain information pertaining to the industrial sector[1]. In particular, the first book notes that the “NEP course” – which was dominant within the socialist sector of industrial production – aimed to restructure management on a large scale by introducing rigorous planning and *khozraschyot* (economic accounting/cost accounting) into industry and enterprises; it is emphasized that this approach facilitated control through monetary metrics and allowed for a certain expansion of industrial democracy [3].

In his monograph on the establishment of the Turkestan People’s University (now the National University of Uzbekistan), S. Kholboev touches upon the Faculty of Technology and the

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training of personnel therein. The author writes that the first meeting of the university's Faculty of Technology took place on April 11, 1918, and that "classes in the Natural Sciences, Mathematics, and Technology faculties of the Turkestan People's University – which welcomed Russians and Russian speakers—began on May 9" [4].

Furthermore, the work *They Studied in Germany* by the prominent literary scholar Sh. Turdiev, as well as research by B. ... In Irzaev's books on "Uzbek Youth and Foreign Education" it is detailed – based on archival documents and oral accounts – that local youths such as Tulagan Mumin and Sultonbek Matkul were among those sent to Germany for study in the early 1920s. Upon their return, they spearheaded efforts in Uzbekistan to train a local workforce for the electrification sector, develop the republic's electrotechnical infrastructure, ensure the rational use of electric power in industrial facilities, and manage the electrical system based on modern scientific principles. They later became victims of the repressions in 1938 [5].

A book published by a team of authors in 2019 also notes that in the Turkestan ASSR, industrial development focused primarily on enterprises for processing cotton and preparing raw materials [6].

Russian archivist B.I. Kozlov in his article, reveals that the issue of personnel – specifically regarding the policy pursued by the young Soviet state in the 1920s within the spheres of industry and electrification – was a particularly painful process. He highlights the distrust the leadership of the RCP(b) [Russian Communist Party (Bolsheviks)] held toward prominent technical experts from the Tsarist era, their subsequent repression, and the resulting negative impact on the country's technical potential [7].

Several other works published in Russia in recent years provide valuable material on the history of electrification in the Russian Empire—including the Turkestan region. These studies are notable for their reliance on previously unknown historical evidence and for their approach, which situates the issue within the broader context of global electrification development [8].

This work also examines a number of dissertations defended during the years of independence that analyze the industrial history of the Turkestan region. In particular, N.A. Abdurahimova's doctoral dissertation notes that the technical transformations aimed at fostering free economic development and industrial civilization – which were already socially weak even within the metropole itself – proceeded at a very sluggish pace in Turkestan during the second half of the 19th century [9].

R.N. Tursunov in his candidate dissertation, examines the views of the Jadids regarding the socio-economic processes in Turkistan during the early 20th century. He notes that the Jadids of the region – who considered themselves the vanguard of modernity – did not remain on the sidelines amidst the rapid advancement of science and technology and the introduction of new technologies into industrial production [10].

Several other scholarly studies, which focus on the socio-economic history of Turkistan from the late 19th century through the first quarter of the 20th century, provide a detailed analysis of the region's underdeveloped industrial and technical state. They highlight how both the colonial and Soviet administrations focused primarily on extracting raw material resources from the agricultural sector. Specifically, S. B. Shodmonova's doctoral dissertation reveals that the Russian Empire lagged behind European nations and the United States in terms of the number and technical sophistication of its industrial enterprises – a factor that inevitably influenced the colonial status of Turkistan [11].

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In his PhD thesis, researcher K.A. Tokhtabekov studied the colonial nature of the economic policy of the Russian Empire in Turkestan during the First World War, noting that "the colonial administration, by placing various artificial obstacles to the development of manufacturing industry in Turkestan, tried with all its might to develop cotton growing in the country" [12].

M.M. Khaidarov's PhD thesis, which is related to the time frame of the research topic, states that although the New Economic Policy did not last long, economic growth was observed and essentially new industrial enterprises were put into operation [13].

N.B. Makhmudova's PhD thesis in historical sciences states that, based on the data of the Senator K.K. Palen's inspection commission, the area of cotton sown in the country was constantly increasing, and little attention was paid to industry [14].

Conclusion:

The works created during the years of independence, as well as the data in a number of dissertation studies defended, are distinguished by their comparative nature, well-founded conclusions, and an approach to the problem based on the principle of fairness.

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