

The Difficult Situation in the Socio-Economic Life of Uzbekistan in the Second Half of the 80s of the XX Century and its Consequences

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Annotation: This article deals with the difficult socio-economic situation on the eve of Uzbekistan's independence and the historical analysis of measures to overcome it. Historical processes in such a complex situation on the eve of independence have been analyzed on the basis of scientific literature and archival documents.

Keywords: independence, lack of food, services, socio-economic life, agriculture.

The ineffective socio-economic policies of the dictatorial Soviet regime, based on false communist ideology and administrative command, further reduced the living standards of the Uzbek people in the mid-1980s, leaving them in dire straits. These problems are due to the decline in demand for food, a significant increase in the deficit of a number of consumer goods, the decline in the quality of services in various sectors, as well as a sharp devaluation of money, a sharp decline in production and the state budget. manifested in the growth of the deficit.

In particular, in the decade between 1979 and 1989, the population increased by 29.3%. During these years, the population has grown by more than 4.5 million, or an average of 451.5 thousand people a year [1.48]. By 1991, the country's population was 20.7 million. In the former USSR, natural population growth during this period was 10 people per thousand, while in Uzbekistan this figure was more than 3 times [2.200].

During the period under review, the level of employment in the country was low, and this figure was much higher among young people. In particular, among the unemployed, young girls aged 18-29 accounted for 46.7% in 1979, while in 1985-1986 the figure was more than 50%. In Fergana, Kashkadarya regions and the Republic of Karakalpakstan, the share of unemployed youth is even higher[3.116].

It should be noted that during this period the population density of the republic was on average 3.3 times higher than the union level [4.7], two-thirds of the population lived in 14% of the total area of the Republic of Uzbekistan, ie in Andijan, Fergana, Namangan, Tashkent, Khorezm and Samarkand regions.

It should be noted that despite the rapid growth of the republic's population, as a result of irrational policies pursued by the Soviet regime for many years, it was not strengthened by increasing jobs in industry and other sectors of the economy, agriculture and creating the necessary conditions for life. This has led to a deterioration in people's living conditions, an increase in the number of unemployed, a decline in social labor productivity and incomes, and ultimately a decline in the welfare of the population. This process showed that the socio-economic situation in the country, the social protection of the population is unsatisfactory. During this period, there were no positive developments in the provision of clean drinking water and natural gas to the population, especially in rural areas, housing, health care, public services, schools, preschool education.

According to the 1989 census, the share of the rural population of the republic was much higher than that of the urban population, accounting for 59%, ie 11,980.7 thousand people lived in rural

areas [5.34-35]. In the densely populated Andijan region, the figure was 71%, in the Kashkadarya region 75%, in the Khorezm region 80%, and in the Surkhandarya region 81%. Water supply and sanitation in rural areas is unsatisfactory, only 55%, and the provision of clean drinking water to the population of the republic is almost 50%, in Khorezm region this figure is 13.2%, in Bukhara region 15%, in the Republic of Karakalpakstan 21.4%. The supply of natural gas to the population of the republic was almost 17% [6.125]. Over the years, the construction of many reservoirs as a result of extensive development of agriculture, especially cotton, has led to a waste of water from the Amudarya, Syrdarya and Zarafshan rivers into the Aral Sea, which led to the Aral Sea tragedy. As a result, the sea decreased by 14.5 meters in 1990 compared to 1960, and the volume of water decreased by 54 percent [7.56]. Over the last 30 years, sea levels have dropped by 20 meters, and by 2000 it was 31 meters. The volume of water fell from 1,062,000 cubic kilometers to 268,000 cubic kilometers. The level of mineralization also increased from year to year, reaching more than 40 grams per 1 liter of water. As a result, in 1960-1996, the Aral Sea lost 743 km³ of water.

By 1989, two separate lakes appeared on the Aral Sea floor. According to experts, up to 50,000-70,000 tons of dust and salt have risen as a result of storms rising from the seabed [8.53]. Toxic salts are observed not only in the Aral Sea basin, but also in various countries in Europe and Asia.

As a result of the Aral Sea tragedy, the ecological situation in the country has worsened, including poor drinking water supply, increased mineralization of water, large amounts of dust, salt and minerals rising from the seabed. As a result, 87% of the region's population suffers from diarrhea, anemia, skin and other infectious diseases, and the infant mortality rate is high. In 1985, 46.2% of every 1,000 live births in Uzbekistan died. This figure was 62.5% in the Republic of Karakalpakstan, 55.2% in Surkhandarya region and 50.4% in Khorezm region [9.89].

By the 1980s, Uzbekistan, a backward and fragile economy based solely on the supply of raw materials, lagged far behind the former Soviet Union in key economic and social indicators and fell to last place in the country. In particular, the GDP per capita ranked 12th among the allied republics, the last in terms of income and consumption of basic products. The national income per capita was 2 times lower than the union level, 2.5 times higher in terms of labor productivity in industry, 2 times higher in terms of labor productivity in agriculture, and 2 times lower in terms of average consumption of meat, eggs, milk and dairy products [9.26-27].

In the national economy of Uzbekistan, mainly the primary processing of raw materials prevailed, and the share of industries producing finished products, primarily consumer goods, was low. Most of the agricultural raw materials were exported, and about 8-9 billion soums worth of products were imported to meet the needs of the population in consumer goods. In particular, such advanced industries as employment of the population - machinery, electronics, instrumentation, radio engineering, production of complex household appliances - are not well developed.

As a result, the economy of Uzbekistan has become one-sided, producing only raw materials, and the path of complex development and incomplete satisfaction of the needs of the population is reflected in the deep imbalance in the structure of social production. In particular, the share of finished products in the industry of the republic is 50%, the share of unprocessed agricultural products is more than 80%, the share of raw materials and semi-finished products is more than 65%, the share of imported industrial products is 60% was [9.36].

In short, by the end of the 1980s, an economy based on a centralized, planning and distribution mechanism was in place. In addition to the shortcomings of the Soviet system, the republic's focus on supplying only raw materials, and its complete and absolute cotton monopoly, which had a devastating effect on the environment and the population's gene pool, pushed the country to the

brink. As a result, despite its vast natural and mineral resources, labor and human potential, Uzbekistan was one of the last countries in the former Soviet Union in terms of living standards, social and humanitarian development [10.4]. In fact, life experience has confirmed that the republic has great potential, huge natural resources, development of production and science and technology, favorable natural climatic conditions. In short, in Uzbekistan, problems such as the lack of even the most basic necessities of life, let alone the full development of man, have become widespread. This situation has led to the intensification of conflicts in the social environment, in which a circle of complex problems that have accumulated over the years interact with each other.

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