



# FROM THE HISTORY OF THE ECONOMIC PERSONNEL TRAINING SYSTEM IN UZBEKISTAN (1920-1960 yy)

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## ABSTRACT

This article provides a scholarly analysis of the formation and development stages of the system for training economic specialists in Uzbekistan during the Soviet period, as well as its main characteristics. In addition, the activities of Tashkent State University of Economics (TSUE), its role and significance in training economic professionals, are examined based on historical and academic sources.

**KEYWORDS:** Soviet period, economic specialists, higher education, planned economy, professional training.

## Introduction

In the context of globalization, increasing competitiveness creates the need to radically reform and modernize the system of developing intellectual potential and training economists in order to ensure the sustainable development of our country's economic potential. In the current era of global changes and technology, when the level of knowledge and spirituality of a person is important for the smooth development of any state or its stagnation in development or crisis, the level of development of the country's education system is of paramount importance.

At any stage of the development of society, the role of economics and economists has been invaluable. In the current market economy, the development of society and the quality of life of people can be ensured only by economists who have mastered economic knowledge. As a result of the further increase in the economic potential of our country and the growing demand for economists, the need for higher educational institutions that train economists is increasing day by day.



The President of our country, Shavkat Mirziyoyev, has always emphasized this issue in his resolutions and decrees, as well as in his long-term strategies. In particular, the development of human capital is identified as one of the priority areas in the “Uzbekistan - 2030” strategy, which recognizes the training of economists with modern knowledge and skills who can ensure the competitiveness of economic sectors as an important task. The strategy emphasizes the need to improve the higher education system based on international standards, improve the quality of economic education, and train specialists who meet the requirements of the labor market.

The main purpose of this article is to study the organization of the Tashkent State University of Economics and its activities based on historical sources in order to form a system of training economists in the period 1920-1991, in the context of the economic and political situation, to create a base of specialists serving the colonial government and to improve the difficult economic situation.

As a result of the revolutionary changes that took place in the Russian Empire in February 1917, the last representative of the Romanov dynasty, Nicholas II (1894-1917), abdicated the throne on March 15. Thus, the empire was overthrown in this colonial country and a republican system was established. Of course, such drastic changes did not bypass the dependent countries.

In every city, district, volost and village throughout the Turkestan region, the acting provisional government abolished the old administrative bodies and in their place began to establish executive committees of public organizations, that is, committees of public safety. However, the new government practically did not change the policy in the colonies, in particular in the Turkestan region. On the contrary, the demands made increased, the political and economic situation became more acute.

At the beginning of the 20th century, in the Soviet Union, one of the main tasks facing the state was to regulate the economy on the basis of a centralized plan and eliminate the economic problems arising from the First World War, and these problems were necessarily covered by raw materials coming from the colonies. In particular, great attention in our country was paid to agriculture, especially to the cultivation of cotton. The colonial government was well aware of the need to expand cotton cultivation, along with the processing of this valuable raw material, especially the number of cotton ginning enterprises. In those years, their number



reached 414. As a result, 85% of Turkestan's industrial production was accounted for by cotton processing and oil extraction from seeds. The specialization of industrial production and the expansion of processing industries objectively created the need to train highly qualified economists, and this process became one of the priority areas of state policy. Since all sectors of the economy were strictly planned, economists played an important role in the fields of production, finance, statistics and management.

At the beginning of the 20th century, three educational institutions for the training of economists operated in the region. These educational institutions mainly trained qualified specialists for trade and industrial firms and banks. Officially, the training of economists with higher status began with the establishment of Turkestan State University on May 12, 1918. The Faculty of Social Sciences and Economics within this university began to systematically train economists with higher education for the republics of Central Asia and Kazakhstan. It is no exaggeration to say that these changes were a huge change for the political, social and economic system of that time, because for a colonial state, the opening of higher educational institutions in its dependent republics, especially the beginning of the training of economists in these educational institutions, was a huge step. The complex political and economic conditions of that period sharply put on the agenda the need to train economists, accountants and financiers with modern knowledge and skills in the country in a short time, systematically and purposefully. For this purpose, in 1918, short-term courses were organized at the Turkestan People's University to train specialists in the field of trade. However, these short-term courses did not bring much success, since they were limited to providing only basic knowledge.

The new economic policy adopted in the 1920s to eliminate the economic and spiritual dependence of our country during the Soviet era and the consequences that arose from it, also caused changes in the economy of Uzbekistan. Industrialization, as a necessary condition for strengthening Soviet power in our country, became of great importance. However, this policy did not bring the desired result and was completely canceled. As a result, private entrepreneurship and free trade activities were limited. In a country with a backward education system and a shortage of educated workers, industrialization was difficult. In the early years of the reform, a small hydroelectric power station and raw material



processing enterprises focused on agriculture and cotton were launched. These included the Chirchik hydroelectric power station, Tashkent garment, shoe, and tobacco factories, the Fergana textile enterprise, and silk factories in Samarkand and Margilan. As a result, the need for leading economists to improve the economic situation increased. In particular, the economic recession after the Civil War in the 1920s made the systematic training of economic management personnel a priority of state policy.

Tashkent State University (known as Turkestan State University until 1923, and Central Asian State University until 1960), which began operating on September 7, 1920, played a great role in establishing a higher education system in the Turkestan region and training highly qualified personnel for the national economy, and most importantly, in transforming our country into a literate country. In 1921, 2,053 students began studying at 7 faculties. The university had 54 professors, 207 teachers, 95 research workers and scientific and technical workers. These indicators indicate that the university had a high potential for that period and that educational and scientific activities were developing consistently. In the 1924-25 academic year, 889 students of 25 nationalities studied in two (evening and full-time) departments of the working faculty of the Central Asian State University (the faculty operated until 1939). Most of the students were children of workers and peasants.

According to observations, it can be said that at that time, economic education was more focused on training personnel for the industrial, financial and agricultural sectors. The demand for economists in the republic was constantly increasing from year to year. In 1924, the socio-economic faculty was established at Turkestan University on the basis of short-term courses for trade specialists. In 1925, the socio-economic faculty of Turkestan University was transformed into the faculty of social sciences, and the faculty of local economics and law was established on the basis of the faculty.

In 1929-1931, separate higher educational institutions were established on the basis of some faculties, where highly qualified personnel had accumulated experience, in order to fully satisfy the needs of the national economy in specialists. Tashkent-Polytechnic, Agricultural, Medical, Agricultural Mechanization and Irrigation Engineers, Finance and Economics (now Tashkent State University of Economics), Pedagogical Institutes, Samarkand-Trade



Institute, and Agricultural and Pedagogical Institutes were established in Khujand. In addition, 15 higher educational institutions were established at the expense of the University in Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and Tajikistan. In those years, 45 departments operated at Turkestan State University, which began to train personnel in 18 specialties.

On February 15, 1931, by government decree, a planned institute for training economists was established in Tashkent. A few years later, this higher educational institution was first called the Institute of National Economy, and later the Commercial and Cooperative Institute.

Taking into account the demand for economists in the environment of that time, on August 13, 1931, by the resolution of the Council of People's Commissars of the former USSR, the Central Asian Financial and Economic Institute was established on the basis of the faculties of economics and social sciences of Tashkent State University. As a result, the Tashkent Financial and Economic Institute was established, which trained qualified higher education personnel for the financial and credit systems of the Central Asian republics.

This period was the first stage of training economists in our country, and on September 1, 1931, the first classes began at the institute. It is no exaggeration to say that this historical event opened the way to new promising heights in the training of economists with higher education in Uzbekistan.

It is noteworthy that in 1932, 47 students were admitted to the institute, while in 1940 this figure reached 240, and in 1942 - 205, and the number of these indicators increased every year. However, these personnel were required to work not for the development of our country, but for the benefit of the colonial state. The process of training economists in our country was formed during the Soviet period under the direct influence of the dominant ideology and centralized political system. During this period, the content and directions of economic education in higher educational institutions were organized in accordance with the principles of the single-planned economy of the Soviet Union. As a result, the process of training economists was subordinated to a system that accepted centralized planning, the priority of state ownership, and an ideological approach as the main criteria, rather than market mechanisms.

During the Second World War, the industry of our country, primarily adapted to the interests of the war, developed rapidly and reached a new level. In particular,



on November 10, 1942, the All-Union Communist Party of the Soviet Union (Bolsheviks) and the Council of People's Commissars of the USSR adopted a resolution "On the construction of five hydroelectric power stations in Uzbekistan". In addition, oil and gas, metallurgy, manufacturing and other sectors of the economy developed widely. A number of industrial enterprises and factories were relocated from war zones. Against the background of these processes, great attention was paid to the training of economists.

In 1947, two more faculties were established at the Tashkent Institute of Finance and Economics - planning and economics and an evening faculty that trained specialists in various fields without separating them from production.

In 1955, the faculties of finance and economics and credit and economics were merged and transformed into the faculty of finance and economics. Taking into account the growing interest in obtaining knowledge without separating it from production, a correspondence faculty was also established.

In a word, we can say that the Tashkent State Institute of Economics became the main institution in the region that trained economists during the Soviet period. The institute trained specialists in industrial economics, finance and credit, agricultural economics, accounting and other similar areas. Graduates of the institute worked in ministries of the Uzbek SSR, planning committees, and large economic entities. In addition, graduates of this higher educational institution at that time made a great contribution to the formation of the economy, financial and banking system of our country after Uzbekistan gained its independence.

## **CONCLUSION**

To summarize the above analysis, in the Soviet era, the training of economists was one of the priority areas of state policy, and it was not for nothing that higher educational institutions, operating directly in accordance with the needs of central planning bodies, constantly trained personnel, and it was not for nothing that attention was paid to this work at the level of state policy. The Tashkent State Institute of Economics (today a university) took a leading role in this process, and today it continues to serve the development of our country. In particular, over the past period, this institution has produced more than ten academicians and thousands of doctors of science. It has trained more than 200 thousand highly educated personnel for various sectors of our national economy. The activities of



the university have played an important role in the economic development of Uzbekistan and are still serving as the foundation for the formation of an economic education system.

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