

**LAND AND WATER REFORMS IMPLEMENTED IN CENTRAL ASIA DURING THE  
YEARS OF SOVIET RULE**

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**Annotation**

The Soviet government and the Communist Party carried out long preparatory work with cunning and skill to implement the collectivization policy, which was the most favorable form of obtaining incalculable profits and income by using the peoples of the colonial countries as slaves. The land and water reform that was carried out in this regard plays an important role. The land and water reform was carried out in two stages. The first stage was carried out in the early 1920s and was suspended for a certain period due to the delimitation of the national state implemented in the country. The second stage covers the years 1925-1929.

**Keywords**

Land and water reform, Soviet government, Merv Uyezd, Central Executive Committee of the Uzbek SSR, Tashkent, Fergana, Samarkand, Zarafshan, Kashkadarya, Surkhandarya, Khorezm and Karakalpakstan, Collectivization, Andijan, Bukhara, Tashkent, Samarkand.

**Introduction**

One of the main goals of the land reform carried out in 1920-1921 was to equalize the lands of the resettled Russian landowners with the lands of the local peasants. Because these Russian immigrant peasants had received a very large amount of fertile land from the Tsarist authorities. The Soviet government thereby wanted to portray itself as a "carer" and "benefactor" of the local working people. The land reform in the country was carried out on the basis of the Soviet government's decree "On Land", and its main goal was to strengthen class stratification in the countryside. Here too, the Soviet and Communist Party officials acted in a "divide and rule" manner, dividing the rural population into rich and poor, extracting their resources and turning them against each other. The "Koshchi" Union, founded in 1921, was created for this very purpose.

**Research methods and materials.** By the mid-1920s, its ranks numbered about 160,000. This union was mainly composed of landless and landless poor peasants. Its activities were directed by the Bolsheviks. The "Koshchi" union confiscated the lands of the rich and clergy and distributed them to landless and landless peasants. As a result of the land and water reform carried out in 1921-1922, 1,722,626 dessiatines of land were confiscated in the Syrdarya, Fergana, and Yetisuv regions, and in the Merv district of the Turkmen region. Of these lands, 117,512 dessiatines were given to landless and landless Uzbek peasants, and 3,000 farms were established. Along with the land, the peasants were also given 1,517 horses, 87 camels, 1,042 cows, and 133 donkeys. In addition, tools were also distributed to the rural poor.

More than 250 thousand batmans of grain were confiscated from families displaced during the land reform, and only 12.8 thousand batmans of this were distributed to local poor peasants.

The land and water reform of 1925-1929 was carried out in accordance with the decree of the Central Executive Committee of the Uzbek SSR "On the Nationalization of Land and Water", "On Land and Water Reform" of December 2, 1925. During the reform, a land fund of 254.2

thousand desyatina was created in the Tashkent, Fergana, Samarkand and Zarafshan regions alone. 70 percent of this land was taken from middle-class peasants, who were considered “rich”. These middle-class peasants had received land from the Soviets in 1918-1922 and restored their farms.

Land and water reform was carried out in the Kashkadarya, Surkhandarya, Khorezm and Karakalpakstan regions in 1928-1929. The land and water reform in the Kashkadarya region, established on November 1, 1924, was completed in the spring of 1929. As a result of this event, large landowners were eliminated, and the farms of senior officials and merchants of the emirate were liquidated.

During the land and water reform in the Kashkadarya oasis, a total of 989 farms were completely destroyed. Of these, 339 belonged to the rich, 195 to emirs and officials, 174 to priests, 53 to merchants, and 41 to usurers. As a result of the destruction of these farms, 12,556 ta'neb of irrigated land, 5,290 ta'neb of fallow land, 1,001 horses, 1,194 oxen, and 274 camels were confiscated. At the same time, the Soviet government also dragged into the whirlpool of reform the peasant farms that made a living on their land by honest labor, turning them into kulaks, depriving them of their land, water, horses, and property. The land confiscated for the above reasons in the Kashkadarya region consisted of 17,906 tanobs of irrigated land and 7,315 tanobs of fallow land, totaling 25,311.23 tanobs.

**Results and discussion.** Land and water reform In Karakalpakstan, where the land and water reform was carried out in 1929, more than 300 semi-landowners' farms were confiscated. More than 5,000 wealthy people's lands were confiscated. 458 farms were liquidated in the Khorezm district, and 1,541 farms in the Fergana district. In total, as a result of the land and water reform carried out throughout Uzbekistan, 4,801 farms were liquidated as kulak farms, surplus land from 23,036 farms was confiscated, and 474,393 desyatina of land were added to the land fund. Along with the lands, horses and equipment were also confiscated.

Such a policy of injustice, violence, and trampling on people's dignity during collectivization led to an unprecedented increase in popular discontent with the Soviet government and created the threat of a peasant war in Uzbekistan in the early 1930s. On February 25, 1930, mass demonstrations of workers took place in several districts of the Fergana district. Then such actions were repeated in a number of districts of the Andijan, Bukhara, Tashkent, Samarkand, and Khorezm districts. In particular, the demonstrations of the people in the districts of the Fergana Valley took on the character of political struggles against Soviet power.

**Conclusion.** The implementation of land and water reform in the country was carried out by regional, district and district land commissions. To assist them, auxiliary commissions were established in the villages. Thus, as a result of the land and water reform implemented in Uzbekistan, a number of serious changes occurred in the composition of the rural population of the republic, the number of poor farmers decreased and the share of middle farmers increased. In particular, before the land and water reform, the group of poor farmers was equal to 76 percent of all farmers. After the land and water reform, their share decreased by 30 percent, and, conversely, the share of middle farmers increased from 17 percent to 52 percent.

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