

THE ROLE OF THE NEWSPAPER “PRAVDA VOSTOKA” IN WRITING THE HISTORY OF TRADE IN UZBEKISTAN DURING THE YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE

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Abstract: This scientific study analyzes, from a source-based perspective, the role of the materials of the newspaper “Pravda Vostoka” in covering the history of trade in Uzbekistan during the years of independence. Based on articles published in the newspaper, the research highlights the formation of the national trade system, the stages of development of domestic and foreign trade, the reforms implemented during the transition to a market economy, and the improvement of trade infrastructure. It also provides a scientific analysis of trade policy, export-import operations, the activities of business entities, and the conditions created by the state, using newspaper data. Furthermore, the study reveals the significance of mass media, particularly newspaper materials, as historical sources.

Keywords: trade, economy of Uzbekistan, years of independence, newspaper “Pravda Vostoka,” domestic trade, foreign trade, economic reforms, market economy, trade infrastructure, source studies.

After the Republic of Uzbekistan gained independence, fundamental reforms were implemented in all spheres of the country’s life, especially in the economic system. The gradual transition from a centrally planned economy to market relations completely transformed the nature and essence of the trade system. Instead of strictly state-controlled and centrally managed trade relations, a new economic environment based on free competition and governed by the laws of supply and demand began to take shape. This made the scientific study of the trade sector, as well as the analysis of its history and stages of development, an urgent task.

During the years of independence, comprehensive measures were implemented in Uzbekistan to reform domestic and foreign trade relations, establish national market infrastructure, introduce exchange systems, and develop small business and private entrepreneurship. The trade sector emerged not only as an important factor of economic development but also as a key sphere contributing to improving living standards, supplying the market with quality goods, and ensuring the country’s integration into the global economy.

In studying these processes comprehensively, the importance of the source base is invaluable. In particular, mass media, including periodical publications, play a significant role as historical sources that directly reflect economic and social changes. Through them, it is possible to trace the economic policy of a given period, implemented reforms, public opinion, and the dynamics of economic processes.

From this perspective, the newspaper “Pravda Vostoka” is considered one of the leading sources of information covering changes in Uzbekistan’s economy, particularly in the trade sector, during the years of independence. The newspaper regularly published articles on the transition to a market economy, the formation of trade relations, priority directions of domestic and foreign trade policy, the development of the exchange system, and the expansion of entrepreneurial activity.

During the years of independence, special attention was paid to regulating the trade system and strengthening its legal and regulatory framework, particularly in protecting consumer interests and ensuring product quality and safety. These processes were reflected in the

periodical press, especially in the pages of “Pravda Vostoka,” which serves as an important source for studying reforms in this field.

In particular, the article “Quality Under the Protection of Law” by M. Kaimov and N. Nikolayev provides a comprehensive overview of the current state of food safety and the sanitary control system. It presents the results of large-scale inspections carried out by sanitary-epidemiological services over a short period and demonstrates the strengthening of state control over product quality. Identified violations, administrative measures taken, and the temporary suspension of certain enterprises confirm the serious approach of the state to food safety. At the same time, the prevention of low-quality products entering the country indicates that external trade control mechanisms were also effectively established [1].

Another important source is the article entitled “We Are All Consumers” by D. Mirtadjiyev, which analyzes the system of consumer rights protection and its practical outcomes. Based on the data presented in the article, it is evident that the level of public обращения to state authorities has been increasing, and a significant portion of these appeals is directly related to the trade sector. This indicates that in the context of emerging market relations, the protection of consumer rights has become an important social issue [2].

The article also provides information on measures taken to compensate material damage inflicted on consumers, strengthen penalties for violations, and ensure transparency in trade and service sectors. In particular, efforts to combat the failure to issue receipts, strengthen control over the sale of pharmaceutical products, and abolish certain fees in markets are assessed as important steps aimed at protecting the interests of the population [2].

Furthermore, the development of the trade system in Uzbekistan has not been limited to traditional trade relations but has also been characterized by the emergence of new types of services and market institutions. These processes are widely reflected in the pages of the newspaper “Pravda Vostoka,” making it possible to observe the gradual development of market economy infrastructure.

In particular, the article “Higher Demand — Wider Market” by A. Nagayev analyzes the formation and development of the valuation services market. The data presented in the article indicate that measures have been implemented in the country to regulate valuation activities legally and strengthen their institutional foundations. Specifically, the issuance of licenses and qualification certificates, the increase in the number of valuation organizations, and the formation of a corps of qualified specialists demonstrate the rapid development of this sector. At the same time, the entry of international companies into this market indicates the growing openness and investment attractiveness of the national economy. This reflects the enrichment of trade relations with modern mechanisms [3].

Additionally, the article “In the Interests of Consumers” by Z. Fayziyev is significant in highlighting issues related to the modernization of trade infrastructure and the development of the consumer market. The article analyzes the main directions of state policy aimed at supporting wholesale and retail trade systems, including tax incentives and financial support mechanisms. These measures have contributed to ensuring the economic stability of the trade network and increasing its competitiveness [4].

During the years of independence, the development of trade relations in Uzbekistan has been closely linked with the activities of small businesses and private entrepreneurship. These processes are extensively covered in the pages of the newspaper “Pravda Vostoka,” allowing for the observation of the stages of formation of the market economy and its practical outcomes. In particular, the article entitled “Development of Small and Medium Business” analyzes the state policy of supporting entrepreneurship and its practical results. It highlights that the implementation of investment projects, the establishment of new production enterprises, and the

expansion of the service sector indicate the strengthening of trade infrastructure. At the same time, certain problems are also noted, such as the insufficient development of information and consulting services, and the need to improve infrastructure, expand credit opportunities, and attract investments is emphasized [5].

In addition, the article by A. Tashkentbayev entitled “Traps for Entrepreneurs or What Hinders the Transition to a Civilized Market” provides a comprehensive analysis of the challenges faced by entrepreneurs during the transition to market relations. The article identifies key obstacles limiting entrepreneurial activity, such as difficulties in the allocation of торговых spaces, high rental costs, and bureaucratic barriers in obtaining permits. It also emphasizes that shortcomings in the customs and certification systems, as well as complications in the formalization of goods, negatively affect the efficiency of trade processes. These issues highlight the need for deepening institutional reforms in the process of transition to a market economy [6].

The newspaper “Pravda Vostoka” also covers not only domestic trade issues but also global markets and emerging economic trends. In particular, the article entitled “The Market of Gas Motor Fuel: Trends and Tendencies” analyzes changes in the global energy market, the development of alternative fuel types, and their economic significance. The article highlights the economic and environmental advantages of natural gas, its widespread use in the transport sector, and the growing global demand. Such information is important for studying Uzbekistan’s foreign trade policy and its position in the energy resources market [7].

In general, these articles once again confirm that the newspaper “Pravda Vostoka” serves as an important source in covering the development of the trade system, the entrepreneurial environment, market infrastructure, and international economic trends in Uzbekistan during the years of independence. The data presented in these materials make it possible to conduct a scientific analysis of the formation of trade relations, existing problems, and ways to address them.

Conclusion: This study demonstrates that the materials of the newspaper “Pravda Vostoka” constitute an important and reliable source for studying the history of trade in Uzbekistan during the years of independence. The information presented in the newspaper makes it possible to identify the gradual development of the trade system, the reforms implemented during the transition to a market economy, and the expansion of both domestic and foreign trade.

Furthermore, it is substantiated that the development of the trade sector has played a crucial role in ensuring economic stability, supporting entrepreneurship, and strengthening international economic relations. The results of the study once again confirm that mass media, particularly newspaper materials, represent an important scientific source for studying economic history.

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