



AUTONOMY OF TURKESTAN

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Annotation: The autonomy of Turkestan (1917-1924) was an independence movement formed after the fall of the Russian Empire, which sought political and social reforms in its territory and included parts of the Turkestan provinces. This autonomy, formed as a result of the February Revolution of 1917, achieved the transformation into Turkestan autonomy in 1918. Turkestan autonomy in stages tried to create its own independent state structures and political offices in the process of entering the Russian Soviet Federation, but was finally eliminated by the Soviet government in 1924.

Keywords: Turkestan autonomy, independence, Russian Empire, Soviet power, February 1917 revolution, Turkestan autonomy, political reform, national identity, self-government, Turkestan peoples, Soviet Turkestan, national organizations, independence movement, historical process, social reform, Turkestan history, 1924, Soviet Federation.

The October-November 1917 riots in Tashkent and Kokand caused an escalation of socio-social movements in Turkestan. An extraordinary IV Congress of Turkestan Oka Muslims was held in Kokand on 26-28 November 1917. At the request of democratic Muslim intellectuals, representatives of the European part of the Turkestan population also participated in the Congress on an equal footing. The resolution of the Congress adopted on November 27 states: "the population of different nationalities living in Turkestan, showing the will of the peoples calling for the Russian Revolution to define their rights, declares Turkestan as territorial autonomous within the Federal Russian republic." On November 28, the name of the founding State was determined and became the so-called "autonomy of Turkestan". Until the All-Russian Constituent Assembly was convened, it was decided that power would be fully in the hands of the Turkestan Provisional Council and the Turkestan people's (National) Assembly. A government of 12 members of the Provisional Council began to be formed. During the Congress process, the Turkestan National Assembly was elected with 32 members. As part of the Provisional Government of Turkestan autonomy, active participants of the autonomy movement, including the following, became members of the khukumat:

Muhammadjan Tinishboyev-Prime Minister, Minister of internal affairs, member of the State Duma of the 2nd convocation, member of the Turkestan committee of the Provisional Government, Railway engineer.

Islam Sultan Shoahmedov (Shagiakhmedov) is a deputy prime minister, member of the Central Committee of the All – Russian Council of Muslims, jurist.

Mustafa Chouqay-Minister of Foreign Affairs, Member of the Turkestan committee of the Provisional Government, Chairman of the Turkestan Okrug Muslim Council, jurist.

Ubaydulla Khojaev () was a minister of war, member of the Central Committee of the All – Russian Muslim Council, jurist.

Hidoyatbek Yurguli (Yurali) Agayev – Minister of land and Water Resources, agronomist.

Obidzhan Mahmudov-Minister of food, Deputy Chairman of the Duma of the city of Kokand, public figure

Abdurahman O'rozayev-Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs, lawyer.

Solomon Abramovich Gersfeld-Minister of finance, lawyer.

The remaining 4 seats to be part of the Provisional Government were allocated to them so that candidates could be nominated from among the representatives of the European population.

When the Congress ended, on December 1, a special petition was published, signed by members of the Provisional Government of Turkestan autonomy (all 8 people). The petition called for unity and solidarity among all residents in Turkestan: regardless of race, nationality, religion, gender, age, and political affiliation. Also, the Government of the autonomy of Turkestan enthusiastically congratulated the decision-making of the national statehood, and prominent enlighteners, religious, public and political figures made one-on-one speeches in the press and congratulated the autonomy. The pages of the newspaper "Ulugh Turkestan", published at that time, were flooded with messages supporting Turkestan autonomy from Kokand, Samarkand, Tashkent, Kaspiyorti region.

Since the activities of the new government were hotly supported not only by the Indigenous people living in the Caucasus or the Fergana Valley, but also in the entire Turkestan region, the Government of the Turkestan autonomy gained a lot of attention among the people in the short term. Therefore, the enlightened Fitrat called the night when autonomy was declared "our national cherish in spirit".

Representatives of the autonomous government, inspired by the ardent support of the masses of the people, began intensive activities. From the earliest days, laws approved by the National Assembly were promulgated, and the new government attracted prominent jurists to prepare a state Constitution. Several government newspapers began to be published in Uzbek, Kazakh and Russian. The government also paid special attention to the creation of a national army. The number of soldiers was estimated at 2,000 at the time of the review in the presence of Military Minister Ubaydulla Khodaev. In addition there were about two thousand mirshabs in Kokand, led by the ergash qorshi.

The new government has set out to issue domestic bonds in the economic sector worth Rs 30 crore. Because funds were needed for the publication of newspapers, the provision of autonomous troops, as well as for the internal expenses of the government. Also, members of the new government took practical steps to solve the problem of bringing grain through Orenburg to the people of Turkestan, who were trapped in a hunger strike.

However, the Turkestan autonomy, supported by the general public, was not approved by the Bolsheviks. On December 13, 1917, residents of the Old City of Tashkent held a peaceful demonstration under the slogan "for an autonomous Turkestan". The Bolsheviks in the Tashkent City Soviet, on the other hand, ordered order with the armed forces in the city. As a result, peaceful protest participants were shot and killed 16 people.

Nevertheless, support for the autonomy government continued. In particular, the main issue of the i Emergency Congress of Muslim workers', soldiers 'and peasants' deputies, held in Kokand on December 26-30, 1917, was also the question of the attitude to Turkestan autonomy. This Congress, attended by about 200 representatives from all over the Turkestan territory, had the following points in its declaration on December 30, which adopted the support of the government of the Turkestan autonomy, as well as a vote of no confidence in

the Council of people's commissars of the Turkestan region: "the Soviet of people's commissars of the Turkestan; Noting that the only government body in Turkestan is the Government of the Turkestan autonomy, formed at the Congress of all Muslims and filled at the Congress of Muslim workers, soldiers and peasants, the Congress of Muslim workers, peasants and soldiers wishes the Turkestan people's commissars Soviet to immediately delegate power to the Turkestan autonomous government and the National Assembly".

It should be noted that the new statehood was built on the principles of proportionality of all national groups, on the basis of the harmony of all-democratic and national values. As noted above, the Provisional Government of the autonomy of Turkestan had begun to carry out intense actions to solve the tasks of providing the population with food and daily necessities, creating its own financial fund, establishing mutual cooperation with various political parties and movements. Unlike the Soviet authorities, the Government of the autonomy of Turkestan was organized on a legal basis. The Government of the autonomy of Turkestan had received the authority of a wide Muslim mass and a European population in a Democratic mood. Therefore, it can be said that the autonomy of Turkestan was a self-determined people's Republic.

However, the Bolsheviks of the country considered the Government of the autonomy of Turkestan a great danger. In the extraordinary IV Congress of workers, soldier and peasant Deputies of the Turkestan region, held in Tashkent on January 19-26, 1918, a completely negative reaction to autonomy was expressed. This Congress decreed the imprisonment of the Government of the autonomy of Turkestan and its members. The Congress adopted the resolution of the Bolshevik faction on the autonomy of Turkestan. In this resolution, the legitimate government of Turkestan was called a hypocritical "gang of karaguruhists". As if this were not enough, this Congress brought cruel condemnation over the autonomy of Turkestan, the first democratic and popular government in the territory that took the field as a defender of the interests of the indigenous population, which had legal force under the pressure of the Bolsheviks. On January 30, 1918, the Turkestan ISS began military actions to end the autonomy government. For this, the Turkestan Bolsheviks made extensive use of pitiless armed druzhinas, which, in addition to the red soldiers, were formed from members of the Armenian party "Dashnoksutyun".

The fighting, which began in the afternoon of 31 January, lasted for several days. Efforts to negotiate in order to prevent blood clots did not work. On 19 February 1918, the Turkestan autonomous government operating in the city of Kokand was overthrown by bloody Bolshevik attacks. The head of government, Mustafa Chouqay, was forced to leave the city and go into hiding. Some of the ministers were killed and some were captured. As a result of terrible fighting and looting, 10,000 Kokand were killed.

The overthrow of the Government of the Turkestan autonomy was perceived by the turkestanis as new evidence of the existence of Russia's aggressive plans for Turkestan, and they set out to defend their homeland from the invaders with weapons in their hands. This established the anti-Soviet independence movement in Turkestan.

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