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**THE NATIONAL COMPOSITION OF THE ASSOCIATION OF ADVOCATES IN
UZBEKISTAN AND ITS CHANGES DURING 1941–1945 (BASED ON THE DOCUMENTS
FROM THE NATIONAL ARCHIVE OF UZBEKISTAN)**

Abstract

This article examines the national composition of lawyers in Uzbekistan during the period of the Second World War, the changes that occurred within the legal profession during these years, and the policy pursued by the Soviet government in this sphere, on the basis of archival documents preserved in the National Archive of Uzbekistan. Particular attention is devoted to the transformation of the social and ethnic structure of the legal community under wartime conditions, including the effects of evacuation processes, mobilization to the front, staff shortages, and the increasing role of centrally directed Soviet administrative policies. The study also analyzes the activities of republican and local judicial institutions, the functioning of bar associations, and the recruitment and redistribution of legal personnel during the war years. In addition, the article explores the relationship between state ideology and the legal profession, revealing how political control and nationality policy influenced the composition and professional opportunities of lawyers in Uzbekistan. By drawing upon previously underutilized archival materials, the research highlights both the continuity and the changes in the Soviet legal system during wartime and demonstrates the broader socio-political processes that affected the legal sphere in Uzbekistan between 1941 and 1945.

Keywords: The Second World War; the Uzbek SSR; national composition; Association of advocates; advocates.

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**ЎЗБЕКСТАНДАҒЫ АДВОКАТТАР АССОЦИАЦИЯСЫНЫҢ ҰЛТТЫҚ
ҚҰРАМЫ ЖӘНЕ 1941–1945 ЖЫЛДАР АРАСЫНДАҒЫ ӨЗГЕРІСТЕРІ (ЎЗБЕКСТАН
ҰЛТТЫҚ АРХИВИ ҚҰЖАТТАРЫ НЕГІЗІНДЕ)**

Аңдатпа

Бұл мақалада Ўзбекстан Ұлттық архивы қорларында сақталған архив құжаттары негізінде Екінші дүниежүзілік соғыс жылдарындағы Ўзбекстан адвокаттарының ұлттық құрамы, осы кезеңде заң саласында орын алған өзгерістер және кеңес үкіметінің аталған саладағы саясаты қарастырылады. Зерттеуде соғыс жағдайындағы заңгерлік қауымдастықтың әлеуметтік және этникалық құрылымының өзгеруіне ерекше назар аударылады. Атап айтқанда, эвакуациялық үдерістердің, майданға жұмылдырудың, кадр тапшылығының және орталықтандырылған кеңестік әкімшілік саясаттың күшеюінің ықпалы талданады. Сонымен қатар, мақалада республикалық және жергілікті сот мекемелерінің қызметі, адвокаттар алқаларының жұмыс істеуі, сондай-ақ соғыс жылдарындағы заң кадрларын қабылдау мен

қайта бөлу мәселелері зерттеледі. Бұдан бөлек, мемлекеттік идеология мен заңгерлік кәсіп арасындағы байланыс ашылып, саяси бақылау мен ұлт саясатының Өзбекстандағы адвокаттардың құрамы мен кәсіби мүмкіндіктеріне қалай әсер еткені көрсетіледі. Бұрынғылыми айналымға аз тартылған архив материалдарына сүйене отырып, зерттеу соғыс жылдарындағы кеңестік құқық жүйесіндегі сабақтастық пен өзгерістерді, сондай-ақ 1941–1945 жылдары Өзбекстанның құқық саласына ықпал еткен кең ауқымды әлеуметтік-саяси үдерістерді айқындайды. Сонымен бірге, мақалада соғыс кезеңіндегі құқықтық басқару жүйесінің ерекшеліктері мен оның қоғамға ықпалы да жан-жақты сипатталады.

Түйін сөздер: Екінші дүниежүзілік соғыс; Өзбек КСР-і; ұлттық құрам; адвокаттар алқасы; адвокаттар.

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НАЦИОНАЛЬНЫЙ СОСТАВ КОЛЛЕГИИ АДВОКАТОВ В УЗБЕКИСТАНЕ И ЕГО ИЗМЕНЕНИЯ В 1941–1945 ГОДАХ (НА ОСНОВЕ ДОКУМЕНТОВ НАЦИОНАЛЬНОГО АРХИВА УЗБЕКИСТАНА)

Аннотация

В данной статье рассматриваются национальный состав адвокатов в Узбекистане в годы Второй мировой войны, изменения, произошедшие в юридической сфере в этот период, а также политика советского государства в данной области на основе архивных документов, хранящихся в Национальном архиве Узбекистана. Особое внимание уделяется трансформации социального и этнического состава юридического сообщества в условиях войны, включая влияние эвакуационных процессов, мобилизации на фронт, нехватки кадров и усиления роли централизованной советской административной политики. В исследовании также анализируются деятельность республиканских и местных судебных учреждений, функционирование коллегий адвокатов, а также процессы привлечения и перераспределения юридических кадров в годы войны. Кроме того, в статье рассматривается взаимосвязь между государственной идеологией и юридической профессией, раскрывается влияние политического контроля и национальной политики на состав адвокатов и их профессиональные возможности в Узбекистане. Опираясь на ранее недостаточно изученные архивные материалы, исследование показывает как преемственность, так и изменения в советской правовой системе в военный период, а также демонстрирует более широкие социально-политические процессы, оказавшие влияние на правовую сферу Узбекистана в 1941–1945 годах.

Ключевые слова: Вторая мировая война; Узбекская ССР; национальный состав; коллегия адвокатов; адвокаты.

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ÖZBEKİSTAN'DA AVUKATLAR BİRLİĞİNİN MİLLÎ YAPISI VE 1941–1945 YILLARINDAKİ DEĞİŞİMLERİ (ÖZBEKİSTAN MİLLÎ ARŞİVİ BELGELERİ ESASINDA)

Özet

Bu makale, National Archive of Uzbekistan arşiv belgelerine dayanarak, İkinci Dünya Savaşı yıllarında Özbekistan'daki avukatların ulusal yapısını, savaş döneminde hukuk alanında meydana gelen değişimleri ve Sovyet yönetiminin bu alanda izlediği politikaları incelemektedir. Çalışmada özellikle savaş koşulları altında hukuk camiasının sosyal ve etnik yapısında meydana gelen dönüşümler ele alınmaktadır. Bu bağlamda tahliye süreçlerinin, cepheye seferberliğin, personel yetersizliğinin ve merkezi Sovyet idari politikalarının güçlenmesinin hukuk mesleği üzerindeki etkileri ayrıntılı biçimde analiz edilmektedir.

Araştırmada ayrıca cumhuriyet ve yerel yargı kurumlarının faaliyetleri, baroların işleyişi ile savaş yıllarında hukuk personelinin temini ve yeniden dağıtımı konuları değerlendirilmektedir. Bunun yanı sıra devlet ideolojisi ile hukuk mesleği arasındaki ilişki incelenerek, siyasi denetim ve milliyetler politikasının Özbekistan'daki avukatların mesleki fırsatları ve ulusal bileşimi üzerindeki etkisi ortaya konulmaktadır. Daha önce sınırlı ölçüde kullanılan arşiv kaynaklarına dayanan çalışma, 1941–1945 yılları arasında Sovyet hukuk sistemindeki süreklilik ve değişimleri, aynı zamanda Özbekistan'daki hukuk alanını etkileyen daha geniş sosyal ve siyasal süreçleri göstermektedir.

Anahtar kelimeler: İkinci Dünya Savaşı, Özbek SSC, millî yapı, avukatlar birliği, avukatlar.

Introduction.

The Second World War had a profound impact on all spheres of socio-political and economic life within the republic. In particular, significant transformations took place in the national composition and institutional structure of the advocacy system of the Uzbek SSR. Wartime conditions not only intensified the shortage of qualified legal personnel, but also altered the balance between local and non-local representatives within the legal profession. These processes were closely connected with evacuation campaigns, military mobilization, and the broader кадровая policy pursued by the Soviet authorities during the war years.

According to archival materials, in 1940 the total number of advocates in the Uzbek SSR amounted to 332, while in 1941 this figure increased by 69 persons. The principal reason for such growth was the evacuation of advocates and legal specialists from territories occupied by German troops or located near the front line. Many experienced lawyers from the western regions of the Soviet Union were relocated to Central Asia, including Uzbekistan, where they continued their professional activities within local judicial institutions and bar associations. This process significantly influenced the ethnic composition of the republic's advocacy system and strengthened the position of Russian-speaking specialists within the legal sphere.

At the same time, the number of representatives of Uzbek and other local nationalities within the advocacy system increased by only five persons in comparison with 1940. This limited growth was mainly connected with the recruitment of students from the Tashkent Law Institute into advocacy practice. Despite the Soviet government's official policy of promoting local national cadres, the participation of indigenous representatives in the legal profession remained comparatively low. During this period, local nationalities constituted only 33.5 percent of the total number of advocates functioning in the republic. Such disproportions reflected broader structural inequalities that had developed within the Soviet legal-administrative system long before the war.

One of the principal factors contributing to the reduction in the number of local legal personnel was their mobilization into the ranks of the Red Army. Wartime conscription considerably weakened the already limited representation of local nationalities within advocacy institutions. Archival sources demonstrate that from the Namangan Regional Association alone, three advocates were drafted into military service between July and December 1941. Similarly, from the Fergana Regional Association, eight advocates were mobilized during 1941–1942, while in Andijan Region five advocates joined the front in 1942 [1]. The departure of these specialists created serious

difficulties for the functioning of regional legal institutions and increased the workload of the remaining personnel.

The decline became even more visible in 1942. During the first half of the year, the republic had 110 advocates belonging to local nationalities; however, by the second half of 1942 their number had decreased by eleven persons. Consequently, the proportion of local representatives within the advocacy system fell to 30.07 percent. In official reports of the People's Commissariat of Justice of the Uzbek SSR devoted to the activities of advocacy institutions, this situation was directly linked to wartime mobilization policies. One report explicitly stated that "such a decline is occurring annually in connection with conscription into the ranks of the Red Army" [2].

These developments demonstrate that the war not only disrupted the quantitative structure of the advocacy system, but also reshaped its social and national composition. The shortage of local personnel, combined with the influx of evacuated specialists from other Soviet republics, strengthened the centralizing tendencies of the Soviet legal administration. At the same time, wartime conditions revealed the dependence of the Uzbek SSR's legal system on all-Union кадровая resources and highlighted the difficulties of forming a stable national legal intelligentsia under the conditions of war and political control.

Discussion of results

The staffing needs of the Associations of advocates during the war years were largely addressed through the incorporation of evacuated legal personnel from the western regions of the Soviet Union. The mass evacuation caused by the German invasion significantly altered the demographic and professional structure of the legal system in the Uzbek SSR. In many regions, evacuated advocates constituted a considerable proportion, and in some cases even the majority, of practicing legal professionals. According to archival data, in 1942 alone, 28 evacuated advocates were admitted to the Tashkent City Association of advocates. In the Fergana region, out of a total of 55 advocates, 29 were evacuees from other parts of the USSR. Among them, 3 arrived from Leningrad, 7 from Kyiv, 2 from Odessa, and 2 from Chernivtsi, while the remaining 15 advocates were relocated from cities such as Stalino, Dnepropetrovsk, Georgiev, Perovsk, Vitebsk, Krasnodar, Kharkiv, Smolensk, Ostrov, Chernihiv, the Chuvash ASSR, Simferopol, Chişinău, Ordzhonikidze, and Kupyansk. A similar situation was observed in the Andijan region, where in 1942, 26 out of 40 advocates had been evacuated from the western territories of the USSR. According to the resolution of the Presidium of the Tashkent Regional Association dated January 5, 1942, a special "Legal Consultation for Public Sector Services" was established in Tashkent, where 12 advocates were employed, including 10 evacuees from Moscow, Leningrad, and Odessa. Furthermore, as of January 1942, 12 members were admitted to the Namangan Regional Association, of whom 10 were evacuated advocates [3].

Such circumstances could be observed across almost all regions of the republic. One of the principal reasons for this imbalance was the ineffective territorial distribution of evacuated legal personnel by the Soviet authorities. In practice, this policy frequently ignored the ethnic and linguistic composition of the local population. For example, despite the presence of nine advocates at Branch No. 2 of the legal consultation office in the Frunze district of Tashkent, none of them belonged to the Uzbek nationality. This situation created difficulties in communication between advocates and the predominantly Uzbek-speaking population, thereby limiting access to qualified legal assistance for local residents.

The disproportions in the national composition of the advocacy system became particularly evident in the Fergana region. In 1942, the regional Association of advocates consisted of 55 advocates, including only 8 Uzbeks, while the remaining personnel included 11 Russians, 27 Jews, 4 Ukrainians, 2 Tatars, and one representative each of Kazakh, Kyrgyz, and Armenian nationalities [4]. Official inspection reports openly criticized this imbalance. One report stated: "The presented figures clearly demonstrate the insufficient representation of Uzbek nationals within the composition of the advocacy system. This situation has led to the inadequate provision of legal services to the population in the Fergana region, where the overwhelming majority of inhabitants

are Uzbeks. Out of the 9 districts in the region, only 4 (Altyaryk – Khasanov, Kaganovich – Khojaev, Tashlak – Fazilova, and Kuibyshev – Pirmukhamedov) had legal consultation offices staffed by Uzbek advocates (3 Uzbeks and 1 representative of Tatar nationality). In the remaining districts, despite the predominantly Uzbek composition of the population, legal consultations were conducted by advocates of European nationalities. As a result, the legal needs of the local population were not fully met. No efforts were made, nor are currently being made, to train or recruit Uzbek representatives into the Fergana advocacy system” [5].

At the same time, applicants belonging to local nationalities often faced administrative obstacles when attempting to enter the profession. Various bureaucratic restrictions established by the Soviet authorities limited their access to legal employment, regardless of educational background or professional qualifications. Archival materials reveal that between December 1941 and February 1942, 48 citizens submitted applications for employment in the Tashkent City Association, yet many of these applications were rejected. The principal reason for refusal was the absence of permanent residence registration in the city of Tashkent [6]. In reality, such regulations disproportionately affected representatives of local nationalities and rural populations, further reducing their participation within the legal sphere.

Recognizing the growing кадровая crisis within the advocacy system, the Soviet government attempted to address the shortage of qualified personnel during the later stages of the war. In particular, Order No. 64 issued on December 20, 1944, by the People’s Commissar of Justice of the USSR, Konstantin Rychkov, emphasized that in many regions of the Soviet Union — approximately 1,100 districts — the preparation of young legal personnel remained inadequate. The document specifically highlighted that in the Central Asian republics, representatives of local nationalities accounted for only 15–20 percent of the total number of advocates. To remedy this situation, the order prescribed the establishment of six-month training courses for advocacy personnel on an all-Union basis in 1945, with 1,050 candidates scheduled for admission. Of these, 60 advocates were to be trained from the Uzbek SSR [7].

However, the Soviet policy of “nationalization” within the administrative and legal apparatus underwent substantial changes during the war years. In practice, the primary objective was no longer the broad inclusion of local populations into state administration, but rather the adaptation of the state apparatus to local conditions. One of the most visible manifestations of this policy was the organization of Uzbek language courses for employees of European nationality working in government institutions [8, 23]. Consequently, the question of systematically preparing legal personnel from among the indigenous nationalities and promoting them into regional and central institutions gradually lost importance within the priorities of the republican leadership.

The wartime influx of evacuated advocates temporarily strengthened the legal system of the republic, yet this situation proved unstable after the conclusion of the war. Many evacuated specialists returned to their native regions in the western Soviet republics once hostilities ended. As a result, significant staffing shortages emerged in several areas of Uzbekistan. This problem became especially acute in the central cities of the republic. For example, during the first half of 1946, 30 advocates were removed from the Samarkand Regional Association, including 26 who left due to their return to their homelands after the end of the war [9]. Such developments once again exposed the fragile dependence of the Uzbek SSR’s legal system on external кадровая resources.

By the final years of the Second World War, the national composition of the advocacy system continued to vary considerably across regions. In the first half of 1945, the advocacy system of the Andijan region included 24 advocates, among whom there were 9 Uzbeks, 3 Tatars, 8 Jews, and one representative each of Kazakh, Bashkir, Russian, and Armenian nationalities. Thus, representatives of non-local nationalities accounted for 62.5 percent of the total number of advocates in the region [10]. These figures demonstrate that despite official Soviet rhetoric concerning the promotion of indigenous cadres, the legal profession in Uzbekistan during the war years remained predominantly dependent upon specialists relocated from other parts of the Soviet Union.

Conclusion

The Second World War exerted a profound influence on the national composition and institutional development of the advocacy system in the Uzbek SSR. The wartime transformation of the legal sphere reflected broader Soviet nationality and кадровая policies implemented throughout the republic. As a result of the Bolshevik policy of “localization” and “uzbekization,” the participation of representatives of local nationalities within the advocacy system increased to a certain degree. Nevertheless, this process remained incomplete and inconsistent. A considerable number of local advocates were mobilized into the ranks of the Red Army, which significantly weakened the representation of indigenous personnel within legal institutions. The resulting shortage of specialists was compensated primarily through the relocation and employment of evacuated advocates from the western regions of the Soviet Union.

The influx of evacuated legal personnel temporarily strengthened the operational capacity of the advocacy system, particularly in large urban centers such as Tashkent, Samarkand, and Fergana. Many of these advocates possessed higher legal education, extensive practical experience, and familiarity with Soviet judicial procedures. However, despite their professional qualifications, the majority lacked knowledge of the Uzbek language and local social conditions. This circumstance created numerous practical difficulties in communication with the predominantly Uzbek-speaking population and often limited the accessibility and effectiveness of legal assistance. In several regions, legal consultations were conducted almost entirely by advocates of European nationalities, while the training and recruitment of local legal personnel remained insufficient.

Consequently, the wartime advocacy system in Uzbekistan became characterized by a contradiction between the official Soviet policy of promoting national cadres and the practical dependence on evacuated specialists from other Soviet republics. The developments of 1941–1945 demonstrate that wartime mobilization, evacuation processes, and centralized Soviet administrative policies substantially reshaped the social and national structure of the legal profession in Uzbekistan. At the same time, these processes revealed the persistent structural challenges involved in forming a stable national legal intelligentsia within the framework of the Soviet system.

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