

POST-WAR ECONOMIC RECONSTRUCTION AND FOREIGN ECONOMIC RELATIONS IN UZBEKISTAN (1946–1953)

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Abstract

This article analyzes the economic reforms implemented in Uzbekistan within the framework of the fourth five-year plan of 1946–1953. The main attention was paid to the restoration of industry, the development of agriculture and the expansion of the education sector. At the same time, the republic increased its export potential by activating foreign economic relations. The analysis shows that during this period the republic's economy developed rapidly. The topic deeply covers the post-war recovery processes of Uzbekistan.

Keywords: Fourth five-year plan, economic recovery, heavy industry, agriculture, educational reforms, foreign relations, export, USSR, economy of Uzbekistan, post-war development.

After the end of World War II, the most important task facing the Soviet Union was the restoration and further development of the devastated national economy. The fourth five-year plan, adopted on March 18, 1946, envisaged not only economic recovery, but also a significant increase in the level of production above pre-war indicators. This plan was also of great importance for the union republics, such as Uzbekistan.

During this period, Uzbekistan paid great attention to the development of heavy industry, the development of agriculture, and the expansion of education. At the same time, foreign economic relations were also actively established. In particular, the establishment of export-import relations with the socialist countries of Europe opened up new prospects for the country's economy. The sustainable development of Uzbek industry and agriculture played an important role in this work.

On March 18, 1946, the Fourth Five-Year Plan was approved. Its main goal was not only to restore the national economy, but also to significantly raise it above the pre-war level. A total of 250.3 billion soums were allocated for the five-year period[1].

According to the plan, the restoration and development of heavy industry was first and foremost determined (by 1950, it was planned to increase the volume of production in 1940 by 48%). For this, of course, emphasis was placed on the export of industrial products manufactured in Uzbekistan through strengthening foreign relations.

The second important direction was the development of agriculture, which was planned to increase by 27% by 1950 compared to 1940. This was supposed to make it possible to abolish the food card system.

The third priority was the restoration and expansion of educational institutions, which was aimed at creating the necessary material and technical base for the development of construction, agriculture, and science.

All sectors of the economy needed factories that produced machines, equipment, and transport. As a result, by 1953 the share of products of group "A" (heavy industry) had increased from 61.2% in 1940 to 70%, and in 1950 the pace of industrial development was twice as high as before the war[2]. In the post-war period, attention was also paid to the issue of exports. As early as April 1945, the sending of cotton from Uzbekistan and Tajikistan to the workers of the Polish city of Andrikhov was a sign that economic ties with the socialist countries of Europe were beginning to be established. The workers of this city had rebuilt a textile factory destroyed by the Nazis, and this factory needed raw materials. After some time, new equipment from Uzbekistan and Tajikistan also arrived at this factory[3].

Uzbekistan's participation in the foreign relations of the Soviet Union has expanded especially since the beginning of the fifth five-year plan. This was due to the rapid growth of the republic's industry, its qualitative reconstruction and technical re-equipment, the emergence of new sectors of the national economy, and, consequently, a significant increase in the range of exported goods. This is evidenced by the fact that between 1951 and 1961, the volume of exported goods from Uzbekistan increased by 5 times, and the production of machinery and equipment by 10 times.

The fourth five-year plan of 1946–1953 was a decisive stage in ensuring economic development in Uzbekistan. The increase in the share of heavy industry in the republic, growth in agriculture, and reforms in the field of education further strengthened the country's economic potential. The expansion of foreign economic relations, in turn, increased its position in the international arena through the export of industrial products. These processes strengthened Uzbekistan's position in the economy of the Soviet Union and served to improve it technically and economically.

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