

**Turkestan Autonomous National Army** 

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## **ABSTRACT**

This article discusses the Autonomy of Turkestan, the first national democratic state in our history, and its national army, who formed it and to what extent.

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## Introduction

The history of Uzbek statehood includes many states and dynasties. The historically short-lived Turkestan Autonomy also has a place in the history of Uzbek statehood. Although autonomy existed for a short time, today it has its own researchers.

On November 26-28, 1917, the IV Extraordinary Congress of Muslims of the whole Turkestan region was held in Kokand, where the Government of the Turkestan Autonomy was formed. A number of important issues discussed at the congress included the establishment of an autonomous people's militia and the establishment of a national army to maintain peace among the peoples living in Turkestan.

#### **Materials And Methods**

Autonomy consisted of 8 people, and Ubaydulla Khojayev (1882-1938), a lawyer by profession, was appointed Minister of Defense of the Autonomous Region. Later, when Ubaydulla Khojayev was not in Kokand, Ufa agronomist (sometimes called a colonel) Mahdi Chanishev became chairman of the military council of the Turkestan Autonomous Government in February 1918. He served as commander of the Autonomous Army. According to sources, Mahdi Chanishev was appointed commander-in-chief of the entire police force to maintain order and discipline in the city during the events in Kokand.

Chanishev was especially active during the battles with the Bolsheviks. After the suppression of autonomy, along with 15 heads of government - M. Mirakhmedov, A. Urozayev, Y. Ageyev, Kushbegiyev, M. Chanishev was forced to go to Skobelev (Fergana), but on the same day they is shot [1, 68].

The activities of the military, which is the mainstay of the autonomy, are also covered in detail in several issues of the Great Turkestan. In particular, in his articles "The Mission of the Autonomous

Government", "The Autonomy of Turkestan and Turkestans", "The Power of Turkestan Autonomy Needs Power" 7 the main tasks of the Turkestan Autonomous Government are the formation of the National Army of Autonomy, military courts and organizations considered to be composed. The article, "The Mission of the Autonomous Government," states, "How many armed soldiers were brought to Turkestan from abroad during the dictatorial tsarist government?" With the declaration of autonomy and the transfer of control to the people, the need for these troops ended. It is worth noting that the troops who are now in other cities in Turkestan have each returned to their homeland, "he wrote in an article titled" Autonomy of Turkestan and Turkestans. "It is not difficult to declare autonomy and prospects. But applying and executing a mother requires a lot of experience, knowledge, and dedication. With the declaration of autonomy, Turkestans are receiving sacred and responsible services, as well as great and difficult ones. One of the most important of these tasks is the establishment of military courts and organizations and the organization of officers' affairs."[5]

### Results

In the January 26, 1918 issue of the newspaper "El Bayrogi" was published an article entitled "Autonomy has been declared" under the pseudonym "Teshaboy" by the poet Cholpon, who had high hopes for the Turkestan Autonomy. argued that it should protect. The call for the protection of Autonomy in the national press and for the ranks of the National Army of Autonomy has paid off. Shomansur Alikhojayev from Fergana also joined the National Army of the Autonomous Region and took part in the struggle against Soviet rule in the Autonomous Army. Therefore, Sh. Alikhojayev was sentenced in 1919 by a military tribunal to six years in prison.

This means that those who are sympathetic to the Autonomous Government and have a military background are given special attention by the Autonomy. Even people of other nationalities were involved in the process. According to the memoirs of the chairman of the Turkestan Autonomy, Mustafa Chokay oglu, they were assisted in setting up an autonomous military operation in Kokand by a Polish staff officer. "I had a Polish military officer with me at the time," he said. I forgot his name, he was the branch manager of our military organization. He was dedicated, knowledgeable and talented to our national cause, "he said. Another Polish officer, Yunisha Gowski, was among those who fought in the struggle for national autonomy. In turn, M. Chokay thanked him in his memoirs.

With the declaration of Turkestan Autonomy and the formation of its own national army, soldiers who came to Turkestan during Tsarist Russia began to return to their homeland. Soldiers of the 2nd Siberian Regiment in Turkestan decided to leave Turkestan with the declaration of autonomy, which at that time consisted of 1,500 soldiers, while the 1st Siberian Regiment had about 700 soldiers [3, 50].

From the first days of the declaration of autonomy, the registration of the government with the national army and police began. On January 9, 1918, the first military demonstration was held against a soldier of the Turkestan Autonomy. Congratulating the soldiers of the Turkestan Autonomy on behalf of himself and the new government, Ubaydulla Asadullahojayev said, "You were the first heroes of the Turkestan Autonomy, and you should be proud of that, because you volunteered for the Motherland for the first time. I congratulate you on behalf of the members of the Government of Autonomous Turkestan, "he said in a patriotic speech. The number of armed forces on that day was 500, including 200 cavalry. There were also about 50 Ergash in the city and 150 in the city. As a result of strict measures, the number of the Autonomous Army was increased several times.

In addition to his duties, Obidjon Makhmudov, the Minister of Food of the Turkestan Autonomy, also paid special attention to the issue of arming the autonomous troops.

The Autonomous Government was in a difficult position to organize its national army, and the supply of troops of the Autonomous Government, which was the mainstay of the peace and stability of the Turkestan people, was unsatisfactory. The main reason for the poor supply was the lack of funds.

Although some funds were raised through the efforts of members of the Autonomous Region and local investors, these funds were not sufficient to meet the needs and support of the Autonomous Army. Despite the difficulties and obstacles, the propaganda work of the leaders of the Autonomous Region on the

mobilization of the population began to bear fruit. The number of government troops in Turkestan has risen to 2,000 by the end of January.

In the January 21, 1918 issue of the Great Turkestan, a military maneuver of the Turkestan Autonomy took place on January 9 in Hoqand. About a thousand soldiers were formed and all of them gathered in the garden of Mullah Abdurazzaqboy. Among the government inspectors, military inspector Ubaydulla Asadullahojayev and finance minister Islam Shoahmedov went to congratulate the soldier. Fiery speakers. As a result of the maneuver, about 1,000 troops have been mobilized, and there are now about 2,000 regular national armies under temporary control. "16 It follows that the leaders in charge of the Autonomous Region have undergone extensive practical preparations to form their own national army, which can now be the backbone and defense of the emerging state. In addition, citizens loyal to the Turkestan Autonomy, who have military training, were invited by the leaders of the Autonomous Region to serve as instructors in the People's Militia.

All of this was thwarted by Soviet historians' call for the Autonomous Region to join its army of its own accord. "The instructors of the Autonomous Army were Russian White Guards and Turkish officers who gladly agreed to send troops to fight against Soviet rule." [6].

Some Soviet literature has unsubstantiated allegations that the majority of the government's 60-strong army is made up of Caucasians and Iranians.

There is no information about the leaders of the Turkestan Autonomous Army, its national composition, the structure of the Autonomous Army on the model of which countries. A number of studies have highlighted the government's regular army of 2,000 men and Ergash's anti-Bolshevik activities.

#### Discussion

The Bolsheviks strongly opposed the establishment of the Turkestan Autonomy. But the Bolsheviks were not strong enough and powerful enough to completely end the Turkestan Autonomy. The capture of Orenburg by the Red Guards on January 19, 1918, temporarily improved relations with Moscow and opened the way to Turkestan. After that, Tashkent was able to provide itself with weapons. 300 rifles were sent from Tashkent to Kokand to suppress the autonomy. EA Babushkin went to Tashkent and sent a detachment of Red Guards to Kokand against the Autonomy.

A 9th member Military Revolutionary Committee was formed in Kokand. At the request of E.A.Babushkin, the Tashkent Soviet Executive Committee sent a group of representatives to establish a police force in Kokand, as well as to raise the level of the Red Army.

In addition to the National Army of the Autonomous Region, the first battle was attended by civilians from Kokand. The number of people carrying axes, clubs and sticks reached 10,000. However, the unarmed men bravely repulsed the Red Army's attack on Kokand for three days. Meanwhile, the ranks of the Autonomous Region were in turmoil. On February 18, under pressure from clerics, Mustafa Chokay resigned and left Kokand, like some ministers. Some ministers (H. Agayev and others) were killed in the battle. Other members of the government (O. Mahmudov, Nosirkhan Tora, S. Gersfeld, U. Asadullahojayev, I. Shoahmedov) were later captured by the Bolsheviks [8, 26].

The Turkestan International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) declared martial law in Fergana on February 14. On February 18, 1918, the Fergana Regional Executive Committee issued a special resolution on the military mobilization of male citizens between the ages of 18 and 45 against the Autonomy. The Soviet government began military training of local people in order to involve them in military operations against the Autonomous Republic. The mobilizers received two hours of military training each day and patrolled the cities in the evenings.

Although the Turkestan Autonomous Government lasted only 72 days, it called on our freedom-loving people to fight for national independence and sovereignty. The overthrow of the Turkestan Autonomy was the first manifestation of Soviet Russia's aggressive and authoritarian policy toward Turkestan.

## Conclusion

So, a strong and professional national army was very important for the Turkestan Autonomy. In the future, he was to be the backbone and protector of the Autonomy. But in a short time it was impossible to

gather an army equal to the military forces of the modern armed Bolsheviks: the Red Guards and the Armenian Dashnaks. T. Risqulov once wrote in his book "Revolution and Indigenous Peoples of Turkestan" that "the Kokand government needed military force." Despite the difficulties, the members of the Autonomous Region were able to form their own national army, but failed to raise it to a high level of quality. However, the addition of indigenous peoples to the Autonomous National Army shows that they have not lost their fighting spirit, patriotism and martial arts, although they have not been close to military service for a long time during the Russian Empire.

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