

## Political Journalism in the Conditions of Social System Change in Turkestan (Uzbekistan)

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### ABSTRACT

The article deals with the newspapers published in Turkestan after the February Revolution, their attitude towards the Bolsheviks, the processes of organizing the press of the Soviets. In these processes, the political views of the contemporary enlightener Hadji Muin were studied on the basis of his articles published in the press.

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### Introduction

In the last century, the wave of events that took place after the February Revolution of 1917 brought Jadids to the political arena. Their activity was also reflected in the press. After the February revolution, enlightened people who dreamed of hurriyat began to openly engage in political activities. Many newspapers such as "Najot", "Hurriyat", "Kengash", "Turon" were published. Articles written by publicists such as Abdurauf Fitrat, Mahmudhoja Behbudi, Munavvar Qori, Abdulla Avloni urging the nation to unite and fight for freedom were continuously published in the press. These intellectuals are seen at the beginning of a number of newly emerging activities, such as congresses, elections to city offices, organization of food committees, and intervention in local administrations" [1; 122].

Enlightener Haji Muin also took an active part in political processes as a journalist and editor.

### The main part

After the February revolution, Haji returned to his homeland from labor and soon joined the ranks of his colleagues. He began to work in the "Hurriyat" newspaper published in Samarkand under the leadership of Mahmudhoja Behbudi and Abdurauf Fitrat. His articles have been published since the 23rd issue of the newspaper. Now we can see that socio-political topic takes the leading place in Haji Muin's journalism, not cultural-educational topic as before. By this time, the enlightened publicist became a watchful observer and participant of political events. This was clearly reflected in his articles. "Hey, my Turkish boys from Turkestan! Get up now! Wake up from the sleep of ignorance! It's dawn, now it's forbidden to sleep!" [2] the publicist wrote in his article titled "The Sorrow of the Country"

This article was written "in harmony" with Abdurauf Fitrat's poem "The Sorrow of the Country". After Fitrat, Mirmuhsin Shermukhamedov also wrote an article under the same title. [10] The only desire to see the homeland free, to free the people from the chains of slavery, put the pen in the hands of the authors.

In their articles, Mirmuhsin Shermukhamedov and Abdurauf Fitrat express the love of a child for his mother - the Motherland, and his cries for her, while Haji Muin expresses the love and sorrows of a mother from Mungliq for her children - the Motherland.

Subsequent articles by the publicist Haji Muin, published in the *Khurriyat* newspaper, show his attitude towards the leaders and the fact that he agrees with his professional friends in this.

In 1917, Abdurauf Fitrat wrote with concern that "a new scourge has arisen in Russia, the Bolshevik scourge" [3]. It is known that the modern intelligentsia was well acquainted with the actions and goals of the Bolsheviks even before 1917. Hadji Muin in his article "The Bolsheviks and Us" tries to reveal their true appearance and their intentions. The publicist wrote: "In the days before the Bolsheviks came to power, they promised through manifestos that: "We will give the small peoples complete freedom and independence," but these empty words written on paper remained on it. Until now, they have not confirmed the autonomy and independence of any nation, on the contrary, they have fought with cannons and machine guns against nations that have proclaimed such autonomy and independence. [4].

Although Hadji Muin, Lenin, tempted by gold, did not fully understand the main goals of the main robbers, he felt that they had "unnatural desires, perverse malice." He wrote that the Turkestan autonomy was not approved by the Bolsheviks as a decision of "mullahs and bourgeois". He said that we must be ready to sacrifice our property and life in order to maintain our independence.

Unfortunately, there was no unity and cohesion that Haji Muin wanted. This was clearly felt in relation to the autonomy of Turkestan. Haji Muin wrote about this division with regret in his article "On the Demonstration" [5].

Articles by Haji Muin published in the *Khurriyat* newspaper, such as "Difficult Situations", "Germany and Russia", "Russia in Danger", "Peace Ahead", "Saving the Islamic World", are political commentaries in which Russia's cooperation with other countries with hope written about the ongoing wars, the weakening of the ruling countries and the "salvation of the Islamic world."

In Turkestan, however, the Bolsheviks proclaimed Soviet-style "proletarian autonomy" and widely promoted the benefits of the new regime. In this way, the most important tool - newspapers - was created. Haji Muin began to work in the newspaper "Mehnatkashlar sukukki", a publication of the Shura government in Samarkand. The articles published in this newspaper show that Haji Muin and his comrades-in-arms had changed their attitude towards the Bolsheviks. Haji Muin's professional friend Saidrizo Alizada said in one of his articles: "The Shura government has ended its destructive period and entered the constructive period, and now it has entered the development and prosperity of the country, giving promises for the working and poor people." He wrote that a time had come to start following his teachings" [6].

Haji Muin also expressed his hope that the government of the Soviets had passed from the era of "destructiveness" to the era of "constructiveness" in his articles published in the newspaper "Voice of Workers". In the article "What do we need?", Haji Muin asked what should be done to preserve the power of the poor people and answers: "Looking at our current task, we need soldiers first. In order to save our homeland from the attack of our foreign enemies, let's stand now before our lives and honor are sacrificed for the sake of our rights and power. It is a thousand times better to die with honor in the cause of rights and freedom than to live without honor under a tyrant in the world. O worker of Turkestan! Stand up! Save your freedom!" [7]. Haji Muin looked with hope at the future promised by the councils. However, his faith in the Soviet government was not blindly applauded or showered with praise. His large and small articles and reports published in the "Mehnatkashlar sukukki" newspaper, which is a publication of this government, are written about the plight of the people, looting, and of course, some government action is shown as the reason for this. Especially, the messages written with the signature of "Haqqani" bring to life before our eyes the real image of the socio-political environment of that time. It is interesting that in these messages he addressed the government more than the people; he informed the government about the plight of the people and asked them to take some measures. For example, such messages and correspondence as "There is no rice", "Mehnatkashlar holindan", "Non", "Achchig un" are among them. In the report "From the workers" it is said that the goods of the village marketers are being confiscated by the Shura authorities, and as a result of this, the peasants who sell their products to them are left in a "difficult living situation", the author appeals to the government: "If the current since the government is a supporter of the poor people, it should refrain from actions harmful to their interests," he said.

By 1921, we see that Haji Muin's trust and hopes for the Shura government were shattered. His article entitled "Word, decision and work" was written in a mood of dissatisfaction with the government with sharp

conclusions. In the article, the publicist wrote, "What was done for the development of the oppressed people in Turkestan during the three and a half years of Shura?" [8] Asked a question and sadly answered: "Although it is bitter to this great question, we cannot find a more correct answer than the bottom words. During this three and a half year revolutionary period, many words were spoken, rallies and campaigns were held. Moreover, very progressive good decisions have been made, but little to no work has been done. The boastful and proud deeds have not been done yet. The progress of the people, the peace and strengthening of the country: education, military, economic and agricultural work will be harmoniously combined, unfortunately, in these areas, it is still useful and useful for the people. Don't do things to show off."

In this article, Haji Muin spoke about the issue of education, military service, economy, agriculture and language. Because he believed that these five things should be developed in order to strengthen the state and elevate the nation. He repeatedly wrote about this during the newly formed Shura government. In this article, he said that he does not see any development or change in any of them. The "revolution" in educational affairs promised by the government of the Soviets has not yet been realized. "Educational affairs are in a state of disarray. There is a school, but there is no teacher. "There are students, but there are no necessary books," he said. He complained about the fact that military affairs are even more fruitless, and that the "good" decisions made at the center are not being implemented [9,10,11].

He also wrote with anguish about farming. He was not afraid to write the truth about the wrong actions taken in farming and agricultural work, and about the leadership: "Agricultural work is a few degrees behind the previous situation. During the revolution, instead of organizing agricultural work, we destroyed the peasants. We took their horses and oxen, sent squads to beat the peasants, violated the honor and dignity of their wives and children. In the end, we learned that our actions were a mistake, and now we began to deal with them properly and realized the need to help them." The plight of farmers has worried Haji Muin before, he wrote several articles about it. In articles such as "Poor Farmers Need Help" and "Farmers Need Help", he warned the government about the plight of the poor farmers and said that it is necessary to provide them with seeds and necessary tools as soon as possible, otherwise the planting time will be over repeatedly emphasizing the possibility of famine, and seeing the government's laxity in this regard, he wrote that "the center should be obeyed not by words, but by deeds."

Haji Muin also spoke about the issue of language. In 1918, the newly formed government of the Soviets issued a decree to accept the Uzbek language as the state language along with the Russian language. This decree was published in the "Workers' Sound" newspaper edited by Haji Muin. In this regard, the publicist wrote a lot about the difficulties in this field and their solutions. However, by 1921, he wrote with regret that this problem still remained unsolved: "Although the Turkish language was announced as the official state language three years ago, taking into account that the majority of the population of Turkestan is Muslim, it is still serious to implement it. We did not see the event. The Russian language is still used in courts and offices. In order to use the Turkish language in government offices and courts, it was necessary to train translators, mirzas and bookkeepers, and for this it was necessary to prepare the necessary works, but, unfortunately, these works have not been done until today [11,12,13,14].

At the end of the article, "...we are still in the era of "words" and "decisions", and during this three-and-a-half-year revolution, we could not do anything serious and useful except orders and decisions. He concluded that now we are fed up with empty words and decisions. This critical article was one of the main reasons for his resignation from the editorship. It can be seen from the article that by 1921, Haji Muin's confidence and hopes in the government of the Shura had faded, and the mood of dissatisfaction with the government had increased. After the publicist was imprisoned in 1929-1932, his articles were hardly published in his press. The poem "I believe" published in the newspaper "Qizil yulduz" was written as a "proof of love" for the party and its "geniuses".

However, the party did not accept his "repentance". In 1937, along with other intellectuals, Haji Muin was arrested. In 1938, he was sentenced to ten years in prison. He fell ill and died away from his homeland, deprived of freedom.

## Conclusion

After the events of February 1917, Haji Muin, like his teachers and comrades, felt that it was time to openly fight for the freedom of the country and the will of the nation, and started working on the political front. The publicist's articles calling on the people to wake up, fight for freedom and freedom, and at the same time analyzing the current events and political changes of his time, were continuously published in "Hurriyat" newspaper. In these articles, he expressed a strong reaction against the Bolsheviks, revealing their identity and activities. He sincerely supported the autonomy of Turkestan. In order to save it, he wrote fiery articles, urging the people to stick together.

After the establishment of the Soviet government, although he worked in the newspaper, which was its publication, he did not start praising the new regime. The publicist's articles expressing his confidence in the new system and his praise did not deviate from the criteria of objectivity and truthfulness. The publicist always followed the life of the people and the affairs of the government. He tried to inform the government about the plight of the people and to explain some of the government's decisions to the people. He criticized the indifference of the leaders in the government departments to the people's affairs. Due to his critical articles, he was blacklisted by the Soviets. No matter what system he lived in, no matter what field he worked in, he showed himself as a selfless nationalist who thought of the interests of the people.

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