The Influence of the Electoral System on Strengthening the Struggle against Soviet Power in Central Asia

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Abstract: This article discusses the nature of the armed movement in Central Asia and the factors influencing the continuation of the struggle. Also in the world experience, the electoral system is a sign of democracy, but the unfair policy of the Soviet government in this matter is analyzed. As a result of the injustice of Soviet power in the electoral system, the rise of the armed movement in Central Asia was studied.

Keywords: Soviet power, Central Asia, armed movement, electoral system, taxes and duties, “basmachi”, religious, political rights.

INTRODUCTION

The struggle against Soviet rule in Central Asia continued in 1918-1935. The essence of the armed movement against Soviet power in Central Asia was the struggle for national statehood and independence against the colonial policy of the Bolsheviks in the region, the uprising of the population for their rights and freedoms [1]. However, in Central Asia, the armed movement against Soviet rule ended in 1935, but in the following years the struggle continued in an ideological form.

The reasons for the struggle against Soviet rule in Central Asia in 1918-1935 were:

1. Totalitarian and colonial policy of the Soviet government in Central Asia
2. Difficult economic situation in the republics of Central Asia;
3. Plundering of the population by the Red Army;
4. The Soviet authorities confiscation of property of the population;
5. Restriction of the political rights of the rich and landowners, clergy, former officials;
6. Conducting land and water reforms.
7. Limiting the influence of Islam and abolishing the institution of waqf.
8. Strengthening the grain monopoly;
9. Tax policy;
10. Unfair electoral system;
11. Collectivization of agriculture;
12. Mobilization of the local population for military service, etc [2].

However, the uprisings against Bolshevik policies in Soviet times, influenced by communist ideology and Soviet historiography, were mistakenly labeled as “basmachi movement” [3].

This article analyzes some aspects of the influence of an unfair electoral system on the growth of the armed movement against the Soviet regime.

Another factor that influenced the intensification of the struggle against Soviet power in Central
Asia was the deprivation of the population of political rights, in particular the right to vote and run in elections. This was mainly due to the deprivation of political rights of former emir and khan officials, religious groups, the rich, the middle class and the poor, as well as those who were on the list of “basmachi” of the Soviet government. This was due to political discrimination against these strata of the population and the limitation of their socio-economic activity in society. The deprivation of the right to vote provoked large protests for limiting the following political, socio-economic privileges and imposing obligations on the population:

- deprived of the right to vote;
- increased tax burden (taxed at higher rates, forced to pay various types of payments);
- not allowed to work on collective farms and cooperatives, not to be a member of cooperatives;
- deprived of food rations (cards);
- expelled from the place of residence;
- could not use medical services;
- children are expelled from school;
- It is not allowed to marry free people;
- 18-45-year-olds who were not drafted into the army were mobilized to fulfill state duties in the rear for 3 years (construction, etc.);
- mobilized to perform government duties (repair, construction of roads, irrigation networks, transportation of goods, procurement of fodder, etc.) [4].

In the process of deprivation of electoral rights, there were many injustices and violations of decisions of the party and council, as well as local government bodies. There were even cases where the decisions were inconsistent with practice. Restrictions not specified in the election law were also applied.

For example, upon eviction of a person from his place of residence, deprivation of food rations and deprivation of his rights, other family members of the person are not limited in their rights if they are not able to support themselves. Although the law expresses the above opinion, but all family members were denied the right to vote. Another problem was related to the process of restoring this electoral right. The applicant's case for the restoration of electoral rights had to be thoroughly investigated and restrictions imposed after the completion of the process. In practice, however, this process did not work at all. Those deprived of the right to vote also had the same restrictions and obligations as those registered as “kulak”.

In fact, these processes have caused a lot of controversy, because they are very confusing and not fully regulated in the laws. That is why the secretary of the Presidium of the Central Executive Committee of the USSR A.S. Yenukidze on March 1, 1930 in the case of the “deprived” I.V. Stalin was informed of these shortcomings. Then, on March 22, 1930, the Politburo commission approved the resolution “On Elimination of Violations of the Electoral Legislation of the USSR” and sent it to all the republics for execution [5, 129-131; 360-361]. However, social groups with limited political rights have worked hard for their powers. They demanded the return of their political rights. They threatened members of election commissions and opposed the removal of the list of “disenfranchised” and the participation of women in elections. Moreover, the believers called on the “disenfranchised” to emigrate to Afghanistan. A similar situation was observed in March 1927 in the Chardjoy, Karki and partly Poltoratsky districts of Turkmenistan. At the same time, the special activity of the former members of Kurbashi and believers was noted [6, 257]. Also, those who were deprived of the right to vote in Eski Chardjoy protested against the election commission and stated: “If we do not restore our rights, we will take up arms and take revenge on those who oppose us and hinder us” [6, 287-288].
The new procedures introduced by the Bolsheviks caused great protests. These processes, in turn, led to an increase in the number of anti-Soviet forces and an expansion of the ranks of the armed forces. For example, in 1925-1926 the number of persons deprived of the right to vote in the Jalal-Abad region of Kyrgyzstan was 193 people, and in 1926-1927 - 2237 people. In the Frunze district, the number of persons deprived of the right to vote in 1925-1926 was 1652 people, and in 1926-1927 - 2161 people [7, 20]. The number of persons deprived of the right to vote during the re-election campaign of 1928-1929, as a whole in the south of Kyrgyzstan reached 12,569 people. These numbers have increased again in recent years [8].

In southern Kyrgyzstan, the list includes all traders, traditional intermediaries (brokers), artisans (jewelers, carpet weavers and embroiderers), artisans and village elders who have been disenfranchised as a result of arbitrary interpretation of the electoral rules (elders) may be included. Due to the increasing anti-religious propaganda every year, persons involved in religious education and medicine were also deprived of their right to vote [8]. The execution of state obligations was carried out so strictly that even those who could not work in the fields for health reasons were deprived of the right to vote [9, 22].

In 1929, the efforts of Yormat Makhsum intensified in the Fergana Valley. As a result, on September 28 this year, the executive committee of the Andijan district committee of the Communist Party of the Uzbek SSR adopted a special decision to stop the fight against Soviet power in the region. According to him, the former “rebels” were instructed to study the wrong policy of the party and the Soviet government, that is, injustice towards them. In Namangan, Yangikurgan, Kosonsoy and Naryn regions, it is planned to review cases of deprivation of voting rights within 5 days, return the rights to persons with unreasonably limited political rights and immediately inform the population about this [10, 25-26]. Because the restriction of voting rights during this period was one of the factors that caused great protests.

Participants in the uprising in the Naryn and Atboshinsky districts at the beginning of 1931 also demanded not to deprive them of the right to vote [11, 5-6].

CONCLUSION

Thus, disenfranchisement: firstly, applied to all categories, i.e. rich, middle or poor. Secondly, the presence of representatives of hostile social groups and clans in local governments led to a violation of the electoral system, which resulted in an unfair restriction of the political rights of certain categories of the population. Thirdly, the intensification of the struggle against Soviet power in Central Asia was accompanied by unfair violation and restriction of the political rights of the population by the central and local authorities, non-consideration or delay in applications for the restoration of political rights.

In conclusion, it should be noted that the influence of communist ideology played an important role in ending the struggle against Soviet power in Central Asia. Ideology covered all aspects of society. Central and local governments have made a great contribution to strengthening the ideology. As a result, the main goal was the widespread dissemination of the policy pursued by the Soviet government and the condemnation of various actions of the opposition against it. Claiming that the Soviet government by its policy provided the peoples with a wide range of opportunities and freedoms, criticizes the political, socio-economic and cultural processes of the Russian Empire.

For example, the Soviet government views the uprisings against the colonial policy of the Russian Empire as an aspiration for a national liberation movement. However, the uprisings against Bolshevik policies were of an ideological and political nature and were mistakenly assessed as “basmachi movement”. In fact, the uprisings of the imperial and Soviet eras were also a popular movement against the policies of the existing government of the time. However, under the influence of communist ideology, the struggle against Soviet power in the Turkestan region and Central Asia in 1918-1935 entered world history through Soviet historiography under the name “basmachi movement”. In Central Asia, the 17-year struggle of predominantly Muslim
peoples against Soviet power received a negative assessment in the minds of the population through scientific works, literature, press, theater, cinema, visual arts and other cultural and educational areas. The Soviet government was able to achieve great results as a result of its ideological propaganda work and was able to attract a significant part of the population to its side. The Bolsheviks liquidated the armed formations with the help of military-political, punitive, ideological and economic measures. As a result of these measures, the population that supported the armed formations was transferred to the side of Soviet power. As a result, the composition of the armed formations became thinner and gradually disintegrated, and the struggle was defeated.

References


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