

## The "Milliy Turkiston" Magazine as an Source of Valuable Information

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**Abstract:** Political and cultural organizations were created by our compatriots who remained abroad because of the repressive policies of the Soviet regime. These organizations carried out the struggle for national liberation and the reduction of the influence of Soviet power in Turkestan through the press and radio. The article talks about the magazine "*Milliy Turkiston*", a publication of the Turkestan Committee of National Unity.

**Keywords:** "Milliy Turkiston", national unity of Turkestan, Vali Kayumkhan, Muktafo Chokai, repression policy, struggle for national liberation, migrants, history.

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### Introduction

The Bolshevik administration established after the fall of Tsarist Russia in 1917 continued the same strategic practice. It divided Turkestan into east and west and started its new strategy of violence - the policy of Russification of "Turkestan". In addition, the changes made against the interests of society in political, spiritual, economic and social spheres met with sharp resistance from the people, and to overcome this resistance, the Bolsheviks pursued a policy of repression based on coercion.

The established administrative-command system and its leading core, the Communist Party, used a moderate-administrative order, the method of psychological pressure, and intensified political repression. This situation was opposed by a significant part of the intelligentsia, which could not accept this invasion. As a result, many writers, journalists and teachers became victims of repression, many of them were shot. Another part was exiled to remote labour camps, and many were forced to leave their country [1].

### Literature Review

The journal "*Milliy Turkiston*", (National Turkestan) was published in Berlin and today is preserved in libraries and archives in Germany. This journal is also available in private archives in Turkey. This journal has not been studied by Uzbek researchers and is not included in scholarly consumption. In Turkey, studies on this topic have been conducted by Ahad Andijan [2], Timur Hodjaoglu [3], Cigatoy Koçar [4] and Nurgul Uzunel [5].

### Research Methodology

When writing the article, chronological, diachronic, historical comparison methods were widely used. In particular, the method of historical comparison made it possible to reveal in the study the essence of the historical process when it was not clear and obvious, as well as to determine commonality, validity, recurrence and generalisation, to identify historical parallelism.

### Analysis and Results

Millions of Turkestan people dispersed to Afghanistan, Iran, East Turkestan, Middle East countries, Turkey and European countries. The Turkestan intelligentsia that came out into the world did not waste time and formed associations, societies and similar organisations to fight

against the policies of the Soviet government from abroad. With the help of these organisations, they started the "Broadcasting from Abroad" movement. Explaining the problem of Turkestan to the outside world, bringing voices about Turkestan to the people is the most important aspect of this struggle.

"Revolutionary Committees of the National Peoples of Central Asia", established while the struggle in Turkestan was still going on, were transformed first into the "Turkestan Freedom Society" and then into the "National Union of Turkestan". The main aim of this was to ensure the collapse of the Soviet Union together with the other nationalities that remained in the captivity of the Soviet Union and to achieve the independence of their country[6].

Realising that this could only be achieved through print and broadcasting, the Istanbul-based Turkestan National Unity (TNU) movement began publishing the magazine New Turkestan. The New Turkestan magazine, which began publication in June 1927,[7] soon became the spokesman for the Turkestan Militant Movement in the outside world. However, in 1928, the alphabet revolution and the decision to switch to the Latin alphabet imposed by the administration of the Republic of Turkey significantly reduced the scope of the Turkestan National Unity Movement, which is the publishing organ of the "New Turkestan Journal". With the publication of the magazine in Latin letters, the opportunity to reach Turkestanis living in Afghanistan, India, Iran and Arab countries was lost. Having assessed the situation, the leadership of the National Unity of Turkestan started research on moving the headquarters of the magazine to Europe and republishing it in Arabic letters, but these efforts ended in failure.

Finally, in September 1929, at the Turkestan Congress of National Unity in Istanbul, it was decided to continue the publication of "*Yangi Turkiston*" (New Turkestan) in Turkey and to publish another magazine in Berlin with Arabic letters. The journal, published in Uzbek, was called "*Yangi Turkiston*". This journal was to be published under the leadership of Mustafa Çokaya, the representative of the Turkestan National Unity Movement in Europe, but according to the documents of the 1929 congress and the correspondence of the leaders of the Turkestan National Unity Movement, this journal was published in the New Turkestan journal and was financed from the Pilsudski Foundation, that is, from the funds of the Promethean movement [8]

The publishing collective of the above-mentioned two journals, including "*Yangi Turkiston*" in Istanbul and "*Yosh Turkiston*" in Paris, published the journal "*Milliy Turkiston*" in Berlin during World War II under the editor-in-chief Vali Kayumkhan. It started its activity on 15 June 1942 as a publishing organ of the Committee of National Turkestan Unity. The magazine was published in three periods:

1. 1942 – 1945 years;
2. 1949 – 1954 years;
3. 1962 – 1975 years.

From 1942 to 1975, 134 issues of the magazine were published. The 1942-1945 issues were published twice a month in Berlin. With the end of the war in 1945, the magazine ceased operations. The 1949-1954 issues were published in Geneva, Switzerland. Issues 1952-1955, 1962-1975 were published in Düsseldorf.

The journal "*Milliy Turkiston*" had the following important tasks:

1. Arming the youth with the national-political ideology of Turkestan and familiarising them with the national bases and national demands.
2. "*Milliy Turkiston*" to familiarise all peoples with the claim for independence of Turkestan and to ask for moral support by putting this claim for independence before them.
3. To familiarise not only their compatriots, but also the public of the whole world with the past of national history, national culture, national traditions of Turkestan and tragedies of the people under the oppression of occupants.

4. To fight resolutely for national unity, which is the basis of Turkestan's independence, and to gather all compatriots around this idea;
5. To reveal the true character of the Russian colonisers by their documents and at the same time to propagandise the necessity of ruthless struggle against the enemy with the use of arms.
6. To declare that Turkestan is one great, indivisible, inviolable country by starting the struggle against the seedy policy which the Russian imperialists want to carry out among the people. After that, hundreds of thousands of young soldiers and emigrants will learn the essence of the problem, gather under one national flag and agitate for the independence of Turkestan.
7. It is determined that the complex will do a great service in explaining to the public the way and policy of the Committee of National Unity of Turkestan against the policy of the Red and White Russians who want to destroy the national struggle and national unity, and against the Malayans sold to them [9].

In articles published in the pages of "Milliy Turkiston", he exposed the policy of Russian settlers in the name of "great indivisible Russia", put forward the slogan of "great indivisible Turkestan" and fought against it. He always maintained that agreement with the Russians was absolutely impossible and that co-operation with them was a national betrayal.

After the Second World War, the activities of the complex intensified. Among Turkestan emigrants scattered almost in all corners of the world, the magazine served as the only instrument for spreading the national idea and gathered all emigrants under one national flag.

The magazine "**Milliy Turkiston**" was published in several languages for reading in all countries of the world. The language of the magazine is listed as "Turkestan" and each issue is published in 4 different (1 A, 1 B, 1 C, 1 D) copies differing in language and alphabet. Copy A is in Uzbek in Latin letters, copy B is in English in Latin letters, copy C is in Arabic in Arabic letters and copy D is in Uzbek in Arabic letters [10].

The journal had columns on Soviet politics, biographies, news, book adverts and student letters. These columns published articles that revealed the policies of creating economic, national, educational, religious, and Soviet literature and historiography used by the Soviets in the administration of Turkestan. There were also regular articles about the Committee of National Turkestan Unity, a political and cultural organisation founded in Germany during the Second World War, and about the activities of the Turkestan Legion and its organisers Vali Kayumkhan, Mustafa Chokhay oglu and Boymirza Hayit.

In addition, the memoirs of Turkestan intellectuals associated with the magazine and the committee, as well as their biographies are given. In particular, the journal published information about the life and activities of Mahmudkhodzha Behbudi, Munavvarkori Abdurashidkhanov, Asadulla Khoja, Abdulla Kadiri, Cholpon, Sofizoda, Zaki Validiy Togon, Fitrat, son of Osman Khoja.

### **Conclusion/Recommendations**

Overall, studying and analysing the articles of the journal allows us to learn about the events that took place in Turkestan between 1942 and 1975, how the Soviet authorities wanted to shape Turkestan, and the views of Turkestanis on this policy. It is also an important source for studying the history of struggles in the fields of culture, language, ideology, literature and history during the Soviet years, as well as the policy of repression pursued by the colonial-Soviet authorities.

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