

## Colonial Essence of Population Census in Uzbekistan SSR (In the Example of the 1939 Event)

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**Annotation:** This article deals with the 1939 census in the Uzbek SSR and details the goals of the Soviet census which based on the results of this event. The article discusses the planned socio-economic and political life in the country in the coming years. The article discusses the preparations for the census in the country and a number of its shortcomings, as well as a number of scientific conclusions and recommendations.

**Keywords:** population demography, population census, sources, demarcation, survey, village, urban population.

The Soviet government intensified its census, mobilizing many party and Soviet officials to further strengthen Bolshevik rule in the national republics of Central Asia. This is because the government is well aware that the figures from these measures were as important to the center as water and air in the public administration system and will play a programmatic role in planning for the coming years. The statistics obtained from the census have, over the years, justified the coordination of the activities of the national republics and the management of their policies in the spirit of colonialism. Not only in the Uzbek SSR, but also in other national republics and other allied countries, the leaders of the center carried out extensive propaganda work among the population about the socio-economic and political significance of the next census of 1939.

It should be noted that during the twentieth century, almost all of the literature created on the basis of their current ideology and policies during the reign of the political system covered these events one-sidedly and justified the policy pursued by the Soviet authorities in Central Asia.

As a result of this campaign, statisticians will be able to obtain statistics on the total population, ethnicity, age, education, language, religion and occupation of the population, as well as the level of population growth and culture. and the implementation of such plans as the advance socialist planning of the economy of the entire population of the republic, the further strengthening of the country's defense capabilities, the further improvement of the living standards of the population. On December 26, 1938, I. Pissarev's telegram No. 20/700 was sent to all the republics of the Union as an appendix[1].

On January 8-11, 1939, all participants in the registration process were received certificates and badges, special folders and registration forms, as well as information about the territories (map, names of regions) [2]. In the Uzbek SSR from January 12 to January 16, 1939, 13.266 accountants once again explained to the population the importance of the All-Union census, and 2.686 supervisors-instructors assisted the accountants [3]. A comparative analysis of a number of sources suggests that by the time of the 1939 All-Union census, telephone and postal services in the republic, which were supposed to be of great help, which were underdeveloped.

At the beginning of the registration process, it was explained to everyone (mainly registrars in remote areas) that when there was any inconvenience or problem with the event, they would send a message by phone and mail or an assistant attached to them, which was not possible. The enumerators, who had to travel an average of 1 day to report a problem over the phone, were well aware that the fate of the 1937 enumerators would befall them if they did not complete the census of the inhabitants of the attached territory within the prescribed time. Therefore,

during this year's event, many problems associated with such a means of communication are observed in most remote areas of the country.

In many areas, enumerators did not send messages to the "registration" centers to which they were attached due to any misunderstandings or disputes over the process. Of course, the shortcomings and deficiencies in each of the above-mentioned areas in the conduct of this politically motivated event have led to a number of shortcomings in the conduct of the process. Not only in the first event held in 1897, but also in the census conducted in the years following 1939, many shortcomings were observed. Only in the 30s of the XX century the propaganda work on these measures among the population was slightly expanded and was carried out with new requirements and approaches, taking into account the shortcomings identified in previous years.

The final conclusion of the USSR State Planning Commission on the results of the 1939 All-Union census of the population of the allied national republics was as follows: The population of the Kazakh SSR was 6,145,937, of which the urban population was 1,706,150, the rural population was 4,439,787, the population of the Kyrgyz SSR was 1,459,301, of which the urban population was 270,587 and the rural population was 1,188,714. The population of the Tajik SSR was 1,485,091, of which the urban population was 251,882, the rural population was 1,233,209, the population of the Turkmen SSR was 1,253,985, of which the urban population was 416,376 and the rural population was 837,609. was recorded in the primary archival sources covering the event [4]. An analysis of these figures reveals that in 1939 the total population of the national republics was 16,626,760, of which the total population living in urban areas was 4,090,059, and the total rural population was 12,536,701. Based on the final results of the 1939 event, we can conclude that this year 75.4% of the population of the present-day Central Asian republics lived in rural areas, while the remaining 24.6% lived in urban areas. The population was significantly higher in the two republics, mainly in the Uzbek SSR and the Kazakh SSR. A study of a number of population sources revealed that in the post-World War II years the population of the Kazakh SSR decreased, while the population of the Uzbek SSR increased due to natural increase and migration flows and forced deportations.

By this time, the allied republics of the USSR included 10 republics besides Russia. They were: the Ukrainian SSR, the Byelorussian SSR, the Azerbaijani SSR, the Georgian SSR, the Armenian SSR, the Uzbek SSR, the Turkmen SSR, the Kazakh SSR, the Tajik SSR and the Kyrgyz SSR. The registration process in these republics also had a number of shortcomings. An analysis of the results of the 1939 event on the basis of primary sources stored in the archives revealed that in the first allied republics of the USSR, the population of Russia ranked first, the population of the Ukrainian SSR ranked second, and the population of the Uzbek SSR ranked third.

The statistics collected on the basis of the Law on Registration of Births and Deaths, issued by the USSR government on July 27, 1936, served as a practical basis for further confirmation of the final results of the 1939 event. The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR on July 26, 1939 № 300 / 1-251 awarded 149 employees of the Central Directorate of National Accounts of the USSR with high orders and medals for their successful work on the census of 1939 and the organization of national economic statistics [7]. Accountants and instructors from the Uzbek SSR, who worked hard to organize 7 events, were also be awarded.

It is worth noting that in September 1939, from January 1, 1940 to January 8, 1940, the registration of animals in the entire Union was scheduled. Sources in the Uzbek SSR also say that about 5,000 people were involved in this work. In our view, the animal registration process can be linked to World War II. Even in the conduct of the 1939 event, it can be said that the center began to conduct this process with other states, anticipating the political processes to be observed in the coming years. In the 1939 census and in previous years, the registration form was to be completed by both children and the seriously ill, as well as the elderly, based on the statements of other family members. Based on the analysis of archival documents covering these processes, it was found that during the 1939 event, different recording methods were used in different regions. In particular, the methods of population registration in different regions of the Uzbek SSR were as follows: 1). Self-registration (in which case

the registrant fills in the registration form himself), 2). The accountant’s questions were answered using the “survey” method [10]. In fact, enumerators were required by the USSR’s ICC to register only by “inquiry” and were instructed to do so at the beginning of the event. In practice, however, this instruction was not followed.

Analyzing the primary sources on the census in the territory of the Uzbek SSR from the first official census in Turkestan (1897) to 1939, as well as scientific research in this area, we can conclude that The duration of all registration activities depends on the number of accountants and supervisors-instructors and the instructions given to them, as well as the conditions created for this event.

Sources covering the 1939 census note that population growth in the national republics was largely due to immigrants. According to the population of the 1926 census and the census of 1939, the total average population of the USSR increased by 15.9%, the population of the Kyrgyz SSR by 45.7%, the population of the Tajik SSR by 43.9%, the population of the Turkmen SSR by 25, The population of the Kazakh SSR increased by 6%, the population of the Uzbek SSR by 33.4%, and the population of the Uzbek SSR by 37.6%. Analyzing the sources of the period under study, it can be said that by 1939, as a result of the increasingly serious political processes in the USSR, the resettlement of people to many areas has increased significantly. For this reason, the population dynamics of the regions was constantly changing. This situation intensified especially in the 1940s.

The study of archival sources covering the processes of the 1939 census revealed the number of registration offices available in the urban and rural areas of the national republics [12].

**Number of census offices in national republics in 1939**

№	National Republics	Number of registries		Number of instructor plots		Number of registration plots	
		city	village	city	village	city	village
1	Uzbekistan SSR	81	332	596	1972	3470	7923
2	Kazakhstan SSR	72	422	551	2160	3278	7862
3	Tajikistan SSR	9	97	86	629	522	2564
4	Turkmenistan SSR	12	76	160	437	922	1754
5	Kyrgyz SSR	16	109	110	587	631	2260

An analysis of these figures reveals that the number of urban and rural offices directly and indirectly responsible for the census has increased by 15% compared to previous years (1926, 1937). In our view, the number of offices may have been further increased as the results of the 1937 census were found to be unsatisfactory.

According to the results of the event of 1939, the main part of the population of the Uzbek SSR was ethnic Uzbek, followed by the most populous Russian nation. When analyzing archival documents, the population of Uzbek and Russian ethnic groups in urban and rural areas of the Uzbek SSR was as follows: inhabited areas. The total population of Russians was 727,331, of which 514,965 lived in urban areas and 212,366 in rural areas. Of the total Uzbek population, 2,110,759 are men and the remaining 1,970,337 are women. Of the Russian population, 352,326 were men and the remaining 375,005 were women [13]. The next largest population was Tajiks, Kazakhs, Tatars, and Karakalpaks. Analyzing the information provided in the above archival documents, the representatives of the population belonging to the Russian nationality or other nationalities are fully registered in relation to the local population. The reason is that people of other nationalities lived mainly in the central regions. Based on the results of previous censuses, accurate statistical reports on the number of people relocated to the Allied republics and the composition of the nationalities were also made.

The final results of the census, which took place in January 1939 in all regions of the USSR and in the national republics, were published in the press in all regions on June 2, 1939, 4.5 months later [14]. In fact, the final results

were ready in February. Although the results of the event were announced, but in the form of an overall statistical collection, the results of the event were not published as in previous years. In our opinion, the failure to publish the final results of this census and publish all the statistics obtained as a single collection is due to the fact that the political processes of that period were associated with the beginning of the Second World War.

Prior to the mass census of 1939, special attention was paid to the involvement of accountants and instructors who had participated in previous events not only in the Uzbek SSR, but also in other national republics and the USSR. The reason was that they were believed to have enough experience and practical skills. He was mainly enthusiastic about his work and, most importantly, selected highly educated personnel. At the 1939 event, teacher recruitment was the highest, accounting for 47% [15]. During the years of Soviet rule, these events were planned at least 1 or 2 years in advance, and all preparations were made before the event. Various slogans and pictures have been posted in advance to encourage the population to take part in the event. The main goal was to conduct the census in a comprehensive manner and to determine all the statistics on the population, as expected by the center.

In the process of studying the archival documents of the research period, the following sentences about the conduct of this event by the Soviet government and various government agencies caught our attention. In particular, the main purpose of the census in Tsarist Russia was to “establish a people’s prison”, “the main purpose of the current census is to improve the welfare of the population” [16]. only praise was given. Based on the analysis of many sources studied during the period under review, it can be said that the census conducted during the imperial period was carried out under “aggressive” spirit and strong pressure. In 1939, at various meetings and events, in all newspapers and magazines of the periodical press, and at all levels of the organizations directly responsible for the event, it was emphasized that “every Soviet citizen should provide a high level of assistance to the census of the entire Soviet population. Because the results of this census would be serve to increase the power of the country, the happiness and culture of the entire population of the Union [17] an attempt was made to justify it by praising the party. In fact, even in the late 1930s, when social and political and economic tensions were high, the future of the population of the Uzbek SSR was not thought at all.

In conclusion, it should be noted that these censuses had some positive effects not only on the Soviet government, but also on the people. This is due to the fact that only in 1920-1939, a number of works were carried out in Uzbekistan, ranging from the establishment of various industrial enterprises, the establishment of universities, the employment of many people. Therefore, the positive work done as a result of the census conducted in the Uzbek SSR is enough, and in our opinion, it is wrong to evaluate this census only one-sidedly and to condemn this process. Over the years, the leaders of the center have used a number of statistics on the population census conducted in the national republics, which are dependent in some sense, for their own benefit.

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