

THE HISTORIOGRAPHY OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE JUSTICE BODIES OF THE TURKESTAN ASSR: TYPES AND ANALYSIS

Ulugbek Olimovich Juraboyev

Head of the “Magnavr” Educational Center

Email: xadichabegim3031@gmail.com

Annotation: This article provides an analysis of sources studying the justice system and its activities in the Turkestan ASSR. Information is provided on scientific literature, archival sources, statistical collections, and periodical press sources related to the development of the organization and activities of justice bodies.

Key words: Turkestan, Commissars, dministration, justice, archival, preserve, prosecutorial, reports, memoranda.

In the research work, analyzing the sources related to the topic, identifying their characteristics, and evaluating them serve to reveal many specific aspects of the subject. In this regard, along with the historiography of the activities of justice bodies in Turkestan, it is also of great importance to study their source base (manbashunoslik) separately.

The sources related to the activities of the justice bodies in Turkestan during 1918–1924 can be classified into the following groups:

- Archival documents;
- Published normative and legal documents and materials;
- Periodical press materials;
- Statistical collections[1:17].

In studying the activities of the Soviet justice system during 1918–1924, archival documents hold particular significance, as many of them preserve authentic evidence reflecting the realities of the period. A large number of documents related to this topic are stored in the National Archive of the Republic of Uzbekistan (O‘zMA), the Central State Archive of Tashkent City (Tashkent MDA), and the State Archive of Tashkent Region (Tashkent VDA).

In particular, the following funds of the National Archive of Uzbekistan contain valuable materials related to the activities of the justice bodies of Turkestan: R-17, R-25, R-34, R-38, R-39, R-64, R-343, R-344, R-360, R-368, and R-904. These archival collections encompass various aspects of the justice administration system.

For example, the TASSR Central Executive Committee (R-17) and the Council of People’s Commissars (R-25) funds include important documents on the history of state power and administration, as well as reports, memoranda, and instructions regarding the condition of the judicial system.

The People’s Commissariat of Justice of the Turkestan ASSR (R-38) fund stands out for the breadth of information it contains related to the topic. This fund consists of five inventories (opis): inventories 1–5 mainly contain personnel files, while inventory 2 includes 465 archival units covering various issues relevant to the subject. The third inventory is classified and stored under restricted access, while inventory 4, consisting of 41 archival units, also contains a range of documents providing important data on the activities of the Turkestan justice bodies [2:65].

Based on the content and nature of the documents preserved in the fund, they can be classified into the following groups:

- Collections covering the activities of courts and judicial proceedings operating in the region;
- Collections related to the activities of the prosecution, advocacy, and notarial offices;
- Documents concerning the regional branches of the People’s Commissariat of Justice;
- Collections containing personal records and biographical data of the staff.

It should be noted that in this fund, collections related to the activities of judicial institutions in the Turkestan ASSR constitute the majority compared to those of other justice-related bodies. In particular, more than 100 archival files in the second inventory contain materials on this very issue.

These collections include documents on the operations of all judicial institutions under the People’s Commissariat of Justice, citizens’ complaints regarding court proceedings, reports on the activities of people’s courts, the attitudes of the local population toward these courts, and various related matters.

In addition, this inventory contains resolutions, decrees, and orders issued by the RSFSR and the Council of People’s Commissars of Turkestan (XKS) concerning the functioning of courts in the region.

A considerable portion of the documents related to the activities of the prosecutor’s offices, advocacy, and notarial institutions in the region are preserved in this fund.

Documents concerning the prosecutor’s offices include materials on the establishment of prosecutorial bodies in Turkestan, their activities in various provinces (files No. 231, 289), staffing tables of provincial and district prosecutor’s offices (files No. 354, 360, 387, 406), personal records and educational backgrounds of prosecutors and other employees (files No. 16, 146a, 239, 285, 324, 354, 359, 411), as well as budget reports and expenditure estimates (files No. 358, 370). Moreover, the report of the People’s Commissar of Justice on the activities of the prosecutorial bodies functioning in the Turkestan ASSR (file No. 371) is also preserved in this fund.

Information regarding the advocacy and notarial institutions is relatively scarce compared to other sectors, which can be explained by the limited attention given to these fields during that period. The documents that do exist include materials on measures to increase the number of lawyers, lists of notarial offices in Tashkent city and the Semirechye (Yettisuv) province, data on the personal composition of notaries, budget estimates and expenditure reports, as well as records concerning people's notaries Stromilov and Spasibukhov.

In addition, more than 40 archival files in funds R-17, R-25, and R-34 also contain materials related to the activities of the justice system in Turkestan.

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The analysis of the essence of the activities of the justice bodies of the Turkestan ASSR from a scientific and theoretical perspective shows that the normative and legal documents adopted by the supreme authorities of the RSFSR and the TASSR are among the most important sources. The decrees, statutes, instructions, and resolutions issued by these governments were published in collections. In addition, documentary materials related to the activities of the justice bodies were also published. In particular, the collection “History of the Soviet Prosecutor's Office in the Most Important Documents (On the 30th Anniversary of the Soviet Prosecutor's Office (1922–1951))” contains key documents concerning the functioning of the Soviet prosecution system[3:23].

In the following years, collections of normative acts issued by the governments of the RSFSR, the USSR, and the Uzbek SSR also included several legislative documents related to the regional justice system. It should be emphasized that a thorough and chronologically consistent study of these legal documents is of special importance for reconstructing an accurate picture of the activities of the Soviet justice system in Turkestan, as well as for identifying its duties and powers.

The activities of the justice bodies in Turkestan were also widely covered in the periodical press of that time. Journals such as *Vestnik Komissariata Yustitsii Turkestanskoy Respubliki* (Bulletin of the Commissariat of Justice of the Turkestan Republic), *Ezhenedelnik Sovetskoy Yustitsii* (Weekly Journal of Soviet Justice), *Vestnik Yustitsii Uzbekistana* (Bulletin of Justice of Uzbekistan), *Sputnik Sovetskogo Yurista* (Soviet Lawyer's Companion), and *Sovetskoye Pravo* (Soviet Law) regularly published articles on the activities, reforms, problems, and legal foundations of the justice institutions in the region. Most of the authors of these articles were employees of the justice bodies themselves, which often resulted in biased and one-sided interpretations of justice-related issues. However, a few articles provided critical analyses of the functioning of these institutions[4:584].

Statistical compilations also hold a special place in revealing the essence of the topic. These collections contain factual data on the activities of justice institutions between 1917 and 1924. In particular, they provide information on the number of judicial institutions, staffing structures, the national and social composition of employees, their educational level, social background, and material conditions.

The analysis of statistical data on the punishments imposed by Soviet judicial and penal bodies on offenders, the types of punishments, and information on penal institutions and inmates makes it possible to determine the nationality, social status, party affiliation, age, and type of crime of the convicted persons. This, in turn, plays an important role in evaluating the activities of the Soviet justice system in the region during the studied period.

In conclusion, it can be stated that the sources concerning the activities of the justice bodies in Turkestan have not yet been studied as an independent object of research. The analysis of these sources and the identification of their specific features make it possible to objectively evaluate the activities of the justice institutions of Turkestan during 1917–1924, and to reveal many previously unexplored aspects of their functioning.

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