



Section 4. Political science

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RECONSTRUCTION POLICY IN 1985–1986: REFLECTION OF ITS NEED AND CONSEQUENCES IN THE PRESS (In the example of “Soviet Uzbekistan” and “Pravda Vostoka” newspapers)

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Abstract

The article delves into the magazine “Sharq yulduzi”, which operated on the territory of the Uzbek SSR, is only the official information page of the CPSU, a high call and slogans, a tool calling on everyone to work more and more, an important tool that shows criticism, harmful vices, shortcomings along with achievements and the consequences of indifference.

Keywords: “Sovet O‘zbekistoni” and “Pravda Vostoka” newspapers “Pravda Vostoka”, reconstruction, CPSU, Central Committee, Politburo, personnel policy, General Secretary, dichotomous views, XXVII Seym, intensification, acceleration, “personnel exchange” policy

Introduction

In the late 1980s, the consequences of the tension in the socio-economic and political spheres in the Soviet Union and the Uzbek SSR, which was part of it, became more and more intense and covered all spheres of the country’s life. It can be seen that this, in turn, harmed the standard of living of the population, production rates, and labor productivity. Over the years, many “promising” state programs developed without taking into account the existing opportunities did not give the intended results, on the contrary, they led to the further increase of economic conflicts

in later periods. The socio-economic crisis that began in the 80s of the 20th century, especially by the middle of the 1980s, began to manifest itself in all areas.

Although the country had large natural resources, the Soviet society lagged behind several developed countries of the world in terms of production and the standard of living of the population. By the mid-1980s, the crisis in the socio-economic spheres began to be felt in the republics, but also in the Soviet Union itself. By this time, the USSR was not only developed but also lagging far behind capitalist countries with an average level

of development in terms of the standard of living of the population, average life expectancy, child mortality, and provision of consumer goods and services to the population. These and other factors rightfully demanded the implementation of fundamental reforms in the expensive Soviet economy.

In such conditions, in the middle of the 80s of the 20th century, the policy, which was later called “reconstruction”, began to be implemented in Soviet society. Reconstruction is directly related to the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the CPSU Mikhail Sergeevich Gorbachev and the plenum of the Central Committee of the CPSU in April 1985. This process began with the analysis of crises accumulated in the socio-political, economic, and cultural spheres of society.

There are four distinct periods in Rish history:

- Phase 1 – March 1985 – January 1987. This stage was held under the slogans of “acceleration” and “more socialism”. Intensification of the economy and acceleration of scientific and technical progress were defined as its main goals;
- Phase 2 – January 1987 – June 1988. This stage was based on the slogans of “more democracy” and “openness”. This stage is characterized by the reduction of mass media bans, the emergence of cooperatives in the economy, the application of the principle of friendship in international relations, and the condemnation of various political decisions of the Soviet era;
- Phase 3 – June 1988 – September 1991. This stage is a period of “confusion and crisis” and is characterized by a split in the former camp of reconstruction, a transition to open political and national confrontation, economic tension, and the emergence of independent states;
- 4th stage – September-December 1991. This phase is not even considered a component of “reconstruction” in most cases. At this time, although the USSR state existed, it was divided into parts, and the decay of the system was fully manifested.

The reforms implemented in the 19th century, their causes, and their consequences

were discussed in the press of the Uzbek SSR by various professions, civil servants, and citizens who were not indifferent to the fate of the country.

Periodically, it is desirable to study the discussions on various press pages in several stages. These stages correspond to the stages of the period of “reconstruction” and allow us to determine the attitude towards each stage, to analyze the causes and consequences.

Materials and methods

It is known that on March 11, 1985, M. S. Gorbachev became the head of the government as the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the CPSU. During this period, 80 percent of Politburo members were trusted representatives of L. I. Brezhnev. One out of every two representatives at the top level of the administration started their party career during the time of I. V. Stalin and had not left their post for many years. Therefore, in the first year of his activity as the secretary of the Central Committee of the CPSU, M. S. Gorbachev began to clean the committee, increase his supporters, establish a new personnel policy, and thus gain his influence.

Of course, these changes in personnel policy did not escape the attention of the press, and from April 1985, intense discussions of what later became known as “restructuring” began. For example, in the April issue of the Pravda newspaper, an article entitled “Improving Work with Personnel” was published, according to which the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Communist Party of Ukraine is directing the party, state bodies, and public organizations, all links of the mechanism of the national economy to intensify the economy and accelerate the socio-economic development of Soviet society. mobilizes to make a sharp turn while passing. It is emphasized that the leading personnel play a big role in this.

The election of M. S. Gorbachev as the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the CPSU brought changes in the local press as well. The analysis of the content of the March issue of “Pravda Vostoka” newspaper shows that during the leadership of K. Chernenko, the main focus was on agriculture and its problems, on the full implementation of the five-year plan, on not slowing

down production even on weekends, and on mobilizing all forces in the countryside. Critical articles are rare in these issues, and they are mainly materials about the shortcomings of agriculture and, incomplete implementation of plans. However, the remarkable thing about the newspaper information at that time is that the discussion of some changes, which were later called “reconstruction” by M. Gorbachev, the secretary of the Central Committee of the CPSU, started from the time of the former secretary of the Central Committee of the CPSU, K. Chernenko.

The changes were not carried out on a large scale and together with the policy of openness, as in the era of M. Gorbachev. In particular, such articles as “Based on technical development”, “To animal husbandry – industrial technology”, and “By way of intensification” are among them. Nevertheless, not a single major article has been published in the socio-political journals published in our Republic, which reveals complex and controversial scientific problems. More than 200 articles analyzing scientific works published in the republic in the last five years have been published in magazines such as “Communist of Uzbekistan”, “Life of the Party”, “Social Sciences in Uzbekistan”, “And Uzbek Language and Literature”. However, the authors of these articles are limited to praising their works under analysis or making a superficial statement of the content. In the evaluation of scientific works, there have been cases of worshipping a position, which is completely contrary to the interests of the development of science, allowing familiarity and familiarity.

In his speech at the extraordinary plenum of the Central Committee of the CPSU on March 11, 1985, M.S. Gorbachev said: “social and economic development of the country..., sharp turning of the national economy to the path of intensive development..., in a short time to reach the highest positions in scientific and technical development..., expanding transparency in state and party offices... As a result of this speech, significant changes began to take place in the press, its columns, and topics. Dichotomous views were observed in the articles and their content, there were cases of exposing the shortcomings of the previous work, exposing the leaders and their actions, and

“recognizing” the mistakes made in industry and agriculture. In addition, a lot of space was devoted in the press to the discussion of topics such as “intensification, development involving scientific and technical achievements, demonstrating the fight against corruption, anti-alcohol policy”, which formed the basis of the first stage of the “reconstruction” period. A lot of information was given about the necessity of the “Reconstruction” policy and its reasons. In particular, a series of articles were published about the problems accumulated over the years, the fact that they were not eliminated in time and were not publicly discussed, as a result of which problems accumulated in all sectors of the national economy.

For example, “We ask to solve the situation”, “Ignored”, “The main task of criticism”, “The earth cannot be deceived”, “The assembly...” and many other critical articles were published. By analyzing the March editions of Pravda Vostoka newspaper alone, it is possible to determine the differences between the two heads of state and the two policies.

During the first phase of the “Reconstruction” period, many articles, opinions, and debates were periodically published in the press on why acceleration was necessary. For example, in several issues of the newspaper “Soviet Uzbekistan”, there are many policy-justifying articles under the titles “Acceleration is the need of the era”, “On the path of acceleration”, “Steps on the path of acceleration”, “Acceleration, quality and efficiency-the demand of the era”, “Acceleration is our battle slogan” was printed.

On the pages of the article, the fact that the current socio-economic situation is not at the level of demand was strongly criticized, saying that “instead of concrete work, they are often engaged in various activities and making many decisions”, the lack of practical work was condemned, and the article “Acceleration is the need of the times!” ended with the slogan.

It consists of the fact that, firstly, it is aimed at getting rid of all the old things that have lived their life and are an obstacle to life, destroy them, and remove them from the road. Second, both the party and Marxist philosophy denied that anything that permitted development had to be destroyed.

In the newspaper “Soviet Uzbekistan” such articles as “Need and Extravagance”, “Haqgoylik”, “Kozboyayamachilar”, “Superficiality”, “Where the demand has weakened”, justifying the correctness of the reconstruction policy, the fact that many works in this regard have been abandoned over the years, An attempt was made to “openly” show that unemployment and indifference have increased, and as a result, the economy, agriculture, and industry have fallen into a difficult situation.

The decisions of the first speed fundamentally changed the political, socio-economic, and cultural life of the people of Uzbekistan. In practice, such big and sensational changes did not happen, but in the press, the changes of the last year in the country were presented as “very big” and “revolutionary”. The XXVII Diet, which lasted from February 25 to March 6, 1986, issued decisions that led to important changes in the Soviet Union and the period of “reconstruction”. In the press, on the one hand, it helped to “justify” the appropriateness of these decisions in the eyes of the people, and on the other hand, by “openly” stating the problems in the people’s lives, it helped to show its basis.

Among the instructions of this session, the “competition of minds and talents” was mentioned. It was a very well-thought-out idea that such a competition was planned in the society, and it can be seen that the idea of “there is no progress in the place where the mind is rusty, where the talent is false” was put forward.

The contrast between many positive and negative articles and opinions published in March and April of the “Soviet Uzbekistan” newspaper can be clear proof of this. In 1986 and later, there was no other case of “sharp opposition” such as the articles and opinions issued in these two months.

Along with the slogan of “acceleration” in the early period of the “reconstruction” policy, the slogan of “intensification” was also frequently encountered in the first issues of 1985 and 1986. Articles such as “By way of intensification”, “The honor of intensive technology”, and “Intensification is the main task” envisage the intensification of existing capacities to further fulfill the economic plans set by the center. The analysis

of the press shows that after the XXVII siesd passed, this slogan almost disappeared from the press pages, and the term “reconstruction” began to take its place. As opposed to the term “intensification,” the term “acceleration” has been consistently used even after the term “reconstruction” entered the press. From this situation, it can be concluded that since the April plenum of the CPSU in 1986, the press put into practice the term “reconstruction” of the Secretary of the Central Committee of the CPSU M. S. Gorbachev, and this term took the place of “intensification”.

Result and discussion

The first use of the term “reconstruction” in the newspaper “Soviet Uzbekistan” “Where does reconstruction begin?” and “Restructuring work is an important task” is highlighted in the articles. Journalist J. Mamatov “Where does reconstruction begin?” – when addressing some professional representatives with the question, the painter N. Jumayeva answered the question “Do we do the work at home as if we wanted it, but not at the enterprise?” This is the result of the political-educational gap. “The party organization should focus on working with people, or rather, on fundamentally rebuilding their relations with work, forming them based on the requirements of the present time,” he answers.

In the November 22, 1986 edition of Pravda newspaper, the main article entitled “Education in the spirit of a master” announced the call to “not be a spectator from the sidelines, but to be an active and demanding participant in the reconstruction initiated by the party.”

A. Panchenko, a driver of the “Bustanvodstroy” trust in Zarbdar district, and a member of the party committee, in the column “About the Communist himself and the collective” of the newspaper “Soviet Uzbekistan”: leaders abused their positions in the discussion of the need for “reconstruction”, allowed waste in the disposal of state property, the CPSU He said that the XXVII Congress clearly showed the necessity of restructuring the activities of the communists and that this situation pleased him.

The article “Reconstruction is our work” in i” newspaper discusses the reasons for re-

construction. According to him, “relinquishment of paperwork, old-fashioned, bureaucratic, ready-made moods cannot be done without changing anything. For this, a person needs to start work from himself – thinking and psychology, organization of work, its methods and methods. It is emphasized that reconstruction should be carried out in the workplace, collective, party, and state bodies – everywhere. At the end of the article, each communist asked his comrade: “You talk about reconstruction, what did you do for its success!” – it is advisable to ask.

In addition to the frequent publication of political, socio-economic, and cultural changes in the country, “Soviet Uzbekistan” newspaper also has columns that are constantly published, depending on their changes, it is possible to periodically monitor the political changes in the country and the issues that are in the center of attention. One such regular column is “Party Life”, where a topical issue is discussed several times a month. For example, in the period from May 1985 to April 1986, on topics such as “Party Life: Report and Elections”, “Party Life: Season in the Affairs of the Communists”, “Party Life: Communist Reflections”, “Party Life: On the Eve of the Oblast Committee Conference” discussions were held.

It can also be seen from the above information that the “Party Life” column in the indicated period focused on reports and elections, personnel issues, and the working methods of the committee. Among them, the most prominent issue is “reports and elections”, in which attention is paid to listening to reports, analyzing them critically, pointing out shortcomings, and choosing the right leaders. It can be concluded that the first year of the “restructuring” policy, which began in 1985, focused on the acceleration of production and the national economy, the anti-alcohol company, and the issue of personnel, and this process was carried out both at the upper and lower levels of management. During

this period, A. N. Yakovlev, Ye. K. Ligachyov, N. I. Ryzhkov, B. N. Yeltsin, A. I. Lukyanov took the place of the old nomenclature, and this “personnel exchange” policy was also observed in other regions of the Soviet Union, especially in Uzbekistan. reflected in local newspapers.

From April 30, 1986, a thematic change took place on the “Life of the Party” page. From now on, the main issue in this column will be “Party Life: Work Restructuring is an Important Task”, “Party Life: From the Road to Restructuring”, “Party Life: How is Restructuring Going?”, “Party Life: Personnel and Restructuring” discussions were held. In the articles presented in this column, the main attention is devoted to the discussion of reconstruction works, their necessity, reasons, stages, and problems. At the Plenum of the Central Committee of the CPSU on January 27, 1987, the document of the Secretary of the Central Committee of the CPSU M. S. Gorbachev on “Restructuring and the personnel policy of the party” was heard. After that, its influence was felt in the press, and the main columns were focused on personnel issues. This situation can also be seen from the number of articles published under the column “Party Life: Personnel and Reconstruction” mentioned above.

Conclusion

To conclude, analyzing the columns of “Soviet Uzbekistan” and “Pravda Vostoka” newspapers over the period shows that the level of censorship has decreased as the reconstruction policy developed, and the number of critical, opinionated, and controversial articles in the press has also increased. In general, during the period of reconstruction, the press served to change people’s consciousness and to form attitudes towards different values. Although this information does not fully reflect real life, it is an important source for studying this period of Uzbekistan’s history.

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