

Economic Life in Uzbekistan During World War II

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Abstract

This article examines the main directions of economic and financial policy pursued in the Uzbek SSR during World War II. The mechanisms for covering state expenses in the difficult conditions of the war, the newly introduced military taxes, and the gratuitous material assistance provided by the population to the front are analyzed. The article simply and clearly describes the enormous contribution of our people to the victory not only on the labor front, but also at the expense of their personal savings and gold and jewelry.

Keywords: Uzbekistan, World War II, economy, finance, budget, taxes, assistance to the front, gold reserves, state loan, economic mobilization

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One of the greatest tragedies of the 20th century was World War II. Humanity lost more than 50 million people in this war, which is 5 times more than those who died in the First World War. The damage caused by the devastation and the costs of waging war amounted to 4 trillion dollars.¹

It is terrifying to imagine how difficult and difficult the Uzbek people went through during the war years. Products grown in all sectors of the national economy were 100 percent mobilized for the interests of the war. Not to mention industrial products, cotton, grain and other such primary food products for human life, even products from the vegetable, melon

¹ Жўраев М., Нуруллин Р., ва бошқ. Ўзбекистоннинг янги тарихи. К.2. Ўзбекистоннинг совет мустамлакачилиги даврида. – Т.: Шарқ. 2000. 429-бет.

and horticultural sectors were sent to the front 100 percent under strict control².

World War II began on September 1, 1939, and in a short period of time, it engulfed most of the world's countries. On June 22, 1941, 191 fascist divisions (of which 153 directly belonged to Germany itself) launched an offensive along the borders of the USSR from the Baltic Sea to the Black Sea.

The years of World War II were a period of serious testing for the economy and financial system of Uzbekistan. From the very first days of the war, the country's financial policy was transferred to an emergency regime, and the main emphasis was placed on the strategic principle "Everything for the front, everything for victory!" During this period, the republic's budget was reorganized to cover military needs, and all financial resources were mobilized for the defense industry, with funds allocated to social and cultural sectors sharply limited.

Fiscal measures such as the "Military Tax" and the "Tax on Childless Citizens", adopted in December 1941, played an important role in ensuring the financial stability of the Uzbek SSR. According to statistics, during the war years, the population of Uzbekistan not only fulfilled state obligations, but also voluntarily transferred more than 650 million rubles in cash, 22 kilograms of gold and 632 kilograms of silver to the Defense Fund. At the expense of these funds, dozens of tank columns and aviation squadrons were built for the front, and the armament system was strengthened.

This article scientifically analyzes the legal foundations of wartime financial policy, the economic efficiency of state loans and the mechanisms of centralized management of the people's material resources. It also covers the issues of how the republic's financial system was able to withstand the threat of severe hyperinflation and economic collapse in wartime conditions.

With the outbreak of World War II, the country's need for additional funds increased as a result of economic difficulties. The emergence of huge losses in the state budget and finance sector became the main reason for the economic downturn. As a result of the loss of several important industrial zones, economic activity in large areas decreased or

² Jo'rayev N., Kaimov Sh. O'zbekiston tarixi. 2-kitob, O'zbekiston sovet mustamchaligi davrida. – T.: 2011. 471-bet.

completely stopped. This, in turn, affected the volume and composition of state revenues. In wartime, the state's economic and military resources were directed to a single goal, namely the production of military equipment, at the level of state policy. In the emergency situation that arose during this period, all sectors, especially industry, were specialized in the production of military technical products. During the war, they delivered to the front 2,100 aircraft, 17,342 aircraft engines, 2,318,000 aircraft bombs, 17,100 mini-machine guns, 4,500 mine-destroying weapons, about 60,000 chemical weapons, 22 million mines and 560,000 shells, 1 million grenades, 3 million radio tubes for field radio stations, nearly 300,000 parachutes, 5 armored trains, 18 military sanitary and bathroom-laundry trains, 2,200 mobile kitchens, and many other military equipment. During World War II, the Soviet Union's state expenditures amounted to 1.1 trillion soums, the amount of destroyed economy amounted to 2.2 trillion soums, and direct military expenses amounted to 551.1 billion soums. In addition to mandatory payments for military expenses by the population, 16 billion soums in cash and 4.5 billion soums in valuables were transferred to the front.³

During the war, 114.7 billion soums were spent on war purposes. Of these, 55.8 billion soums, or 50.8%, were mobilized for military expenses. The republican budget in 1941-1945 amounted to 786.5 million soums, the main expenses being spent on defense needs. 21.84% of state revenues were spent on national economy expenses, 64.8% on social and cultural events, and 9.8% on state administration expenses. The main part of the state budget revenues came from enterprise funds, state loans, and monetary lotteries. These funds brought 422.6 million soums to the republican budget. In addition, the republic supplied 4 million 148 thousand tons of cotton, 54 thousand tons of cocoons, 3 million 83 thousand pieces of karakul skins and food products to the front.⁴

The main part of the funds received by the state budget was spent on military expenses and the front. In particular, 2,100 aircraft, 17,342 aircraft engines, 2,318 thousand aircraft bombs, 17,100 mortars, 4,500 mine-destroying weapons, about 60,000 military chemical equipment, 22 million mines, 560 thousand shells, 1 million grenades, 3 million radio lamps, 300,000 parachutes, 5 armored trains, 18 military sanitary and

³ Jo'rayev Sh. Boboyev S. "Mahalliy soliqlar tarixi". Buxoro 2004.46 bet.

⁴ Oblomurodov N., Tolipov F., O'zbekistonda soliqlar tarixi. T.: "IQTISOD-MOLIYA" 2009. 151-bet

bath-laundry trains, 22,000 mobile kitchens and 7,518.8 thousand gymnastic clothes, 2,636.7 thousand cotton turbans, 2,861.5 thousand army boots were mobilized for the front⁵. The above figures also show how much the Uzbek people contributed to the war fund during the Second World War. During these years, the economy, industry and agriculture of the Republic were fully adapted to the conditions of war.

If in the pre-war years taxes were levied from the population, during the war our people voluntarily transferred their funds to the front. During these years, 9.519 kg. of silver, 1.7 billion rubles of precious jewelry, 131.4 kg. of gold, 13.2 kg of platinum, 17.6 billion rubles of cash were received for defense⁶. During this period, taxes levied on the population for the country's defense fund and the Red Army fund were constantly changing and increasing. World War II changed the agricultural policy of the Soviet Union. This required the heads of state to carry out new reforms in financial and tax policy. The war led to a reduction in state budget revenues. In particular, in 1940, state revenues amounted to 180 billion rubles, while in 1942 they amounted to 165 billion rubles. The economic opportunities created in wartime conditions, the work carried out to attract the main income of the population to general production, ensured the stability of the financial system of the USSR, despite the losses in the economic and financial sphere.

During this period, the main sources of monetary reserves, income from state enterprises, increased prices for primary food products, increased various taxes and fees, led to the introduction of state loans and voluntary levies. State budget expenditures increased from 174.3 billion rubles to 182.8 billion rubles in 1942 compared to 1940. The shortfall in these expenditures was covered by the use of additional state reserves. During this period, military spending increased by 50 percent. The state began to need additional funds to cover military expenses. As a result, the SSS led to a sharp increase in the share of taxes in the state budget. The introduction of new additional taxes on the population during the war years and a sharp increase in the amount of existing tax obligations led to a significant increase in the amount of funds in the state budget⁷.

⁵ Murtazayeva R.H. O'zbekiston tarixi "Yangi asr avlodi". –T.: 2003.

⁶ Gritchina M.N Nalogovaya politika v god Vilikeyotichestvennoy voyni//roginalnaya ekanomika:tioriya i praktika. 2015, N40.C.63.

⁷ История социалистической экономики СССР. В 7 томах. Том 5. Советская экономика накануне в период Великой Отечественной войны. 1938–1945 гг. – Москва: Наука, 1978. – 562 с.

Studying the economic and financial measures taken in Uzbekistan during the Second World War, we can say the following: First, from the first months of the war, the entire financial system was adapted to the needs of the front. State funds, diverted from the construction of schools or roads, were directed directly to the supply of weapons and food for soldiers. This strict austerity policy became the main foundation for bringing victory closer. Secondly, new taxes (for example, the "Military Tax") and compulsory payments played a major role in replenishing the state treasury. It is important that people perceived this not only as an obligation, but also as a patriotic duty. The voluntary handover of cash and gold jewelry by our people helped to overcome economic difficulties. Thirdly, Uzbekistan took in factories and millions of people evacuated from Russia and other regions during the war. Although this was a burden on the republic's budget, it paved the way for Uzbekistan to become an industrial center. It led to the emergence of new jobs and factories.

In conclusion, the financial policy of Uzbekistan in 1941–1945 proved that even in the most difficult conditions it is possible to unite the people and find a way out of any crisis. This historical period can serve as an example of proper economic management even today.

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