

PAPER

A LOOK AT THE ROLE OF BUKHARA JADIDISM AND USMAN KHOJA PULATKHODJAEV

Rakhmatov Murod Gaybullayevich¹, *

¹Associate Professor of Navoi State University Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Historical Sciences

* raxmatov.80@bk.ru

Abstract

This article discusses information about the Bukhara Jadidism and the role of Usman Khoja Pulatkhojayev based on archival materials, periodicals, and scientific foundations of foreign literature.

Key words: Turkey, archive, army, society, emigrant, press, independence, memory, jury, congress, idea, new Bukhara, revolution, Soviet, government, press, emigrant, Islamism.

INTRODUCTION

A prominent representative of the Jadid movement, a prominent statesman and public figure, Osman Khoja was born in 1878 in Bukhara (in some sources, Osh). His father was a Bukhara merchant, Qari Pulat Khoja, and his mother was a Fatima Ayim from Osh. He received his initial education in a madrasa in Bukhara, where he opened one of the first Jadid schools. In 1908, he went to Turkey with his friend Homid Khoja Mehri and studied in Istanbul. In Istanbul, he met Ismailbek Gasprinsky (1850–1914), the founder of the Jadid movement in Crimea, and Anvar Pasha (1881–1922), the leader of the Young Turks' party: the "Unity of Progress" and others. His brother Otaulla Khojayev (Ota Khoja, Otaulla Pulatovich Khojayev, Otakhoja Pulatkhojyev; 1880–1937) also studied in Istanbul. In early 1912, Osman Khoja returned to Bukhara and reorganized one of the Jadid schools. He was an active member of the secret organization "Tarbiyai Atfol" (founded in 1908). He provided financial support for the Jadid schools.[1]

As Professors Q. Rajabov and Sh. Hayitov write in their treatise "Usman Khoja", "Usman Khoja was one of the first progressive young people to travel to Turkey to study. After returning from his trip to Turkey, in 1912 he sent another 30 young people from Bukhara to study in Istanbul. Thus, in 1909–1914, Osman Khoja's younger brother Otaulla Khojayev, Mazhar Makshum, Burhon Makshum, Abdurauf Fitrat, Mukimbek and others also studied in Turkey." [2]

A secret letter (February 24, 1912) sent by Belman, the Russian Empire's new envoy in Bukhara (Kagan), states that "Osman Khoja brought many political pamphlets from Istanbul. He was engaged in the propagation of the ideas of Turkism and Islamism, and actively participated in the life of a secret political organization." [3]

According to archival documents, employees of the political agency of the Russian Empire in Bukhara, who came from the city of New Bukhara (now Kogan) to monitor the state of education in this school, saw that desks and tables and chairs were placed in the classroom, that there was a globe with a picture of the Earth in front of the teacher, that classes were held using various visual aids, and that various maps of the Bukhara Emirate and the Russian state were hung on the walls of the classroom. This is mentioned in a special reference written by the deputy chairman of the political agency Shulga.[5]

The luxurious house built in Bukhara in the 1860s by Osman Khoja's father, Polat Khoja, still exists today. The courtyard was built in the historical Govkushan guzar of Bukhara, around the Govkushan and Ghoziyon madrasas. At one time, it was known as the "courtyard of the yard". The courtyard is currently located at 13 Khoja Gulrez Street in the Hamid Olimjon neighborhood of Bukhara.

According to the writings of Sulaymon Inoyatov, a professor at Bukhara State University and a prominent historian (he is considered the grandson of Otaulla Khojayev), Osman Khoja was

Compiled on: September 16, 2025.

Copyright: ©2025 by the authors. Submitted to *Advances in Science and Humanities* for possible open access publication under the terms and conditions of the [Creative Commons Attribution \(CC BY\) 4.0 license](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/).

42 years old when he left this courtyard in 1921, first to eastern Bukhara, and then to Afghanistan on a special business trip, and his brother Otaulla Khojayev was 57 years old when he was arrested in 1937. After the owners of the courtyard were repressed by the Soviet regime, it was confiscated by the state and various offices were placed in the building. For many years, the Bukhara regional court was located in it. Prisoners under trial were kept in the basement of the courtyard. Opposite the courtyard was the magnificent courtyard of the qazikol of the Bukhara emirate, Sadr Ziya (Sharifjon Makhdum), which has also been preserved today.

LITERATURE ANALYSIS AND METHODOLOGY

The article was based on the research works of R.Rajapova, R.Abdullayev, S.A'zamkhodjayev, S.Inoyatov, O.Sharafiddinov, N.Karimov, R.Shamsutdinov, S.Shodmonova, A.Mingnarov, Sh.Hayitov, D.Jamolova, O.Rashidov, U.Hayitov, A.Mahmudov, M.Darmonova, A.Yuldoshev and other historians. The principles of historicity, systematicity, and generalization methods were used in studying the problem.

DISCUSSION

Usman Khoja's son, Temur Khoja oglu, who lives in Istanbul, met with Bukhara residents in June and December 2019 at the "Hovli Poyon" hotel located in this courtyard and proposed opening a museum of Bukhara Jadids in this historical building. This proposal was supported by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Shavkat Mirziyoyev, and in 2023-2024, this courtyard will be taken under state ownership, and renovation work is currently underway to open a museum and library here.

Usman Khoja and his brother Otaulla Khojayev, and his cousin Fayzulla Khojayev were prominent figures in the Young Bukhara Party. Usman Khoja was elected to the Central Committee of the party three times in 1917 and became the party's treasurer.[6] After the invasion of Bukhara by Fyodor Kolesov, the chairman of the Turkestan Regional Council of People's Commissars, in March 1918, Usman Khoja was also forced to emigrate to Soviet Turkestan. In April 1918, he founded a group of young Bukhara left-wing socialists in Tashkent. In February 1920, he was elected a member of the Turkestan Central Bureau of the Revolutionary Young Bukhara Party.

After the formation of the BSR, Osman Khoja held such responsible positions as the financial inspector (1920), the state control inspector (1921), and the first chairman of the Central Executive Committee of the BSR (August 1921-early 1922). Osman Khoja and many leaders of the BSR government wanted to turn Bukhara into a truly independent republic with its own national army and national government. The first condition for the existence of an independent republic was the need to create a well-armed national army. Osman Khoja consistently fought for the withdrawal of the Red Army of Soviet Russia from the Bukhara People's Soviet Republic and for the real independence of Bukhara. The chairman of the Central Executive Committee of the BSR, Usman Khoja, while on a business trip to eastern Bukhara as an extraordinary representative of the Bukhara People's Soviet Republic, on December 9, 1921, with the help of his assistants: Ali Rizobek, deputy inspector of military affairs of the BSR, Hasanbek, commander of the Termez garrison, and Doniyolbek, disarmed the Red soldiers in the Dushanbe garrison. He took the head of the Dushanbe garrison, Morozenko, military commissar Mukhin, and the consul general of the RSFSR, Nagorny, into custody.[7]

With Ibrahimbek's permission, Anvar Pasha's assistants, Haji Sami and Usman Efendi, arrived with a group of soldiers

to help Osman Khoja. The leader of the BSR national forces besieging the city sent a letter to Ibrahimbek through a special representative, inviting him to join his ranks, saying, "We have entered into a struggle against the invaders, come, let's all fight as one!"[8] Anvar Pasha attempted to form an independent national army of Bukhara. Unfortunately, Ibrahimbek did not believe such a sincere invitation from the chairman of the BSR Central Committee, Osman Khoja, various disagreements between Ibrahimbek and Anvar Pasha, as well as the fact that Osman Khoja and Anvar Pasha were unable to meet directly in eastern Bukhara [9], which led to the fact that Osman Khoja and Anvar Pasha were unable to meet directly in eastern Bukhara. The Soviet command in Turkestan had already planned to send a special military expedition to capture eastern Bukhara in late October 1920.[10] On November 9, by order of the commander of the 1st Army, G.V. Zinoviev, all Soviet military units and garrisons in the Bukhara region were incorporated into the Bukhara Group of Forces. The immediate task of the Red Army was to capture Said Olimkhan, who was in the Hisor Valley, and establish Soviet power in eastern Bukhara by force of arms. Since the expedition's military operations were intended to take place mainly in Hisor, the command of the Turkestan Front called it the Hisor Military Expeditionary Detachment. Based on the order of the Turkestan Front Command of November 27, 1920, the formation of the Hisor Expeditionary Detachment began. It was formed from the 3rd Brigade, 16th Cavalry Regiment, 5th and 6th Cavalry Regiments, and a special mountain cavalry battery of the 1st Turkestan Division, as well as new military units sent from central Russia.[11]

On the morning of February 14, 1921, the Hissar military expeditionary detachment set off from Baysun. It was from this day that the military expedition began its march and began to conquer eastern Bukhara. The Red soldiers encountered serious resistance from the emir's soldiers, hastily formed volunteers from the local population, and other national forces. The government of the Bukhara Republic declared February 15-22 as the Bukhara Front's Shock Week. During these days, the fighters of the 1st Turkestan Cavalry Brigade under the command of Ya.A. Melkumov occupied the Bandikhon Gorge, opening the way for the Red soldiers to the Surkhandarya oasis.[12]

In fierce battles with the Red soldiers, who had a quantitative and qualitative superiority in weapons, the independence fighters in Bukhara (the emir's soldiers and volunteer men) were initially defeated. On February 15, 1921, the Red Army captured Denov. Soon, Yurchi, Sariosiyo, and Saryjoi were also taken from the hands of the independence fighters. The attacking Red Army encountered fierce resistance in Regarda (now the city of Mirzo Tursunzoda), but this city and then Karatag were also captured by them. In particular, from February 20, 1921, fierce battles raged at the entrance to Hisor.[13]

On February 25, 1921, the headquarters of the Hissar expeditionary military detachment arrived and settled in Dushanbe. The expedition's military supplies were mainly delivered from Karshi. On March 2, V.V. Kuibyshev, a special representative of the Bukhara People's Soviet Republic of the RSFSR, arrived here and set new tasks for the Red Army. In his opinion, the Red Army should establish Soviet power in the entire eastern Bukhara region with "fire and sword". In addition, special political officers sent by the Bolsheviks from Tashkent and Bukhara - extraordinary and autonomous representatives of the Bukhara Communist Party and the Bukhara Communist Party under the leadership of Sadullakhodja Tursunkhodjayev - arrived in Dushanbe. These communists were supposed to ideologically guide the Red Army's struggle against the independence fighters.

Around Tutkovul, Ibrahimbek, Davlatmandbek, Togay Sari and Egamberdi with their 3,000-strong cavalry offered fierce

resistance to the Red Army. However, after fierce fighting, on the evening of February 24, 1,800 cavalry under the command of Davlatmandbek left for Baljuvan via Kangurt, while the rest of the army headed towards Kulob under the command of Ibrahimbek. On February 25, 1921, the 2nd Cavalry Regiment under the command of Roganov occupied Kulob.[14]

It is characteristic that, despite the fact that the Hissar expeditionary detachment existed for about a year, its commanders changed frequently. These commanders of the invading Red Army were killed or wounded in battles. When V.M. Ionov was wounded in a battle with the Eshon Sultan group in August 1921, the brigade commander Ya.A. Melkumov (1885–1962) began to command the expedition.

After Said Alimkhan went to Afghanistan, he left some of the palace officials who had come abroad with him in Khanabad and Mazar-i-Sharif and went to the capital Kabul with his closest friends. In May 1921, he settled in the Fatu fortress near Kabul, at the behest of the Afghan emir Amonullah Khan, and tried to direct military operations against the Red Army in the newly formed BSR. Said Olimkhan mainly communicated with the warlords operating in the Bukhara region through his uncle, the former bey of Karshi, Togaybek. While in Karshi, Osman Khoja made a decisive decision, broke off relations with the Soviets, and joined the armed opposition. On April 10, 1922, Osman Khoja arrived in Afghanistan. On April 29, he met with the Afghan emir Amanullah Khan in Kabul and signed an agreement with Afghanistan as the head of state of the Bukhara Republic to fight against Russia.[15] He tried to purchase weapons from foreign countries for the independent national army of Bukhara. However, researchers write that the negotiations with the British did not yield any results.[16] When Osman Khoja later tried to return to Bukhara, Fayzulla Khojayev sent him a letter warning him not to return, warning that if he did, he would be shot by the Bolsheviks.[17]

RESULTS

Thus, the period of emigration began in the life of Osman Khoja. He initially stayed in Afghanistan, establishing contacts with Anvar Pasha and other commanders. In Afghanistan, he gave young men of Turkish nationality special military training, preparing them for the fight for the independence of Turkestan. Ahmed Zaki Validi, who arrived in Kabul in June 1923, met with Osman Khoja several times there. On June 26–28, an urgent meeting of the Turkestan National Unity (TMB) organization was held in Kabul, where future plans were discussed. After Osman Khoja was appointed as the TMB representative in Turkey, in September 1923 he arrived in Istanbul and applied to the Turkish government for political asylum. He was warmly welcomed by Mustafa Kemal Atatürk (1881–1938), the first president of the Turkish Republic.[18]

In accordance with the resolution of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev dated May 30, 2024 “On the establishment of a state museum of Jadid heritage in Bukhara”[19], the state museum of Jadid heritage will be established in the Hovli-poyon complex, located at 13 Khoja Gulrez Street, a historical residence in Bukhara where Osman Khoja lived. This courtyard was built in the 1960s by Osman Khoja's father, Pulat Khoja, in the family of this father, where Osman Khoja was raised and opened his famous Jadid school in Bukhara. Currently, work is underway to renovate and equip this house to make it suitable for the museum.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, Usman Khoja was a prominent statesman and politician, a patriot who fought against the Russians for the independence of Bukhara. Usman Khoja had a special place in the Jadid movement in Bukhara. The activities of the Jadid school founded by Usman Khoja in Bukhara are especially commendable. Around him, associates and comrades such as his brother Otaulla Khojayev and his cousin Fayzulla Khojayev became close friends and were at the forefront of the struggle for the unity and independence of Turkestan. Unfortunately, Usman Khoja's activities in Bukhara were interrupted in early 1922. Usman Khoja went to Afghanistan on a state visit, and due to Bolshevik pressure and the political situation, he was forced to stay in Kabul without returning.

REFERENCES

1. Қ.Ражабов. Туркистон минтақасида совет режимига қарши истиқлолчилик ҳаракати ва моҳияти (1918–1935). – Тошкент: Фан, 2022. – Б.219–222.
2. Ражабов Қ., Ҳайитов Ш. Усмон Хўжа. – Тошкент: Abu matbuot-konsalt, 2011. – Б.8.
3. Look and compare: Қ. Ражабов. Ўзбекистон ССРда совет режимининг қатағон сиёсати ва унинг оқибатлари (1917–1991 й.). – Тошкент: Фан, 2022. – Б. 228–230; “Шарқ юлдузи” (Тошкент). – 2004. – № 1. Б. 30–31.
4. See about this: С.Иноятов. Усмон Хўжанинг ҳовлиси// “Жадидларнинг илмий-педагогик мероси: тарих ва замонавийлик” мавзусидаги халқаро илмий-амалий анжуман материаллари (29–30 март 2024 йил). 1-тўплам. – Фарғона, 2024. – Б. 354–359.
5. National Archives of Uzbekistan, Fund I-3, List 1, File 105, Sheet 74.
6. Файзулла Хўжаев. Бухоро инқилобининг тарихига материаллар (Қайта нашр). Масъул муҳаррир: Д.Алимова. – Тошкент: Фан, 1997. – Б. 102–106.
7. Timur Kocaoglu. Yenilik Hareketliri ve ihtilaller Arasında Osman Hoca (Kocaoglu) // Türkistanda Yenilik Hareketleri ve ihtilaller: 1900 - 1924. - Haarlem, Sota, 2001. S. 26.
8. Türkistanli Abdullah Receb Baysun. Türkistan Milli Hareketleri. - Istanbul, 1975. S. 62–63.
9. Look: Усмон Хўжа. Анвар Пошо Бухорода қолса эди... // “Эрк” газетаси (Тошкент). 1992 йил 29 апрел – 5 май.
10. “Бухоро ахбори”, №8, 1920 йил 21 ноябр.
11. National Archives of Uzbekistan, fund 46, list 1, file 38, sheet 4.
12. История таджикского народа. Том V. Новейшая история (1917–1941 гг.). – Душанбе, 2004. – С.259.
13. National Archives of Uzbekistan, fund 46, list 2, file 10, sheet 5.
14. National Archives of Uzbekistan, fund 48, list 1, file 74, sheet 14.
15. Temur Kocaoglu. Yenilik Hareketleri ve ihtilaller Arasında Osman Hoca (Kocaoglu) // Türkistanda Yerilik Hareketleri ve ihtilaller: 1900 - 1924. S. 26–28.

16. Ш.Ҳайитов Усмонхўжа Пўлатхўжаев - миллий му-
стақиллик курашчиси // Инсо-ни-ят-нинг илмий ва
маданий мероси - учинчи минг йилликка. Бухоро ва
Хива шаҳарла-ри-нинг 2500 йиллигига бағишланган
халқаро симпозиум тезислари. – Тошкент: Ўзбекистон,
1997. – Б. 68-69.
17. Look: Қ.Ражабов. Ўзбекистон ССРда совет режимининг
қатағон сиёсати ва унинг оқибатлари (1917-1991 й.). –
Тошкент: Фан, 2022. – Б. 223-224.
18. Look: Қ.Ражабов. Туркистон қўрбошилари. – Тошкент:
Фан, 2022. – Б. 297-298.
19. Ўзбекистон Республикаси Президентининг қарори
(2024 йил 30 май): Жаҳидлар мероси давлат музейини
ташқил этиш тўғрисида // <https://yuz.uz/a/uz/101334>.