

# The Impact of the Crisis of the Soviet State in the 80s of the XX Century on the National Economy and Agriculture of Uzbekistan

Yunusova Khurshida Erkinovna, Usarov Umidjon  
Abdumavlyanovich, Mamatkulov Akmal Yaxshiboevich and  
Tolibov Nurbek Abdigapporovich

**Abstract---** *The last two decades of the twentieth century have been one of the most difficult in the history of the Soviet Union, one of the largest empires in the world, was a period of responsible turning. During these years, the command-and-control method of governance continued until the Soviet government, which had kept the socio-economic situation within a certain framework, abandoned free market relations and chose the path of extensive development of the socialist economy. The use of the achievements of the national economy in the field of science, engineering, technology, the application of the experience of developed countries also faced serious obstacles associated with the administration. In the 1980s, spending in the country increased so much that the country became a site of "huge construction." The fight against alcoholism has intensified. At the same time, the Soviet government, which had no choice but to strengthen ties with the socialist countries, continued to strengthen ties with such countries at the expense of financial resources. As a result of such inefficient production relations, the country, which has accumulated the most fertile lands in the world, has become mired in economic crises, unable to provide its population with food and light industry products. The processes that took place in the country, in turn, were difficult in the allied republics. Influencing the structure of industry in Uzbekistan, which is part of the Central Asian economic region, cotton growing required the development of enterprises for the production of mineral fertilizers, cotton ginning, textile and industry machinery and equipment, agricultural machinery. Agriculture was also in a state of economic crisis, and excessive attention to raw cotton did not cover the costs incurred for agriculture, and real incomes from agriculture remained incomplete. This situation, even in the 1980s, allowed to strengthen the economic monopoly by managing the national economy on the basis of a centralized plan.*

**Keywords---** *Conflict, Commonwealth, Administrative Command, Planned Economy, National Economy, Economic Sectors, Economic Regions, Cotton, All-Union, Multidisciplinary Machinery, Raw Materials, Fiber, Silkworm, Karakul.*

---

## I. INTRODUCTION

The great political events of the 1980s dramatically changed the course of the world, firmly holding on to the path of fruitless "socialist development" based on confrontation, class conflict, mutual discrimination and violence,

---

*Yunusova Khurshida Erkinovna, National University of Uzbekistan, "History of Uzbekistan", Chair of Professors.*

*E-mail: khurshida@mail.ru*

*Usarov Umidjon Abdumavlyanovich, National University of Uzbekistan. "History of Uzbekistan", Department of Basic Doctoral Studies.*

*E-mail: umidjon.usarov@mail.ru*

*Mamatkulov Akmal Yaxshiboevich, National University of Uzbekistan, "History of Uzbekistan", Senior Teacher of the Department.*

*E-mail: kmal@nuu.uz*

*Tolibov Nurbek Abdigapporovich, Uzbekistan State Physical Education and Sports University, "Social sciences and Humanities" Teacher of the Department. E-mail: nurbek.tolibov@inbox.ru*

and rejecting universal ideas in one-sixth of the world. The disintegration of the USSR, one of the largest empires in the world, which had only resorted to the use of force and the enslavement of peoples, gave the world a new political, social and spiritual image.

The 1980s were the most difficult, responsible turning point of the Soviet era. During these years, the states (capitalism), which were expected to perish as a result of the escalation of internal conflicts, gradually developed and rose to a new stage of their development. In these countries, social conflicts did not escalate, and the working class, which is considered the most "revolutionary force", was able to meet its political, economic, social, cultural and spiritual demands. The so-called "socialist bloc" countries in Eastern Europe have turned their attention to the West and sought to strengthen ties with developed democracies. Countries in Asia and Africa that have taken the path of "socialist development" or are trying to do so are also in the throes of severe economic crises and social and political problems, and their development is worse than in the colonial era.

In the Soviet Union, however, the command-and-control method of governance maintained the socio-economic situation to a certain extent, overemphasizing the potential of a "socialist society", abandoning free market relations and continuing to choose the path of extensive development of the socialist economy. As a result, there was a gap in economic life, and corruption-like vices escalated, bringing society to the brink of collapse. The planned economy has become a serious obstacle to "planned development."

There are serious administrative barriers to the use of scientific, technical and technological achievements in the national economy, as well as the application of the experience of developed countries. It is known that from 1976 to 1980, the country has developed 2,000 comprehensive programs in the most important and new areas of science. The program covers more than 6,000 specific topics. At a time when there was great interest in the scientific achievements of scientists in foreign countries, the administration and formality in the country did not allow to effectively address such achievements. Instead of science-based production, sectors of the economy were developed on the basis of instructions given by the center. For example, in 1981-1985, 120 out of more than 400 scientific projects were put into production. Of the 37 scientific papers put forward by the "Soyuzkhlopok" Scientific Production Association, only 6 have been put into practice.

On top of that, the introduced machinery is often sent to farms without fail. For example, the SXU-4 seeder, which could replace one row of seed drills at a time and was recommended for production in 1981, was produced in 1984 and 10,000 were distributed to farms, of which 2,000 were operational. The VKS-1, designed to uproot weeds, remained on paper without being produced.

In general, by the 1980s, spending in the country had increased to such an extent that the country had become a site of "massive construction." It has become commonplace to design large buildings, enterprises, increase the number of unfinished buildings and unfinished constructions. The funds allocated for these constructions are 700 billion rubles. In 1988 alone, the number of constructions suspended under the pretext of lack of raw materials or labor amounted to 28 billion rubles. However new ministries have been set up and have been allocated for the construction, 59 billion rubles were spent which is suspected to be of real benefit. Even the Resolution of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union of May 7, 1985 "On measures to eliminate alcoholism" led

to a sharp reduction in the revenue side of the state budget. By 1987, the anti-alcohol movement itself had paid the state \$ 10 billion rubles.

On top of that, there was no choice but to strengthen ties with the socialist countries. For example, some non-democratic regimes in Africa and Asia maintained their dominance at the expense of financial resources provided by the Soviet government. In 1980, aid to these countries amounted to 86 billion rubles.

Cuba, Vietnam, and Mongolia alone owe \$ 35 billion to the Soviet government rubles. In the late 1980s, a large amount of money was given to Afghanistan for permanent aid. Even the debts of the states that owed money to the USSR were waived. In 1987, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union passed a resolution to write off the debts of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen.

As a result of such inefficient production relations, the country, which has accumulated the most fertile lands in the world, has become mired in economic crises, unable to provide its population with food and light industry products. Every year the variety of food products imported into the country increased. The Soviet government annually bought grain from Argentina, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Brazil, and the United States.

In the national economy of the USSR, territorial production based on the economic laws of the socialist system has for years determined the prospects of socio-economic development of the country. This method of "regional governance emerged in the USSR as a result of the formation of economic regions and the regional division of labor," as if it were to divide the national economy into sectors and plan-based management would eliminate the fragmentation of the socialist economy and be based on territorial, intersectoral governance. In the 1960s, the whole country was divided into 17 economic regions, ten of which were in the RSFSR, three in Ukraine, and some economic regions included one republic (Belarus, Kazakhstan), in some cases, several republics merged to form a single economic region. Such economic regions could include the Transcaucasian Economic Region, the Baltic Economic Region, and the Central Asian Economic Region. The Central Asian economic region includes the republics of Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan.

Undoubtedly, the role of the Uzbek SSR in the Central Asian economic region was great. In terms of the area of Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan is the second largest economic region in Central Asia, with an area of 449.6 thousand km<sup>2</sup> was. This area could accommodate the United Kingdom, Belgium, the Netherlands, Switzerland and Austria. In general, Uzbekistan occupied 2% of the territory of the USSR, where 5.1% of the country's population lived. The method and method of production of the Uzbek SSR was somewhat different, it was characterized by a special regional character, as well as the complete subordination of the structure of the national economy to the central government. Cotton growing, which influenced the industrial structure of the Uzbek SSR, required the development of enterprises for the production of mineral fertilizers, ginning, textile and machinery for the textile industry, agricultural machinery. Uzbekistan has developed a complex of cotton industry, a group of industries that supply it with tools, ferrous and non-ferrous metallurgy, industries that create consumer goods to meet local needs. Among them, in particular, the production of raw cotton and metallurgy, which includes a large regional agricultural complex, was of general importance and played a leading role in the economy of the republic. The multidisciplinary machine-building complex in the Uzbek SSR also played a significant role in the regional economy. It consisted of

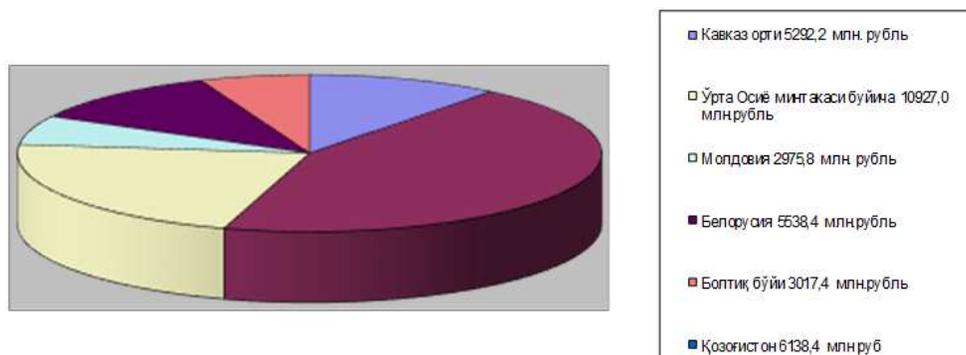
300 organizations, 70 of which were large machine-building plants owned by 16 all-Union ministries. As a result, Uzbekistan has a defective, one-sided structure of raw materials for the national economy.

Since the 1960s, Uzbekistan has been the third largest producer of mineral fertilizers among the allied republics. By the 1980s, one-fifth of all chemical enterprises in the country were located in Uzbekistan. These enterprises also produced products necessary for the needs of the country and caused irreparable damage to the environment in the republic. In addition, such enterprises were built mainly in densely populated areas, where moisture is absorbed very quickly. For example, a new chemical plant in Kokand was built in the same place, which emitted 3 times more toxic substances than planned due to non-compliance with technical regulations and poor equipment. In turn, these toxins passed into the body of the population through food and open water bodies, adversely affecting their health. In 1985, 3.8 percent of food, 4.9 percent of drinking water, and 18.8 percent of atmospheric air around Kokand were found to contain highly toxic chemicals that are harmful to human health.

Most of the negative aspects of the years under analysis were also evident in agriculture. The Central Asian economic region was one of the largest agrarian-economic regions of the country. The developed lands in this region were equal to half of the developed lands in the whole USSR. 9/10 of raw cotton, 2/3 of cocoons and astrakhan, 1/3 of rice, a certain amount of wool, tobacco, fruits, grapes, melons and other agricultural products are grown here.

According to the regional division of labor, the development of the "Cotton" raw material complex in Central Asia was required. The Cotton Program was clearly targeted and consisted of 11 parts. The program was to fully meet the needs of the country's economy in raw cotton and to establish foreign relations by providing the socialist countries that are members of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance with raw materials. For example, the USSR owned 21% of the world's cotton in 1985-1990, and the fiber was exported to more than 30 countries. From 30% to 97% of the fiber used in the textile industry in the countries of the socialist system was provided by cotton grown in the Uzbek SSR. However, since cotton was the main raw material source of foreign exchange earnings, the revenue from it fell mainly to the budget of the general union country. The fact that 90 percent of Uzbek cotton fiber is exported unprocessed alone is ten times more than the center's annual subsidy to Uzbekistan. Of course, during the 1970s and 1980s, the Uzbek SSR carried out positive work on the development of cotton, livestock, poultry, vegetables and rice. This can be seen from the diagram below.

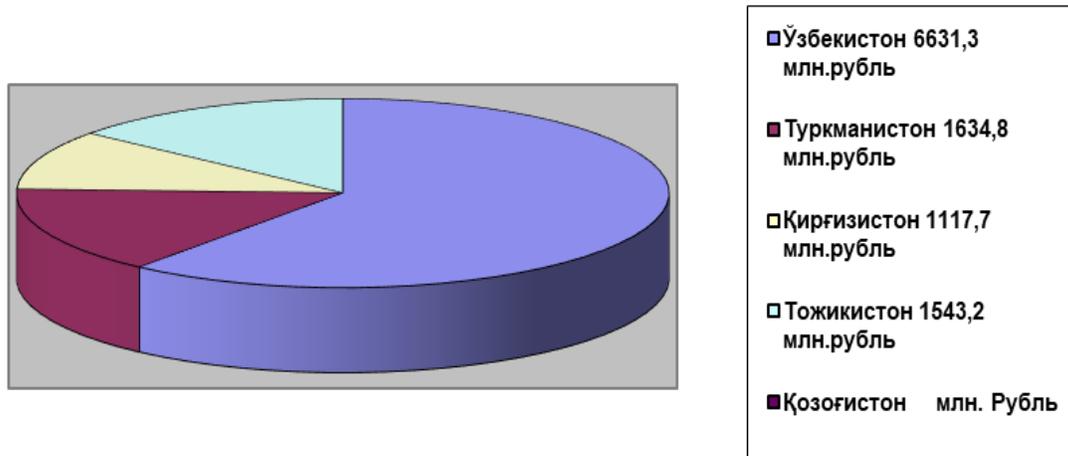
***Agricultural Products Produced in Central Asia and Kazakhstan in the USSR in 1987 (all Types of Farms; 1983 Prices)***



Agricultural products produced in the Central Asian Republics and the Republic of Kazakhstan in 1987 were as follows. (in the amount of million rubles):

***Agricultural Products Produced in 1987 in the Central Asian Republics and Kazakhstan (all types of farms; 1983 Prices)***

Table 29



From the above it can be seen that throughout the USSR it was the highest among the former Soviet republics in terms of agricultural production grown in the Central Asian republics and Kazakhstan.

However, the excessive emphasis on the cultivation of raw cotton in Uzbekistan's agriculture also "required the development of new lands," which, of course, led to an increase in the number of collective and state farms. For example, by 1987 the number of collective farms in the republic had risen to 859, and the number of state farms to 1,052. However, in many cases, the firm demand of the party from above did not allow it to carry out the assigned work. Funds spent on improving the reclamation of land were also not used on their own, and were put to use on the developed lands with major shortcomings and unresolved problems. As a result, the amount of profit from the land would not cover the costs incurred, and the real income from agriculture would be incomplete.

The arable lands in Uzbekistan consisted mainly of gray soils, ordinary soils, and in some places saline soils. Therefore, the land in Uzbekistan was more fertilized. From ancient times, when the locals irrigated the land with water from rivers, turbid water also flowed into it various substances useful for plants. These added strength to the soil, and the soil layer also grew at the expense of turbidity. With the construction of the canals, the inflow of cold water from the reservoirs to the irrigated lands changed the composition of the land. Over time, areas become thinner, soil fertility opportunities decrease, and soil erosion increases. Eventually, if more mineral fertilizers are not applied, it will be impossible to harvest from the soil, and the need to replace the lost substances in the soil with mineral fertilizers will increase. By 1984, 600,000 hectares of land in the country were in a state of urgent need for reclamation. The average amount of mineral fertilizers used per hectare of land in Uzbekistan was 600 kg, which is 20-30 times higher than the world norm. However, almost 60 percent of these fertilizers remained undigested, left in the soil layer, and degraded the soil composition.

This situation has reduced the natural self-defense immunity of plants and led to the proliferation of various insects in the fields. At the same time, the widespread use of aviation in the treatment of agriculture, especially cotton, with toxic chemicals is increasing. In 1980 alone, 6.03 thousand tons of toxic substances were used to treat cotton fields. The cotton fields were so poisoned by various chemicals that they first of all had a negative impact on the health of the population. The amount of pesticides applied per hectare of land also exceeded the dangerous level, and the amount of humus in the soil decreased. While 45-50% of these substances applied to cotton have a beneficial effect, the remaining 50-55% are washed from the soil and blown into the air, adversely affecting people and the environment, and the farms did not get the planned harvest. The soil was contaminated with harmful salts, especially heavy metal compounds - fluorine, chromium, manganese, cobalt, nickel, copper, zinc, cadmium, mercury, lead, lead, and others. Sources of soil poisoning in this way were metallurgical industry wastes, some man-made products, exhaust gases, pesticides, herbicides and others used in agriculture.

However, given that 70% of the developed lands served the cotton industry, it is clear that the basis of agriculture was the cultivation of raw cotton. In conclusion, it should be noted that these vast lands were used for the cultivation of more technical crops, and the provision of the local population with agricultural products was one of the lowest among the other allied republics.

In general, the "socialist homelessness" of the Soviet state caused serious difficulties in the last decade of the dictatorship. These contradictions were not accidental for the existing system, but the result of political, social and economic crises that had accumulated over a long period of time. In agriculture, based on the interests of the state, attention was paid to one or two types of crops, and cotton monopoly was formed. The assessment, material and moral rewards, which were given at the time when "the plan must be carried out in any case", were also based on the implementation of the plan.

By the 1980s, the Soviet state, which had managed the national economy on the basis of a centralized plan, had strengthened the country's existing economic monopoly. Expansion in the national economy and specialization in one area strengthened the position of the center in the "single national economy". The economy of the Uzbek SSR was part of a single system of the USSR, and its social, economic, and financial aspects were not in the interests of the state and people of Uzbekistan. Excessively centralized planning has stifled the economic development of Uzbekistan, which has great wealth and potential. Uzbekistan, as one of the most economically developed republics, did not fully use its potential in the all-Union division of labor, although it had its own opportunities and conditions for advanced sectors of the economy. The manufacturing industries depended on the center, which was engaged in the first processing of raw materials, the production of semi-finished products.

## REFERENCES

- [1] На пороге кризиса: нарастание застойных явлений в партии и обществе. – М.: Политическая литература, 1990. - С. 101.
- [2] Проблемы решать проблемы // Правда Востока. 1986.13 июля.
- [3] Коммунисты и технический прогресс // Правда Востока. 1986 г. 27 декабря.
- [4] Клинова Н. Новая техника в поле // Правда Востока. 1986 г. 25 марта.
- [5] Рогов И. К универсальным машинам // Правда Востока. 1987 г. 25 февраля.
- [6] Қобулов В. Қайта қуриш даври фожеалари // Фан ва турмуш. - Тошкент, 1991. - № 9. - Б. 10.

- [7] Романюк В. В пределах разумного. О нашей помощи развивающимся странам // Известия. 1990, 27 июль.
- [8] Российский Государственный Архив Новейшей Истории (Кейинчалик – РГАНИ), ф. 89, перечень 10, документ 25, л. 2.
- [9] РГАНИ, ф. 89, перечень 9, документ 114, л. 2.
- [10] Досумов Р.Я. Перестройка управления промышленным производством в новых условиях хозяйствования. – С. 24.
- [11] Зиядуллаев Н.С. Моделирование региональных экономических систем. – М.: Наука, 1983. - С. 120.
- [12] Рихимбабаева Т. В братской семье народов. – Ташкент: Госиздат УзССР, 1963. - С. 29.
- [13] Нурмухамедов Ҳ. Республикамиз «қарздор»ми? // Фан ва турмуш. – Тошкент, 1989. – № 4. – Б. 8.
- [14] Бобожонова Д. Ўзбекистонда ижтимоий-иқтисодий муносабатлар... – Б. 93.
- [15] Сельское хозяйство СССР. Стат. сборник. – М.: Финансы и статистика, 1988. – С. 27-61.