

**THE STATE OF THE SOCIAL SPHERE AND CULTURE IN KHOREZM DURING THE YEARS OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR**

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**Abstract.** *This article analyzes the socio-cultural processes that occurred in the Khorezm region of Uzbekistan during the Second World War, with a particular focus on school education, theatre, and the activities of newspapers. Overall, the article reflects the social profile of the Khorezm region during World War II.*

**Keywords:** *Second World War, Uzbek SSR, Khorezm, culture, theatre, social care, women, victory, school education.*

## **INTRODUCTION**

At the outbreak of the Second World War, the socio-economic condition of the Khorezm region was more difficult compared to other parts of Uzbekistan: industry was poorly developed, and the region possessed almost no modern transportation system. Under such circumstances, the region was required to reorganize its economy on a military footing.

## **MATERIAL AND METHODS.RESULTS**

The Soviet government actively promoted propaganda through various rallies and appeals to involve women in place of men who had gone to the battlefields. From the very first days of the war, women in the Khorezm region organized rallies, as well as meetings in enterprises and institutions, calling on everyone to stand united and work for the front and for the soldiers fighting at the front [1]. In particular, at a mass rally of the working people of the city held in Urgench on 22 July 1941, with the participation of more than 3,000 people, the women of Khorezm were urged to work selflessly for the Motherland and victory, taking the places of the men.

The qualities of humanity, generosity, and affection for children inherent in the Uzbek people found vivid expression during the war years in their openness, compassion, and care shown toward the population and children evacuated from the western regions of the country. Between August 1941 and December 1942, nearly 5,000 people were resettled in the Khorezm region from the areas affected by the war.

On 3 January 1942, the Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Uzbekistan adopted a resolution "On the Appeal of the Women of Tashkent City to the Women of Uzbekistan regarding the Placement of Evacuated Children," emphasizing the

great importance of such a significant measure. Thousands of people from among the Uzbek population took in orphaned children as their own or raised them alongside their own children. In particular, in the Khorezm region, measures were implemented to take evacuated children under guardianship and place them in schools. For example, the Khazarasp District Committee provided monthly assistance of 12,000 soums to evacuated families. A total of 123 children were placed in schools in the city of Urgench, 45 in the schools of the Gurlan district, and 19 in the schools of the Mang'it district [2].

Komsomol organizations were also engaged in political propaganda in the collective farms, seeking to unite the population around the idea that "everything is for the front." During the war years, Komsomol members produced various wall newspapers and decorated the collective farm clubs with different slogans [3]. In the first year of the war, Komsomol youth organized four "Red Sundays," in which 68,548 young men and women participated. They earned 490,093 rubles, which were subsequently contributed to the Defense Fund [4].

Based on the wartime situation, the Central Committee of the All-Union Communist Party (Bolsheviks) and the Council of People's Commissars of the USSR approved a mandatory annual minimum of workdays for every able-bodied collective farmer. According to this decision, the minimum was set at 100 workdays per year depending on the district conditions, and 50 workdays for adolescents aged 12 to 16 working on collective farms. By the resolution of 15 February 1942 issued by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, the Council of People's Commissars of the USSR, and the Central Committee of the All-Union Communist Party (Bolsheviks), individuals who failed to fulfill this mandatory minimum without valid reasons were to be prosecuted, sentenced by the people's courts to six months of compulsory labor, and subjected to a 25 percent deduction from their wages. Furthermore, collective farm administrations were authorized to expel such individuals from the collective farms, depriving them of their collective farmer status and their household plots. In addition, district prosecutors and people's courts were assigned significant responsibilities in combating desertion from the labor front [5].

During the war years, in the Khorezm region, expenditures on education amounted to 30,456 rubles in 1941, 21,968 rubles in 1942, 23,347 rubles in 1943, and 36,049 rubles in 1944 [6]. Teachers working in schools were also actively involved in allocating funds to the Defense Fund and in sending food and clothing to the fund. Between 1941 and March 1942, a total of 272,687 rubles in cash and 491,883 rubles in bonds were collected and handed over to the Defense Fund.

The Second World War required an increase in the number of sanitary personnel (nurses) and the preparation of the entire population for sanitary defense. Sanitary squads were organized in all regions, cities, and districts of the republic. The Red Crescent Society of Uzbekistan organized short-term nursing courses in regional centers, including in the city of Urgench. The duration of these courses ranged from two to six months, and women

attended them without leaving their production work. The majority of the trained nurses were sent to the front. Between 1941 and 1945, a total of 8,054 nurses, 22,658 sanitary squad members, and 1,382 orderlies were trained in the republic for the Red Army and the health authorities [7].

During the war years, the role of the press grew significantly. The Soviet government used the press as a means of inspiring participation in the war. Newspapers echoed calls to fulfill Stalin's directives, which were believed to pave the way to victory over the enemy, and to encourage collective farmers and workers in the interior of the country to work selflessly. During the war, in the Khorezm region, alongside the regional newspaper Xorazm Haqiqati ("Khorezm Truth"), other newspapers were also published, including Kolxozchilar Ovozi ("The Voice of Collective Farmers") in the Gurlan district, Paxta Uchun Kurash ("Struggle for Cotton") in the Qo'shko'pir district, Stalinchi ("Stalinist") in Mang'it, Stalin Yo'li ("Stalin's Path") in Hazorasp, Qurilish ("Construction") in Xonqa, Kommunaga ("To the Commune") in Khiva, Shovot Haqiqati ("Shovot Truth") in Shovot, and Lenin Yo'li ("Lenin's Path") in the Yangiariq district [8]. They mainly published articles on the theme of war, operating under the slogan "everything for the front." The pages of Xorazm Haqiqati ("Khorezm Truth") during the war years resounded with reports about the situation at the front and the victories achieved by the soldiers. The newspaper was also filled with articles devoted to the arduous labor of collective and state farm workers in the cotton fields and the assistance provided by Komsomol youth.

### **CONCLUSION**

In conclusion, it can be stated that the Second World War, as in the entire USSR, put the people of Khorezm to a serious test, as all the key branches of the national economy were reorganized to meet wartime needs. In industry, production, and social sectors, women took the places of their husbands and relatives who had gone to war.

During the war, cultural and other social institutions largely carried out their activities in a spirit of wartime mobilization. Representatives of the theatre sphere inspired the population by staging various performances throughout these years. The people of Khorezm provided close assistance to evacuated citizens during the war, thereby demonstrating their human virtues.

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