

The State of Waqf Property in the Khorezm People's Soviet Republic

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Abstract

The article analyzes the state of the waqf property of the Khorezm People's Soviet Republic. The waqf department was responsible for accounting and distribution of various fees from the fund's lands. It was not in vain that the KhNSR government tried to use religious organizations for the development of Soviet schools, even if it was part of the income from waqf property. Because there was a large amount of waqf property in the republic and the amount of income from them was also significant. The article is also important because it is based on archival documents and materials from periodicals of the 20th century and 20s.

Keywords: KhPSR, republican period, waqf property, minister of finance, ministry of agriculture, religious organizations, madrasahs, schools.

From the first days of the formation of the government, the KhPSR took measures to control the use of income from the property of the waqf, using the experience of the Turkestan Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic to use it in Soviet schools. For this, a waqf department was created under the Ministry of Education of the KhPSR - a state organization that manages the waqf. The government of the young republic entrusted this department with the responsibility for managing the waqf. The second congress of all-Khorezm people's representatives (May 1921) improved the government's religious policy and clarified the issue of waqfs. In accordance with the decree of the new government "On the management of the lands of waqfs," initially the lands of waqfs were not confiscated, but the use of the property of waqfs was taken under state control. The Ministry of Education of the KhNSR (Minister - Bekjon Rakhmonov) was in charge of receiving income from waqfs and distributing them to the education system.

The resolution adopted at the 1st session of the Central Executive Committee of the KhPSR of the II convocation (October 9, 1921) partially clarified the procedure for the use of rent collected from waqf lands. According to the document, the department of waqfs under the Ministry of Education collects rent from waqf lands in accordance with article 25 of the Constitution of the KhPSR and distributes it according to its conditions, and also organizes the repairing work of damaged buildings of mosques, madrasahs and schools. In the absence of religious institutions, the surplus funds will go to the Ministry of Education. The last sentence of the resolution contains these words: "It is envisaged that income from waqf lands of mosques, madrasahs, schools and other religious organizations in excess of their needs will be spent on schools, technical schools and other educational institutions".

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The first Constitution of the KhPSR stated: "The property of waqfs is completely at the disposal of the Ministry of Education, since it is related to education and culture."

The Constitution of the KhPSR differs from the constitutions of the RSFSR and the Turkestan Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic in that it did not abolish private ownership of the means of production, as well as of land. This was an important aspect of the agrarian transformations associated with the specific historical conditions of Khorezm.

There were many madrasahs and schools in the KhNSR. It is known that there were 132 madrasahs in the Khiva Khanate. As of 1922, there were 89 madrasahs on the territory of the KhNSR, in which 189 teachers, 101 imams, 89 muezzins, 338 servants worked and 1395 students studied. The lands of waqfs belonging only to these madrasahs numbered 328054 tanobas. There were also many industrial and commercial enterprises owned by madrasahs. As of 1924, there were 126 madrasahs in the KhPSR, 61 of which were located in the capital Khiva, of which 45 were permanently working. There were also many schools in the KhPSR. In 1922 there were 195 schools, but more than half of them did not work. In total, 172 readers studied at the schools. The waqf lands belonging to the schools were 35,164 tanobas. In addition to land, the schools also had market squares, caravanserais, shops, mills and other waqf property. The report of the KhPSR government for the period from June 1921 to June 1922 on the policy in the field of religion states: "The principle of complete non-interference in religion and waqf property has been implemented, and the problems are no longer causing any difficulties. Relations have been established with the leaders of the priests." At the same time, the official documents of the party and Soviet bodies say that it was impossible to interfere in the internal affairs of madrasahs, schools and other religious organizations. The KhPSR Constitution officially states that schools set up by the clergy to teach religious subjects operate with private funds. The state did not finance these schools and did not prevent them from working freely. In practice, party and soviet bodies interfered in the activities of religious organizations and limited their rights. On December 26, 1921, the Central Executive Committee of the KhPSR approved the Instruction on the regulation of wages for employees of mosques and madrassas. According to this document, the right of priests to use waqf property is limited.

During the 1920-1921s, 10 thousand acres of land were transferred to poor dekhkans, workers (farm laborers), landlords and waqfniks at the expense of the lands confiscated in the KhPSR. They were also provided with agricultural equipment, seeds, livestock, housing and other items.

The first congress of landless and needy farmers, held in Khiva on December 4-11, 1921, played an important role in providing them with land, livestock, tools, seeds, grain and loans. The main issues of the food tax, the union of landless and needy farmers were discussed at the congress. The issue of creating an agricultural bank was also considered. The main task of this bank was to provide short-term loans to the landless and needy farmers for the purchase of agricultural machinery, draft animals, seeds and other goods.

In conclusion, after the collapse of the Khiva Khanate, certain results were achieved in reforming the agrarian sector in the newly formed Khorezm People's Soviet Republic. The existing waqf lands in the republic were initially left as they were. This situation did not cause any problems between the leadership of the young republic and the clergy and religious strata of the population.

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