

## HISTORICAL AND POLITICAL PROBLEMS OF THE FERGHANA VALLEY

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### ABSTRACT

*This article analyzes the historical and political factors affecting interethnic relations in the Fergana Valley and assesses their role in regional security.*

**KEYWORDS:** *Central Asia's "Gunpowder Barrel" Fergana Valley, Interethnic Relations, Historical and Political Issues, Border Issues, Problems In Enclaves.*

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### INTRODUCTION

In recent decades, Russian and foreign researchers have shown increasing interest in the Ferghana Valley, considering it a "powder keg" of Central Asia and, perhaps, all neighboring states.

The Ferghana Valley is a specific region of Central Asia not only due to its geographical location and natural features, but also due to the presence of a special culture and ethnic composition of the population. The territory of the valley is fenced by mountain ranges in the north, northeast and south. Such natural isolation was largely the reason for the formation of special economic activity in the region, in particular, trade caravans passed through the valley, a special social environment. Consequently, due to natural barriers, the valley was a relatively calm place compared to neighboring areas, and the standard of living was somewhat higher than in other regions, respectively, all this became the determining cause of migration processes.

### LEVEL OF STUDY OF THE SUBJECT

The historical and political problems of ethnic conflicts in the Ferghana Valley can be attributed to the historical past of the peoples, the ill-conceived demarcation of borders during the formation of the Soviet Union, which does not take into account the national composition of the population, issues related to the existence of a particular nation in principle, the political crisis in the Central Asian republics after the collapse of the USSR and their independence, the problem of deported peoples.

First of all, it should be noted that the Ferghana Valley has long been inhabited by a population of different ethnic composition. But at the same time, both Turkic-speaking and Iranian-speaking ethnic groups peacefully coexisted on its territory. Even after the entry of this territory into the Russian Empire in the 19th century, the borders for the movement of the population were open. But after the collapse of the empire and the formation of the USSR, mutual territorial claims began, which the center decided in a directive way, and when the Soviet state ceased to exist, the situation escalated. For example, the original territories of residence of ethnic Tajiks: Bukhara and Samarkand, in the process of the formation of the USSR, were outside of Tajikistan. "On the territory of the former Emirate of Bukhara, the Bukhara Soviet People's Republic first appeared, and after the creation of the Uzbek Republic in 1925, the main part of Bukhara became part of it. Only in 1929 the high-

mountainous part of Eastern Bukhara, where the Iranian-speaking population lived compactly, was separated from Uzbekistan and Tajikistan was formed. [1]

We observe a similar precedent of delimitation of borders between Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan, when in 1924 Osh and some other cities of Uzbekistan with a predominantly Uzbek population, respectively, were annexed to Kyrgyzstan, due to the lack of industrial centers in the southern part of the latter. And this led to the infamous events called "Osh Massacre" in 1990 and 2010.

However, at the time of the creation of the union republics, such a division was a way to combat pan-Turkism in Central Asia and contributed to the complete reorganization of the former statehood on the territory of the former Turkestan Governor-General. [2] Such a tactical move worked for a certain time, until the central government began to give up its positions on the territory of the entire Union.

Thus, the definition of the boundaries of Soviet Central Asia was carried out without taking into account the ethnic composition of the population living in this territory, economic and territorial unity was taken into account to a greater extent, and, often, was based on the personal preferences of the party elite, which to a greater extent increased the conflict potential of the region. .

After these states gained independence, the issue of determining the boundaries between sovereign entities again appeared on the agenda. At present, one of the most acute territorial disputes remains the unresolved problem of enclaves. So, at the moment there are several Uzbek enclaves on the territory of Kyrgyzstan - Dzhany - aiyl, Sokh, Chon - Kara, Shakhimardan; the Kyrgyz enclave of Barak, ringed by the territory of the Uzbek Republic; the Tajik villages of Sarvan and Kairagach in Uzbekistan and the village of Vorukh in Kyrgyzstan. In most cases, conflicts in the enclaves are connected with the desire of the official authorities to establish their own rules, which "bumps" into the resistance of the local population. Conflicts on domestic grounds occur almost daily and often acquire a nationalist connotation. [3]

Thus, in January 2012, a conflict broke out over an attempt by the Kyrgyz side to install power transmission towers on the border with the Uzbek enclave of Sokh. It is noteworthy that, despite the formal belonging of this territory to Uzbekistan, the vast majority of the populations of Sokh are ethnic Tajiks. And this area on the map of the Tajik Republic is designated as part of the Tajik territory. However, Tajikistan does not make any claims to the Uzbek region. [4]

## CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing, we can conclude that the causes of the cultural and political bloc are in no way inferior to the problems of a socio-economic order in terms of their conflict potential. If it is still possible to organize the three states of the Ferghana Valley to overcome economic difficulties by coordinated methods, since in the end the main goal will be profit and self-interest, then in matters of politics this is much more difficult to achieve. This is where the economic levers of pressure on neighbors will be used. In addition, internal problems and conflicts in a particular country directly affect the foreign policy of the state. For example, in the Civil War in Tajikistan in 1992-1997. Ethnic Uzbeks actively participated.

Accordingly, all this confirms the need for an integrated approach to the study of the causes of conflicts in the post-Soviet space, which was most clearly manifested in the states of the Ferghana Valley.

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