

## IN UZBEKISTAN DURING THE SOVIET PERIOD OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY: PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS

**Botirjon Mallabaev\***

\*Associate Professor,  
PhD in History  
Namangan State University,  
Namangan, Uzbekistan  
Email id: b\_mallabaev@gmail.com

**DOI: 10.5958/2278-4853.2023.00063.0**

---

### ABSTRACT

*This article describes the development trends of the oil and gas industry in Uzbekistan during the Soviet period. The author focused on the fact that the cradle of the first oil industry in the country was the Fergana Valley, and later this industry developed in other regions of the Republic.*

**KEYWORDS:** *Soviet Era, Uzbekistan SSR, Fergana Valley, Oil Industry, Gas Industry, Oil, Gas, Kerosene, Gasoline, Fuel Oil, Production Enterprises.*

---

### INTRODUCTION

It is known from history that industrialized oil extraction began in Uzbekistan in 1885. Oil was extracted from two wells near the village of Chimyan, located in the Fergana Valley. In 1900, serious exploration work began in this area, and in 1904, an oil fountain erupted from a depth of more than 270 meters [1. B. 2].

In 1906, an oil pumping plant was built in Fergana region, it consisted of one double-walled device with periodic operation. Mineral wealth from the oil field was transported by horse-drawn transport. The quality of oil was determined using a thermometer and a hydrometer. The main products obtained as a result of processing were lamp kerosene and heating oil. At that time, unnecessary gasoline was burned in pits outside the factory area. In 1915–1916, gasoline became a useful product only after the introduction of internal combustion engine-powered automobiles in Central Asia. The product was exported to Afghanistan and China by rail and horse-drawn transport. In 1907, the Nobel brothers bought the factory and started its gradual reconstruction. In the same year, a four-inch oil pipeline from the Chimyon field to the factory was put into use, and a reservoir park was built. By 1940, the plant had its own laboratory, the quality of the technological process increased, the annual production capacity reached 176 thousand tons [2. B. 19].

It is known that in 1904, the first oil wells were opened in the Fergana Valley. Extraction of oil from them was so effective (130 tons per day [3. B. 21]. This was a very large indicator for that time), as a result, the question of building a local oil refinery was put aside. In the same year, road engineer A. N. Under the leadership of Kovalevsky, the construction of the first Vannovsky oil extraction (now Altiaryk fuel production) plant in Turkestan began.

By 1906, a two-cube oil facility was put into operation, mainly receiving kerosene and fuel oil. Kerosene was sold to the population in carts and camels for use in Andijan and Kokan cotton ginning factories, oil tankers, as well as for household needs. Fuel oil was used as fuel on the railway. Due to the expansion of this oil facility and the construction of new technological facilities, the efficiency of the plant gradually increased.

On June 26, 1958, the first Electric Treatment Plant was put into operation at the Fergana Oil Refinery. At the beginning of 1959, the first technological oil extraction equipment using atmospheric-vacuum pressure was built and commissioned. In this regard, January 27, 1959 was accepted as the date of commissioning of the Fergana oil refinery [4. B. 19].

In the 50s of the 20th century, the discovery of a large gas-oil field in the city of Gazli, Bukhara (now Navoi) region became the basis for the rapid development of the gas industry in Uzbekistan. The total amount of gas found was 446 billion cubic meters. Gas production increased year by year. For example, in 1960, 0.4 billion cubic meters of natural gas was produced, and by 1970, this indicator reached 32 billion cubic meters [5. B. 291].

The aim of the Union government to increase gas production in Uzbekistan was to take it to the industrial centers of Russia. In 1963, Bukhara-Ural, and in 1967, the longest Central Asia-Central gas pipeline was launched. In 1969, 28 billion cubic meters of natural gas were transported to Russia through these two gas pipelines. When this is calculated at the prices of that time in the world market, for example, the total value of gas condensate transported from Uzbekistan to Russia through the Bukhara-Ural gas pipeline in 1960-1990 was equal to 44 billion dollars [6. B. 3]. However, at that time the local population was deprived of this precious gift of nature and used firewood and coal for household and heating purposes.

In addition, during the Soviet period, in 1972, the Mubarak gas processing plant, one of the largest facilities in the world, was built in Kashkadarya region, and by 1980, a plant was put into operation in Shortan.

The first gas was extracted in 1953 from the Setalantepa field in the Kyzylkum desert. In 1962, after the commissioning of the unique Gazli field, the Bukhara-Ural and Central Asia-Central transcontinental gas pipelines were built.

The history of the development of the gas industry of Uzbekistan begins in the 1950s. The first gas was extracted from the Setalantepa field in 1953.

In 1962, the development of the gas field, which included the laying of the Bukhara-Ural and Central Asia-Central transcontinental main gas pipelines, was started [7. B. 253-256].

In 1973, the production association "Uzbekgazsanoat" was established, and then the joint-stock company "Uztransgaz" began to develop as a separate gas transportation company.

In 1978, the North Sokh underground gas storage station, and the following year, the Gasli underground gas storage facility, which was established at the base of the gas field in Gazli, was put into experimental use.

In conclusion, it should be noted that during the Soviet era, the search for oil and gas

fields of Uzbekistan continued to develop. However, these development processes did not benefit the daily life of the local population and the country's economy at all.

**LIST OF USED SOURCES AND REFERENCES:**

1. [www.refereat.uz](http://www.refereat.uz).
2. Тўхтасинова Д., Маҳмудов Н. Фарғона нефтни қайта ишлаш заводи: ривожланиш тарихи ва замонавий тараққиёт // Ўзбекистон иқтисодий ахборотномаси. – 2007. – №11–12. – Б. 19.
3. Тўхтасинова Д., Маҳмудов Н. Фарғона нефтни қайта ишлаш заводи: ривожланиш тарихи.... – Б. 21.
4. Тўхтасинова Д., Маҳмудов Н. Фарғона нефтни қайта ишлаш заводи: ривожланиш тарихи.... – Б. 19.
5. Алимова Д., Каримов Р., Оқилов К ва бошқалар. Ўзбекистон тарихи. – Тошкент: Шарқ, 2004. – Б. 291.
6. [www.refereat.uz](http://www.refereat.uz).
7. Ҳайдаров И. М. Ўзбекистон газ саноатининг шаклланиши ва ривожланиши тарихига доир (1950–1970 йиллар) / Ўзбекистонда археология ва этнология фанларининг тараққиёти ва истиқболлари. Республика илмий-амалий конференцияси материаллари. – Тошкент, 2012. – Б. 253–256.
8. Sodirjonov, M. M. "Monitoring the issues of human capital research in ethnosocial processes and social trends." Social policy and social partnership 6 (2021): 6.
9. Sodirjonov M. M. On the coverage of ethnic processes in the information space //Asian Journal of Multidimensional Research (AJMR). – 2020. – Т. 9. – №. 6. – С. 165-171.
10. Содирджонов М. М. Мониторинг вопросов исследования человеческого капитала в этносоциальных процессах и социальные тенденции //Социальная политика и социальное партнерство. – 2021. – №. 6. – С. 447-458.
11. Содирджонов М. М. Изучение проблем человеческого капитала в этносоциологических процессах //В поисках социальной истины. – 2021. – С. 59-69.