

PROBLEMS AND LESSONS IN FAMINE PREVENTION IN FERGANA PROVINCE

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ANNOTATION

In this article, the collapse of the economy as a result of the political crises that began in Russia, the sharp decrease in the supply of grain and other food products from the center to Turkestan, the emergence of famine in the Ferghana Valley as a result of drought, natural disasters, the measures taken by the Soviet authorities to solve the problem, in particular, The fact that the lack of food reserves, the lack of incentives for local producers caused the suffering and death of millions of people, and that the measures to prevent these situations did not have a positive result, are illuminated by the study of archival data and periodical sources.

Keywords: Famine, struggle for bread, grain shortage, drought, infant mortality, inflation, measures, free market trade.

It is known from time immemorial that the problem of bread was a problem of life and death. Because to solve it, the organizing and mobilization role of the local Councils in the Ferghana Valley, the country under "socialism" that is now being formed, should have been great. The main direction of economic and social policy also required this and was the "main driving force of economic life"¹.

To a certain extent, it was necessary to fight for bread during the period of re-socialist restoration of the country (1918-1924), industrialization, agrarianization, in a word, the implementation of a new economic policy, that is, to prevent famine in any case, to improve the living conditions of the oppressed masses. In this regard, when the initial economic policies were implemented, political and economic stability and one-sided policies continued. Serious measures have been taken in this regard. For example, according to Decree 281 of Turkestan MIK announced on April 30, 1919, the tasks of local food departments were clearly defined. According to this, the food department was responsible for preparing food products, managing warehouses, and controlling flour mills. In addition, this department was supposed to organize and control the work of cooperatives. They were also responsible for the food products brought in and out of a certain area. Food departments were also established in uezd, city, regional and village councils.

Also, the Kokan city food department bought grain from the market due to the lack of wheat stocks. The townspeople are also allowed to buy up to 2 poods of flour from the market. This allowed the population to provide themselves with food. Because on July 29, 1919, the Kokan Food Department had 1,235 pounds of 35 packages of wheat flour, 4,533 pounds of oat flour, 988 pounds of 25 packages of wheat, and 18,755 pounds of 33 packages. oats, totaling 25,553 pounds and 23 packages of grain products³.

In the Autonomous Republic of Turkestan, fixed prices for meat products and bread are also set. According to this, the population was given 1 package of meat for 12 soums, beef for 10 soums, oil for 28 soums and 2 soums for 1 pack of food departments.

However, in addition to state organizations, free market trade was also established. For example, in Andijan, 1 package of mutton was sold for 50 soums, sheep fat for 100 soums, 1 pound of flour for 320-400 soums, and rice for 350 soums. In due course, it should be said that fixing a fixed price for the purchase and sale of food products was one of the measures aimed at preventing inflation.

The purchase and distribution of grain products was entrusted to the Local Government Councils. But it was not always possible to buy grain and distribute it to the population. One of the reasons for this was the ongoing national liberation movement in the country, including the Fergana Valley, and another was the lack of grain from abroad. Therefore, it was sometimes allowed to buy food products at the market price from places where there was a market.

The Councils of local authorities did not sit idly by at this time, the end of the ongoing civil war in the "Center" and the beginning of the transition to a new economic policy, although it was not yet absorbed by the masses.

In 1918-1920, the workers and farmers of Fergana were among those who endured the worst cases of hunger. For example, in the streets of Fergana cities there were people who were swollen and dying of hunger. That's why the Fergana Governorate for Aid to the Hungry appealed to the Provincial Change Committee and requested to give all the money and food collected from the Fergana Governorate to the hungry in the governorate, to quickly build health care homes for the hungry, and to take appropriate measures to combat hunger in Fergana. began to see. However, the situation was not the same everywhere. In particular, the work of helping the hungry in Margilon was not well established. People began to suffer from hunger. The old city welfare, which used to provide assistance to widows in 1919-1920, has long since ceased to provide assistance. Only the family of a red soldier and some disabled people from abroad were helped. Here, under the executive councils, a committee providing assistance to the hungry of the old city was formed and began to work seriously, but they were not yet free from organizational work and could not start collecting assistance. Until this committee helps the hungry, it is known where the situation of the hungry will reach.

During these years, Fergana peasants, who suffered from starvation and livelihoods, were in a difficult situation. As a result of hunger, many of our babies were dying every day from various diseases and others. Feeding stations, boarding schools for children are opened in urban and rural farms, and 50 percent of the hungry are provided by the government. However, it was not enough. That is why the Fergana hunger committee, especially in 1923, sent an urgent letter asking for help from the Center every month. However, nothing but empty promises could be obtained from the center either due to lack of grain or other reasons. The measures taken by the emergency committee could not moderate the struggle for bread. Especially in places like Ko'kan, Khojand, Andijan, Osh, the situation is not good. In the early 1920s, many problems appeared in the country and the valley. The main reason for this was the lack of knowledge of the economic and social situation of the "new regime" in the country, as well as the use of force in places called the dictatorship of the proletariat. However, the grain problem was not solved and the famine continued.

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