



ARTICLE

Policy of bolshevic purification in Uzbekistan: goals and results

Jalilov Alisher Khudoyberdiyevich^{1,*}

¹Navoi State University, Navoiy, Uzbekistan

Abstract

The article studies the main goals of the party purge policy carried out by the Bolsheviks in Uzbekistan in the 1920s and 1930s and the mechanisms for its implementation. The study analyzes on a scientific basis how the purge policy served strategic tasks such as strengthening political governance, strengthening social control, and forming a unified ideology in society. It also extensively covers the socio-psychological environment, political repressions, and their long-term negative consequences that emerged in the party and society as a result of the purge. The article is prepared on the basis of historical sources, archival documents, and modern research and aims to analyze the role

Keywords: Turkmen SSR, Soviet, political elite, Bolshevik, class enemy, kulaks, "hypocrisy", factionalism, national politics, nationalism.

Citation

Jalilov Alisher Khudoyberdiyevich (2025). Preparation of Articles for J Open (2025). J Open, 01(02), 10-14.


Copyright: © 2025 by the authors. Submitted to *J Open* for possible open access publication under the terms and conditions of the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial (CC BY-NC) license (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>).

Submitted: March, 2025

Accepted: April, 2025

Published: May, 2025

Vol. 01, No. 02, 2025.

 10.70728/jopen.his.0225.002

*Corresponding author:

✉ Jalilov Alisher Khudoyberdiyevich
jalilov-1982@bk.ru

and significance of this policy in the history of Uzbekistan.

1 Introduction

The Bolsheviks' policy of purging the party ranks undermined the unity of the Uzbek political elite. Mistrust and suspicion of local cadres grew. Everyone feared each other, and it became easy to accuse not only representatives of the political elite, but also ordinary party members, as class enemies.

On July 30, 1920, a special resolution of the Bolshevik Party stipulated that "the Communist Parties in countries where Communists are allowed to conduct their work openly must periodically purge (register) the personal composition of party organizations in order to systematically cleanse the party of elements that inevitably infiltrate it" [1].

Stalin said this about the purges of 1920 at the April 1920 plenum of the Central Committee: "It is impossible to strengthen our Soviet economic, trade union and cooperative organizations without sharpening the Party itself. It would be ridiculous to think that they can be cleansed of the filth of bureaucracy without this. There can be no doubt that bureaucratic elements are alive not only in the economic, cooperative and trade union Soviet organizations, but also in the Party itself. If the Party constitutes the leading force of these organizations, then the purges of the Party are such a necessary condition. Without this, it is obvious that the work of revitalizing and improving all other organizations of the working class cannot be completed. This is where the Party's slogan comes from" [2].

2 Analysis and results

The All-Union Communist Party (Bolsheviks) conducted a party list in 1920, based on the decision of the Central Committee, and conducted a purge of the party in 1921, a purge of non-production cells in

1924, an inspection of rural cells in 1925, and a purge in 1929-1930 [3]. In the eyes of the Bolsheviks, purges and re-listings strengthened the decisions of the party system and increased its combat potential.

That the task of the purge is to raise the ideological level of party members, strengthen the party politically and organizationally, and strengthen the confidence of millions of non-party people in the party. It is determined that this task will be implemented in the following way during the purge: a) introducing open and correct mutual criticism among members of party organizations; b) checking the work of each party cell from the point of view of the implementation of party decisions and instructions; c) involving the working non-party people in the purge; d) purging the party of people who are not worthy of the high title of party member [4].

1929, the purge of party ranks entered a new phase. The Bolsheviks began to remove representatives of local nationalities whom they suspected of being involved in the purge from the leadership and punish them with various slanders. By 1930, there were more and more cases of expulsion from the party on charges of slander, slander, and committing crimes they did not commit. One of these was Ilyas Kasimov, who was born in Tashkent in 1908. He joined the Communist Party in 1930 while serving in the military. Ilyas Kasimov was expelled from the party by the Uzbek representative of the Party Control Commission under the Central Committee of the All-Union Communist Party (Bolsheviks) for slander. Later, a criminal case was initiated against him under Article 225 of the Criminal Code [5].

1930, there were 4,998 press workers in Uzbekistan, of which 1,665 were communists, or 33.3%, 493 were Komsomol members, or 9.9%, and 2,840 were non-partisans, or 56.8%. If we consider the social situation, the workers were 834 or 16.7%, 226 were members of the Communist Party, or 4.5%, 2,995 were employees, or 59.9% and 57 were others, or 1.1%. Until 1917, 9% of the newspaper staff were communists, 28.2% in 1921-26, 40.3% in 1927-28, and 47.9% in 1929. It is clear that the dynamics of communistization of personnel in the newspaper increased from year to year. 20.7% in 1929-1930 press workers were purged from the party [6].

4. Party Purge (1929–1930)

- 20.7% of press workers were purged from the Communist Party during 1929–1930.

Period	Communists (%)
Before 1917	9.0
1921–1926	28.2
1927–1928	40.3
1929	47.9

Table 1. Share of communists among newspaper staff over time

The Bolsheviks' policy of purging the party ranks did not bypass the People's Commissariat of Education of Uzbekistan. A number of cadres working in the apparatus of this commissariat were expelled from the party and dismissed from their posts under the pretext of purging. They were accused of being nationalists, counter-revolutionaries, and polluting higher education institutions and schools with class alien elements. The commission for purging the party ranks cited shortcomings such as the presence of elements of great national chauvinism in the apparatus of the People's Commissariat of Education of Uzbekistan, numerous errors in the promotion from the bottom up (nomenclature), direct violations of the party path, the fact that working conditions were not created and they were not helped when they were promoted from the bottom up, and they were appointed to the service only on a formal basis, bureaucracy, irresponsibility, negligence, inefficiency, lack of planning, and chaos reigned in work [7].

As a result, Shokirbekov, Soliy, Sadriy, Gulom Rahimiy, Botir Gulomov, Orifkhonov and Jabborov were completely expelled from the apparatus of the People's Commissariat of Education of Uzbekistan with the first category. Zohidov Khairulla, Boyishev, Abdulla Muminov, Arushanov and Goyibov were dismissed from their posts with the second category [8]. The party purge commission sharply criticized the excessive trust in certain individuals in the apparatus of the People's Commissariat of Education of Uzbekistan, the transfer of the party's national policy to the principles of internationalism, the inability to adequately view the party with a Bolshevik eye, and the inability to show class sensitivity and vigilance in their work.

On April 28, 1933, the Central Committee of the CPSU (b) stated that the main goal of the resolution "On the Purification of the Party" was to prepare high-ranking communists and to eliminate only foreign elements that had strayed into the party ranks [9]. According to this resolution, the following were expelled from

the party during the purge: 1) Elements that are alien and hostile to the class, who have infiltrated the party through deception and are trying to subvert party decisions.

2) Two-faced people who live by deceiving the party, hiding their true aspirations from it, and under the guise of false oaths of "loyalty" to the party, in practice trying to undermine party policy.

3) Those who openly and secretly violate the iron discipline of the party and the state, those who fail to implement party and government decisions, those who question the party's decisions, and those who discredit the plans determined by the party by saying that they are "unrealistic and unfeasible."

4) People who have aligned themselves with bourgeois elements, those who do not want to fight the class enemy in practice, those who are reluctant to engage in a struggle with the oppressive elements, those who are lazy, thieves, and those who plunder public property.

5) Pro-official elements, who prioritize their own interests, bureaucratized. Those who abandon their service to the party and the Soviet state for their own personal interests, who are separated from the masses and indifferent to the needs and questions of workers and peasants.

6) People who are morally corrupt, who lower the level of the party with their ugly actions, and who defile the party's flag [10].

In 1934, the Bolsheviks formed 96 district and about 150 primary purge commissions in Central Asia as part of their purge of party ranks. 20,000 people from all the Central Asian republics (Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Karakalpakstan) underwent purges. Of these, 11,000 were purged from the Uzbek SSR and 3,000 from the Tajik ASSR [11].

The following were the leaders of the 1934 purge of party ranks in Uzbekistan: The chairman of the Central Asian Party Purge Commission IX Peters, the secretary of the Central Asian Bureau of the All-Union Communist Party of the Soviet Union Mayorov, the head of the Marxism-Leninism Propaganda Department of the Central Asian Bureau of the All-Union Communist Party of the Soviet Union Ashurov, the secretary of the Central Committee of the Uzbek Communist Party Seher, the head of the Department of Leadership of Party Bodies of the Uzbek Communist Party and the chairman of the Oktyabr District Purge Commission Turabekov, the deputy

chairman of the Uzbek Party Control Commission Rizaev [12], the chairman of the Shakhrisabz District Purge Commission Mishchenko, the chairman of the Margilan District Purge Commission Rubanenko, the chairman of the Eski Bukhara District Purge Commission Efremov, the chairman of the Kokand District Purge Commission Kronberg, the chairman of the Guzar District Purge Commission Abdinov, the chairman of the Bogdod District Purge Commission Sharipov, the chairman of the Gallaoral District Purge Commission Tagmamedov [13] and others spoke in the press about the issue of purging the party ranks. who made their speeches.

The leadership of the purge of the party ranks on an all-Union scale was entrusted to the Central Purge Commission. The Commission was composed of the following: Rudzutak (chairman), Kogonovich, Kirov, Yaroslavsky, Shkiryatov, Yazov, Stasova, and Pyatnitsky [14].

During the purge of the party organizations of the People's Commissariat of Land Affairs of the Uzbek SSR in 1934, the purge commission concluded that the restructuring of this commissariat was very slow and in some cases superficial, and that the provision of diligent, tested and party-minded people in departments and sections was unsatisfactory. In addition, it was noted that there were alien elements, opportunists and hypocrites in the party organization, those who had come from class aliens and had not broken off contact with them. An example was given of alien elements who sat in responsible positions, presented party tickets, hid their faces and acted as obstacles, and did not criticize themselves. Of these people, the activities of Shahabdurasulov, Naruzov, Klukhin, Davlekanov and others in the livestock department were sharply criticized [15]. The purge commission accused Choli Navruzov (a party member since 1921) of concealing his identity as a defector, of having connections with relatives who had fled to Afghanistan, and of acting in a hypocritical and partisan manner, opposing the party and Soviet leadership of the Central Committee of the Turkmen SSR. Similarly, Majid Zakiriy (a party member since 1918), a nationalist who actively participated in the "18s" group and, while working as a deputy of the Uztraktor Center, was accused of filling the apparatus with White Guards, Trotskyists, exiles, and various other foreign elements (Podgorny, Akaev, Abramov, etc.) and was expelled from the party [16].

Zelkina, Deputy People's Commissariat for Land

Affairs, had been a party member since 1919. He tells the purge commission his biography and his 15-year journey as a Bolshevik with Bolshevik honesty. Zelkina also harshly criticizes her own mistakes and reveals her shortcomings in her work. It is acknowledged that Zelkina, after being appointed head of the Khlopko Tractor Center, expelled elements from the apparatus and that the Cotton Department of the People's Commissariat of Land Affairs was reorganizing its work in a Bolshevik manner under her leadership. The purge commission recognizes Dehkanboy Nurmatov, Orinbaev, and Abdurakhmonov, who were also party members, as the best Bolsheviks working in the apparatus of the People's Commissariat of Land Affairs. It is emphasized that they listen carefully to the operational directives of their K(b) P MQ and devote all their strength to improving the agriculture of the republic [17].

3 Conclusions

In conclusion, the role of the Communist Party in the rise of the Uzbek political elite from the bottom up was extremely high. Purge processes were carried out to check the loyalty of cadres to the party. These purges were not always carried out fairly. Local leading cadres who served in the national interests always faced opposition from the Bolsheviks.

Author Contributions: For research articles with several authors, a short paragraph specifying their individual contributions must be provided. The following statements should be used "Conceptualization, J.A.Kh.; methodology, J.A.Kh.; software, J.A.Kh.; validation, J.A.Kh.; formal analysis, J.A.Kh.; investigation, J.A.Kh.; resources, J.A.Kh.; data curation, J.A.Kh.; writing—original draft preparation, J.A.Kh.; writing—review and editing, J.A.Kh.; visualization, J.A.Kh.; supervision, J.A.Kh.; project administration, J.A.Kh.; funding acquisition, J.A.Kh. author have read and agreed to the published version of the manuscript."

Funding: Please add: "The authors state that they did not receive any funding, grants, or financial assistance while preparing this manuscript."

Institutional Review Board Statement: Since this research did not involve any experiments with human subjects or animals, obtaining approval from an Institutional Review Board (IRB) was not required.

Informed Consent Statement: As this study did not include human participants, obtaining informed consent was not necessary.

Written informed consent for publication must be obtained from participating patients who can be identified (including by the patients themselves). Please state "Written informed

consent has been obtained from the patient(s) to publish this paper" if applicable.

Data Availability Statement: Data supporting thereport's findings can be found here. <https://historical-science.com/index.php/journal/index>

Acknowledgments: The authors express their sincere gratitude to Associate Professor, Dr. Kakhramon Karimov of Kokand State University for his valuable review of the study's results and his contribution to its publication.

References

- [1] Resolution of the Central Committee of the All-Union Communist Party of the Soviet Union (Bolsheviks) and the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union on the purge of the party // "Kizil Uzbekistan" May 1, 1933, No. 100.
- [2] On the purge of the party. Speech by Kogonovich at the meeting of the Moscow City Party Committee on May 22, 1933 // "Kizil Uzbekistan" June 5, 1933. No. 128.
- [3] Resolution of the All-Union Communist Party (b) Central Committee and Central Committee on the purge of the party // "Kizil Uzbekistan" May 1, 1933, No. 100.
- [4] Resolution of the All-Union Communist Party (b) Central Committee and Central Committee on the purge of the party // "Kizil Uzbekistan" May 1, 1933, No. 100.
- [5] National Archives of Uzbekistan, fund 1710, list 11, volume 108, sheet 253.
- [6] The issue of press personnel // "Kizil Uzbekistan". March 24, 1930. Issue 66.
- [7] Bek-ota. Results of the purge of the apparatus of the Peoples Commissariat of Education of Uzbekistan // "Kizil Uzbekistan". February 12, 1931. Issue 35.
- [8] Bek-ota. Results of the purge of the apparatus of the Peoples Commissariat of Education of Uzbekistan // "Red Uzbekistan". February 12, 1931. Issue 35.
- [9] Mustafa Chokay. Shgarmalann tolg jinag. 12 tomdq. T. IX. – Almat: "Dayk Press", 2014. – S. 355.
- [10] Resolution of the All-Union Communist Party (b) Central Committee and Central Committee on the purge of the party // "Kizil Uzbekistan" May 1, 1933. No. 100.
- [11] On the progress of the purge of party organizations in the Central Asian republics. Peters speech at the plenum of the Central Asian Bureau of the CPSU (b) on September 5, 1934 // "Kizil Uzbekistan" newspaper. September 14, 1934. No. 212.
- [12] In the first days of the purge // "Kizil Uzbekistan" newspaper. May 28, 1934. Issue 121.
- [13] Purification is the work of the whole party // "Kizil Uzbekistan" newspaper. July 15, 1934. No. 161.

- [14] Resolution of the All-Union Communist Party (b) Central Committee and Central Committee on the purge of the party // "Kizil Uzbekistan" May 1, 1933. No. 100.
- [15] Let us fully implement the instructions given by the party on the reorganization of the apparatus of the Peoples Commissariat of Land Affairs . Interview with Rizaev, Chairman of the Commission for the Purification of Party Organizations of the Peoples Commissariat of Land Affairs of Uzbekistan // "Kizil Uzbekistan" newspaper. June 22 , 1934. No. 142.
- [16] Let us fully implement the instructions given by the party on the reorganization of the apparatus of the Peoples Commissariat of Land Affairs . Interview with Rizaev, Chairman of the Commission for the Purification of Party Organizations of the Peoples Commissariat of Land Affairs of Uzbekistan // "Kizil Uzbekistan" newspaper. June 22 , 1934. Issue 142.
- [17] The instructions given by the party on the reorganization of the apparatus of the Peoples Commissariat of Land Affairs Lets finish it. Interview with Rizaev, Chairman of the Commission for the Purification of Party Organizations of the Peoples Commissariat of Land Affairs of Uzbekistan // "Kizil Uzbekistan" newspaper. June 22, 1934. Issue 142.



Jalilov Alisher Khudoyberdiyevich doctoral student at Navoi State University Navoiy, Uzbekistan (jalilov-1982@bk.ru)