



Archival sources on the history of the irrigation of new lands of Central Ferghana (1950–1990)

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ABSTRACT

The article provides a comprehensive analysis of archival sources on the history of the development and irrigation of new lands of Central Ferghana and reveals the irrigation work carried out in the desert areas during the 1950s–1990s using primary sources.

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Markaziy Farg'ona yangi yerlarining sug'orilishi tarixiga doir arxiv manbalari (1950–1990-yillar)

ANNOTATSIYA

Kalit so'zlar:

Markaziy Farg'ona,
irrigatsiya,
arxiv manbalari,
O'zbekiston Milliy arxivi,
Andijon viloyat davlat arxivi,
Namangan viloyat davlat
arxivi,
Farg'ona viloyat davlat
arxivi.

Maqolada Markaziy Farg'ona yangi yerlarining o'zlashtirilishi va sug'orilishi tarixiga doir arxiv manbalari atroflicha tahlil qilingan, 1950–1990-yillar davomida cho'l hududlarida olib borilgan irrigatsiya ishlari birlamchi manbalar yordamida ochib berilgan.

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Архивные источники по истории орошения новых земель Центральной Ферганы (1950–1990 гг.)

АННОТАЦИЯ

Ключевые слова:

Центральная Фергана, ирригация, архивные источники, Национальный архив Узбекистана, Государственный архив Андижанской области, Государственный архив Наманганской области, Государственный архив Ферганской области.

В статье подробно анализируются архивные источники по истории освоения и орошения новых земель Центральной Ферганы, с помощью первоисточников раскрываются ирригационные работы, проводившиеся в пустынных районах в 1950–1990 годы.

An objective disclosure of the history of irrigation of Central Ferghana requires a detailed analysis of the source bases of the topic. It is this source analysis that will help to truthfully reveal many aspects of this extremely complex and controversial topic. The sources on the history of irrigation reclamation and mechanization of the Fergana Valley are mainly archival documents and materials. In covering the topic of the study, sources stored in the archives of the Republic of Uzbekistan and its constituent regions of the Ferghana Valley, which have not been introduced into scientific circulation to date or have remained completely out of the reach of researchers, were widely used. It is appropriate to conditionally divide the source bases of the work into three groups.

The first group includes sources from the National Archive of Uzbekistan (NA Uz). Documents from the 90, 837, 2138, 2182, 2483, 2597, 2676, and 2700 funds (8 funds) of the National Archive of Uzbekistan (NA Uz) are an important source for objectively studying the essence of the colonial policy implemented by the Soviet authorities in the irrigation system of Central Ferghana, which was built based on colonialism, and the fact that this practice was aimed specifically at the development of cotton cultivation. In particular, in the Ferghana Valley, to further increase productivity, the extensive development of irrigation and its complete subordination to the center's cotton monopoly, the expansion of cotton-sown areas beyond the norm to regularly supply the Union threshing floor with raw materials, and the construction and improvement of water structures for the implementation of these measures, the documents stored in Fund 90 of the National Archive of Uzbekistan [1] stand out for their richness in material in fully covering this topic. For the first time, extracts from most of the documents related to this fund were taken and included in the scope of scientific analysis. At the same time, archival documents in Funds 837 and 2483 directly helped in a comprehensive and objective analysis of the activities carried out by the autocratic Soviet government in the republican, and in particular, in the Central Ferghana water management sector, as well as the problems raised on the topic. These were timely announced resolutions and decrees, for example, the resolution of the CPSU Central Committee and the Council of Ministers of the Uzbek SSR “On the Construction of the Central Ferghana Canal” [2], which aimed to quickly construct and commission this canal, sustainably provide the central part of the valley with water sources, and paid special attention to expanding

irrigated areas to develop cotton growing. In turn, in accordance with the resolution of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Uzbekistan and the Council of Ministers of the Uzbek SSR “On approval of the program of construction work on the irrigation and development of the lands of Central Ferghana in 1959” [3], more than 36 thousand hectares of waste and neglected abandoned lands were brought into agricultural use here, a number of creative works were carried out, including the construction of more than 250 km of highways, the establishment of 22 collective farm settlements, and on the basis of this resolution, a program of construction work on the irrigation and development of the lands of Central Ferghana in the amount of 18,685 thousand rubles was approved in the same year, in particular, 10,575 thousand rubles were allocated from the indivisible fund of collective farms in Andizhan, Namangan and Ferghana regions, 55,385 thousand rubles from the state budget, and 23,400 from the “Selkhozcredit” thousand rubles, and 2,150 thousand rubles were allocated and spent from the “Uzbekbirshavu” [4]. It can be said that all these measures were carried out based on the policy of complete cotton monopoly in the Ferghana Valley, large cotton fields were established in the newly developed areas, and 90 percent of the cotton produced as a result of the hard work of Uzbek farmers was transported to the center. It is worth recognizing that practical measures and all efforts to develop the irrigation sector in Central Ferghana were completely subordinated to the center's colonial policy in the agricultural sector and were carried out directly under its rule and control.

In analyzing the historical processes and events related to the implementation of irrigation and development work in the Ferghana Valley based on cotton monopoly, there are materials from funds 2182, 2597, 2676, including orders of the Ministry of Municipal Economy of the Uzbek SSR, “Uzglavvodstroy” and the Ministry of Agricultural Production and Processing on irrigation, materials and annual reports on the development of new lands and further strengthening of irrigation work in the valley at meetings of the boards of these ministries [5] and the construction of irrigation facilities here as an urgent issue [6]. The archival sources in these funds contain extensive information on the socio-economic situation in the Ferghana Valley, the progress of the development of protected and wastelands, the allocation of capital funds for these processes, their implementation, and the solution of the issues at stake.

In another group of archival sources, petitions written by residents of the region to higher authorities were studied in detail, including letters and petitions about the problems of the local population in the life of the population due to water shortages in some regions of the oblasts, about the lack of drinking water, about the fact that they have not been solved for a long time, and about the complete depletion of irrigated areas. These documents serve to determine the real situation of the rural population of the Ferghana Valley regions at that time, to identify the cases of farmers' dependence on the center for food and grain products due to the failure of the Soviet authorities to take appropriate measures promptly (fund 2676) [7]. At the same time, it was noted that the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Uzbekistan and the Council of Ministers of the Uzbek SSR adopted a resolution “On measures to accelerate irrigation and development in the Central Ferghana Reserve” [8], according to which, from 1964 to 1970, 54 thousand hectares of land were prepared for irrigation and land reclamation, and 58.1 thousand hectares were developed for agricultural purposes.

The construction of water structures in the Central Ferghana and their technical condition in the 2700th fund of the National Archive of the Republic, in particular, the orders of the Ministry of Rural Construction of the Uzbek SSR on the construction of water structures in the valley regions, as well as other materials in it, also played an important role in illuminating the topic [9]. The content of the existing orders, protocols, appeals and telegrams stored in these funds helps to clearly understand the essence of the policy of ideological pressure carried out by the central government in the field of irrigation in the Ferghana Valley and the fact that the resources of all hydraulic structures here were spent primarily on the regular and permanent irrigation of large cotton fields, rather than on the needs of the population.

The second group is made up of sources from 15 funds of the Andizhan Regional State Archive (ARSA), the Namangan Regional State Archive (Namangan RSA), and the Ferghana Regional State Archive (FRSA). Through a detailed study and analysis of the existing documents and annual reports stored in these archives, problematic processes related to the implementation of decisions of local parties and Soviet bodies and orders of water management bodies on the ground were observed. It is noteworthy that from the relevant materials in the archives of the Ferghana Valley, not only the necessary information on the history of water management in these regions but also on the irrigation of Central Ferghana, which is of republican importance, was obtained and put into use.

At the same time, under the influence of the center's cotton monopoly policy, the mass development of new lands carried out in the 50s-80s of the 20th century in order to further develop cotton growing on a republic-wide scale, especially in the development of reserve and waste lands in Central Ferghana, was highlighted by the 1st section of the Great Ferghana Canal (fund 602), the Andijan Regional Executive Committee (fund 608), the Andijan Regional Group of State Control of the Uzbek SSR (fund 612), the Andijan Regional Agricultural Department (fund 619), the Namangan Regional Irrigation System Department (fund 5), the Namangan Regional Executive Committee (fund 275), the Namangan Regional Agricultural Department (fund 317), the Namanganvodstroy Regional Water Management Construction Trust (fund 865), the Ferghanavodstroy Construction and Assembly Trust (fund 711), the Ferghana Regional The materials of the Irrigation System Department (fund 1022), the Ferghana Oblast Executive Committee (fund 1124), the Ferghana Oblast Agricultural Department (fund 1126), the Ferghana Oblast Inter-Collective Farm Council for Irrigation and Development of Central Ferghana Lands (fund 1151), and the Boz District Executive Committee of the Shahrikhan District State Archive of Andijan Oblast (fund 4) were extensively used. In particular, the report prepared by the manager of the "Ferghanavodstroy" trust on the irrigation and reclamation preparation of the Central Fergana reserve lands, which is stored in fund 608 of the Andijan Regional State Archive, contains important statistical data and analyses on the allocation of capital funds for the development and irrigation of this area and their implementation on the ground, as well as the implementation of water management and road construction works [10]. It is in the materials of this fund that one can observe the processes associated with the further intensification of development work in the region. In particular, by the resolution of the Andijan Regional Committee of the Communist Party of Uzbekistan and the Regional Executive Committee "On approval of the program of construction work on irrigation and development of the lands of

Central Ferghana in 1962” [11], the district departments of “Uzselkhoztekhnika” and state farms under a direct contract with the construction organizations of the “Andijanvodstroy” trust were determined to prepare 2,250 hectares of new land in Central Ferghana, which was implemented, 2,000 hectares of which were completed by the district departments of “Uzselkhoztekhnika”, and 250 hectares by the forces of existing state farms. It is worth noting that during the first nine months of 1962, the regional departments of “Uzselkhoztekhnika” prepared 889 hectares of new land for sowing, which was 44.5% of the annual plan. In the following months, the work on preparing new land intensified even more. During the past eleven months of this year, the regional departments of “Uzselkhoztekhnika” prepared 1,455.2 hectares of new land, which was 72.8% of the annual plan, as detailed in this fund.

Fund 5 of the Namangan regional state archive, called the Namangan Regional Irrigation System Department, contains not only information on the history of the irrigation system of this region but also resolutions [12] and orders of the Ministry of Melioration and Water Management of the Uzbek SSR on irrigation and melioration measures (published from 1973 to 1987), which helped to accurately describe the construction of canals and pumping stations, their general condition. Fund 317 of this regional archive also contains materials on the development of new lands and irrigation works in the Ferghana Valley, which were used to cover this research topic. For example, the resolution of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Uzbek SSR and the Council of Ministers of the Uzbek SSR “On irrigation and development of protected and wastelands in Central Ferghana in 1959-1965” was adopted [13], and the text of this resolution reflects the fact that large-scale work was carried out to further increase the water supply of the Central Ferghana regions and improve the land reclamation condition, more than 36 thousand hectares of waste and abandoned lands were brought into agricultural use in the region, more than 250 km of highways were built, and 22 collective farm settlements were established [14].

Thus, in accordance with the documents obtained from the funds, a comparative analysis of the development of the irrigation system in the Central Fergana region during 1959-1990 based on a modern conceptual and methodological approach and further clarification of its negative aspects, the emergence of numerous problems in the development of the reserve, the causes of the problems of water shortage and its complicated consequences, the construction of hydraulic structures and their annual increase in number by the center, and the measures related to it were scientifically analyzed. All archival documents and current archival materials used in the study are considered to be relevant to the period under study. Special attention was paid to the critical (comparative) presentation and analysis of primary sources in the work. In particular, the methods of the critical approach were mainly used in comparing and scientifically analyzing most archival materials, comparing the information in them.

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