

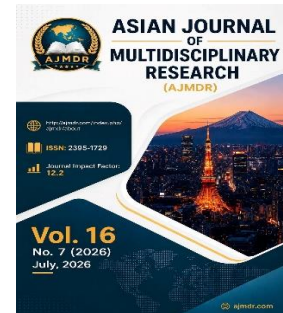
COVERAGE OF THE CITY DUMA'S ACTIVITIES IN NEWSPAPERS

Boltaboyev Yodgorjon Toshpo'latovich
Senior Lecturer, Department of
History Namangan State University

Abstract: The article discusses the formation of the Provisional Government after the February Revolution in Russia, the adoption of several regulations on holding elections for the formation of self-governing bodies in cities, and the commencement of preparations for elections to the City Dumas in all cities of the Turkestan region, including the cities of the Fergana Valley, based on these regulations. The general public watched the preparations for the City Duma elections with great interest and goodwill. These processes were widely covered in newspapers published in the region, including the newspaper "Shchit Naroda" (Shield of the People).

Keywords: Provisional Government, City Statute, Duma, city administration, homeowners, Turkestan Committee, Eski Margilan (Old Margilan), Special Commission, propaganda, leaflet, uyezd (district), commissar, Skobelev, carriage (ekipaj), Dumakhon, ruble.

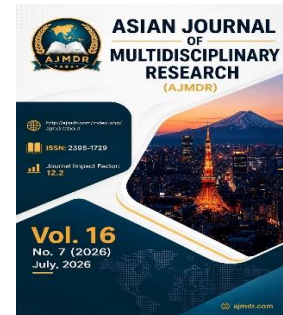
Margilan, one of the major cities of the Fergana Valley, was famous for its products not only in Central Asia but also in distant Western and Eastern countries. In particular, the atlas, silk, and silk fabrics produced in the city of Margilan were in high demand in world markets. After the city was occupied by Russian troops in 1875, a series of administrative and socio-economic changes were implemented, and it received the status of an uyezd city of the Fergana region. By the end of the 19th and beginning of the 20th centuries, Margilan had become one of the region's important centers of trade, craftsmanship, transport, and culture.



By the end of the 19th and beginning of the 20th centuries, industrial development in European countries, including the Russian Empire, accelerated significantly. Consequently, urbanization processes intensified in the cities of the empire, including cities in the remote regions, and the status of cities in the economic, social, and cultural life of the country increased. Understanding this well, the Provisional Government implemented a number of reforms in the management system of cities. On April 15, 1917, the Turkestan Committee of the Provisional Government adopted a special regulation on the establishment of City Dumas and city administrations in the large cities of the region. Based on this regulation, preparations for holding elections and organizing City Dumas began in the cities of the Fergana region starting from May 1917.

In the city of Eski Margilan, preparations for holding elections to the City Duma began in December 1917 under the leadership of the Commissar of the Fergana region. A special commission was formed to organize and conduct elections for membership in the City Duma. To ensure the active participation of the city's population in the elections, the special commission carried out propaganda and explanatory work. The special commission provided the following information to the citizens of the city regarding the upcoming elections:

1. Starting from the 22nd of this month, the registration of the initial voter lists will begin and will continue until December 22, 23, 24, 25, and 26;
2. Starting from December 27, for 5 days: on December 27, 28, 29, 30, and 31, complaints and objections related to the compilation of voter lists will be considered;
3. Starting from January 1, 1918, complaints and objections regarding the activities of the special commission, the non-consideration of complaints, and its



activities can be filed with the administrative court departments for 3 days: January 1, 2, and 3;

4. Starting from January 4, 1918, within a period of 5 days: on January 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8, complaints and objections will be considered in the administrative court departments;

5. Starting from January 9, for 4 days: on January 9, 10, 11, and 12, the voter lists will be reviewed, and errors will be corrected and filled in;

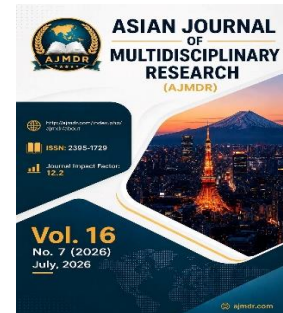
6. The final deadline for submitting the voter lists is set for January 13;

7. Elections to the City Duma will be held on January 16 [1].

It is evident from the above information that the special commission approached the elections with great responsibility. The establishment of precise deadlines for the compilation of voter lists, the allocation of a multi-day period for list compilation, the indication that the compilation of voter lists would be carried out in two stages, and the clear setting of dates for submitting and considering complaints and objections prove that the special commission paid great attention to the preparations for the elections.

In January and February 1918, the special commission attempted to carry out the election preparation processes even more actively. In the city of Eski Margilan, 1,000 leaflets providing detailed information about the time, place, and rules of the elections to the City Duma were printed and distributed to the city's population [2].

Elections to the City Duma in the city of Eski Margilan took place on February 18, 1918. The elections to the City Duma were carried out based on the resolution of the Provisional Government dated April 15, 1917. The preparation for the elections and the election process were strictly controlled by the Commissariat of the Fergana region. The special committee for conducting elections to the City Duma in Eski Margilan announced on February 18 that elections had been held in the city.

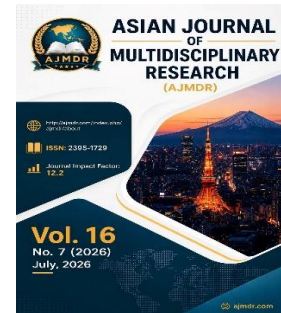


It was reported that members of list No. 1 of candidates won with 12,471 votes and were elected as members of the City Duma. It was announced that the inauguration ceremony of the City Duma would be held on February 26, 1918, at 12:00 [3].

The Commissar of the Fergana region sent a telegram to the Commissar of the city of Eski Margilan with the following content: "I inform everyone and all leaders that after the establishment of the Eski Margilan City Duma and city administration, I propose that the Eski Margilan city commissar, as the head of the city economy, hand over all property, inventory, funds, and all work documents of the city economy in agreement with the head of the city. Give me information about this handover and acceptance" [4].

The inauguration ceremony of the City Duma in Eski Margilan was solemn and vibrant. Guests from Skobelev and other cities of the region attended the opening ceremony. The leaders of the Fergana region expressed their gratitude to Commissar Sugrobov and Secretary Nasibyans for organizing the elections to the Margilan City Duma and for their dedicated work at such a dangerous time, when mutual struggles between various parties were intensifying. After the members of the City Duma took a solemn oath, the election of the members of the City Administration was postponed to another day because Secretary Nasibyans was ill.

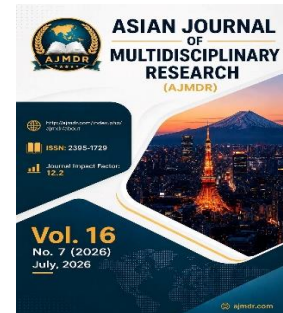
On March 14, 1918, elections were held in the Eski Margilan City Duma to elect members of the city administration. Said Ahmad Khodjayev was elected as the head of the city, and Magomed Ibragimov Qori Sarimsaqov was elected as the deputy head of the city. The following were elected as members of the administration: Abdulla Sufi Khodjayev, Raim Djan Ahmat Karvanov, and Rahmat Ali Abdurahmanov; Pavel Nasibyans was elected as secretary of the city administration, Abdul Aziz Khodja Djanov as deputy head of the city, and Adliyan Muzaffar Khodjayev as his assistant [5].



On March 17, the City Administration decided to turn the building of the Russian-native school, consisting of 6 rooms located in the city center, into the office building of the administration. Separate commissions were formed by the City Duma to accept the economic, financial, and other property of the city. General, financial, economic, and food departments were established in the city administration. A number of commissions were established by the members of the City Duma: medical-sanitary, trade, industry, public education, control-audit, and other commissions. All commissions immediately began to carry out their duties. The office of the administration began to hire new employees and purchase necessary items immediately. Said Ahmad Khodja Giyas Khodjayev and member of the city administration Mulla Raimdjan Karvanov took on the responsibility of leading the activities of all newly established commissions.

The city administration in Margilan, which consisted mainly of representatives of the local population, also tried hard to eliminate existing economic and social problems. The leaders and members of the Margilan City Duma tried to honestly fulfill the difficult and responsible tasks of managing the city economy. The city administration announced that it would carry out its activities openly and inform the city population about each of its activities. It was announced to the city population that the office of the city administration would operate every morning from 9:00 to 15:00 [6].

Every day, the square in front of the Margilan City Duma building was crowded with citizens who had come with various problems. Representatives of the city population asked the "Dumakhon" (members of the Duma) for help in solving problems related to all areas of life [7]. The fact that the residents of Eski Margilan sometimes called the members of the City Duma "Dumakhon" shows that the city population treated the Duma members with respect. However, if the members of the



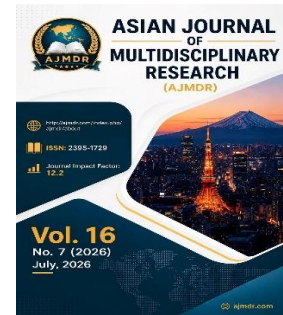
City Administration stated that they could not solve some problems or that they did not have the right to interfere in a particular issue, the representatives of the city population were deeply offended.

Due to the participation of the Russian Empire in the First World War, the economic and social situation in the Turkestan region had become even more difficult. Famine had taken on a terrible form in the territories of the Turkestan region, including the Fergana Valley. Famine and malnutrition had taken on a very pathetic form, especially among the residents of the region's cities. Representatives of the local population looked to the City Duma with great hope. They firmly believed that the City Duma would especially solve the food problem.

The members of the City Duma did a lot of charitable work to support the hungry and poor categories of the city's population and to protect their interests. On the initiative of the Duma members, an appeal was made to the wealthy households of the city, and voluntary fund-raising was carried out to establish free canteens for the hungry and poor segments of the city. As a result of these efforts, a large amount of funds was collected, and several free canteens were established in the city of Margilan.

To solve the problem of providing the city population with food, the City Duma sent its representatives with powers of attorney and monetary funds to various provinces to purchase bread and grain products. Until the grain and bread products were delivered to the city, it was decided to open 200 canteens for the hungry in the city. Even the small amount of grain products provided to the disposal of the City Duma by the food audit commission was given to the free canteens established for the hungry [8].

To improve the city's economic activity and financially support economic reforms, the Margilan City Duma decided to increase taxes in city markets. Members



of the City Duma stated that this decision was made because the prices of products in the markets of the Turkestan region had risen at that time and to meet the requirements of the time. For example: a tax of 2 rubles for a box of silk, 10 rubles for one horse and cart (carriage), 25 rubles for 2 horses and two carts, and 50 rubles for 30 horses and 3 carts was strictly set by the City Duma [9].

Also, the amount of taxes paid for products brought to the markets of Margilan and taken from the city markets to other regions was increased. The amount of taxes collected from the sale of agricultural products by the City Duma was also increased. As a result of these reforms, the City administration obtained the necessary financial means for the reforms.

It is evident from the above information that the Eski Margilan City Duma carried out active and effective activities in the economic, social, administrative, and cultural management of the city, tried to protect the interests of the city's population in every way, and implemented many reforms. Various representatives of the population of the city of Eski Margilan treated the City Duma with great trust and goodwill.

List of used sources:

1. Щит Народа // 1918. January 4. No. 3.
2. Щит Народа // 1918. February 1. No. 16.
3. Щит Народа // 1918. March 14. No. 26.
4. Щит Народа // 1918. April 13. No. 69.
5. Щит Народа // 1918. March 20. No. 49.
6. Щит Народа // 1918. January 4. No. 3.
7. Щит Народа // 1918. April 13. No. 69.
8. Щит Народа // 1918. April 10. No. 66.
9. Щит Народа // 1918. April 13. No. 69.