

History of Georgian Diaspora in Uzbekistan

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ABSTRACT

This article reveals the essence of interethnic relations in Uzbekistan. Also, on the basis of scientific sources, the history of the processes of growth in the number of the Georgian diaspora in Uzbekistan is analyzed.

We all know that at the center of the large-scale reforms being carried out in Uzbekistan, first of all, the main issue is the goal of ensuring the interests of people, their rights and freedoms. Article 4 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan states that "The state language of the Republic of Uzbekistan is the Uzbek language. The Republic of Uzbekistan ensures that the languages, customs and traditions of all nations and peoples living in its territory are respected, and creates conditions for their development" [1] or in Article 8 "The people of Uzbekistan are made up of citizens of the Republic of Uzbekistan, regardless of their nationality" [1] highlighted. On the basis of these sentences recognized in our General Law, we can recognize that all representatives of nationalities and peoples living in our country are citizens of the Republic of Uzbekistan and their interests are protected by law. Therefore, from the point of view of the interests of all nationalities and peoples, education is currently being conducted in seven languages in the state educational institutions of our country. The National Broadcasting Company of Uzbekistan broadcasts its programs in twelve languages, newspapers and magazines are published in more than ten languages. 138 national cultural centers and about 2300 religious organizations belonging to 16 denominations operate under the Committee of International Relations and Friendship with Foreign Countries. During his activities, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sh.M. Mirziyoyev also paid attention to the issue of nationalities living in the territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan, and in the strategy of actions for the further development of the Republic of Uzbekistan for the period of 2017-2021 [2] and the development strategy of the new Uzbekistan for the period of 2022-2026, he created an environment of inter-ethnic harmony and inter-religious tolerance in the society, the issue of strengthening[3] is put forward as an urgent issue.

Therefore, among the nationalities living on the borders of our Motherland, attention to the Georgian nation is also worthy of attention. Georgians have been living in Uzbek land for many centuries. Khorezm and the trade and diplomatic relations with this country are mentioned in Shota Rustaveli's

epic "The wrestler covered with a tiger skin" ["Yo'lbars terisini yopingan pahlavon"]. At the beginning of the XX century, people of Georgian nationality visited the Turkistan country of their own free will and participated in all aspects of educational, theater and cultural life.

Even during the period of Soviet rule, the relations between the two brotherly peoples continued to develop despite all the obstacles and opposition in the socio-economic, scientific-technical and cultural fields. In turn, these processes also caused an increase in the number of the Georgian diaspora in the territory of Turkistan.

Population and its composition were registered several times in the XX century. In particular, 697 in 1926, 2,648 in 1939, 2,474 in 1959, 4,088 in 1979, 4,704 in 1989, 1,130 in 2000 [4] representatives of the Georgian diaspora lived in the territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan. If we analyze the data of 1926 more deeply, the population belonging to the Georgian nationality was 697, 471 of them were men, 226 were women, 652 of them lived in cities and 45 in villages [5]. It is clear from this information that Georgians mainly worked in the service sector in cities. In 1939, the total population of Uzbekistan was 6,271,269 people, 2,648 of whom belonged to the Georgian nationality, and 2,474 people in 1959 [5]. It should be noted that the number of the Georgian diaspora in 1959 slightly decreased compared to 1939. Of course, the reason for this may have been the impact of the II World War, but this is not a big difference.

According to the above data, the number of Georgian population increased in 1989 compared to 1979, and in 2000 it decreased dramatically, the reason for this can be the economic difficulties in the early years of independence.

At the beginning of the XX century, Georgians mostly lived in large cities in Turkistan. In 1916, according to ethnographer I.I. Zarubin, 138 citizens of Georgian nationality lived in Samarkand, and 3 in Kattakurgan [4], which is the evidence of our opinion. During these years, more than a thousand Georgians lived there, and they mainly worked in government positions, as teachers, doctors, sales staff, and in hotel restaurants. In the first years of the Soviet rule, that is, in December 1922, as a result of the signing of the agreement on the establishment of an agricultural enterprise in the Mirzachol district of Turkistan by the economic representative of the Caucasian Federation, many Georgian specialists visited the territory of our homeland [6].

In the XX century, the youth of the allied republics along with neighboring republics came to Central Asian State University to study at higher educational institutions in the territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan, and after completing their studies, they stayed in the fertile country to conduct scientific research. This situation, in turn, caused an increase in the number of the diaspora, which consists of Georgians. In the years after the Second World War, Georgians carried out their activities in a number of scientific institutions of our republic. For example, in the field of architecture, K.A. Nikuradze and Sh. Ratiya, in the field of history, H. Sh. Giunashvili and archeologist E. V. Rtveladze, and in the field of culture and art, V. Z. Chakhvadze, N. A. Bandeladze and A. I. Djishiashvili" [6] made a great contribution to the development of science and culture of our republic.

It is not for nothing that the Georgian cultural center "Megobroba" - "Friendship" - founded in 1994 in the city of Tashkent during the independence years. It is this cultural center that is incomparable for the strengthening of friendship between the two peoples and the preservation and transmission of cultural traditions of the Georgian diaspora to future generations. In addition to the Uzbek holidays dear to Georgians from Uzbekistan, religious and national holidays of Georgians such as Christmas, Motherhood and Beauty Day, Easter - Shoba, George Day, Rtveli - Grape Branch Day are celebrated.

The "megobroba" community, which is working on educating Georgian youth in the spirit of respecting the cultural heritage of their people and other peoples, proudly states that "Uzbekistan is our common home" and it can be recognized that it continues to build its future based on the democratic reforms in the republic [7].

We can list a number of scientists and artists who made a significant contribution to the development of Uzbek-Georgian relations in the fields of history, science and culture of Uzbekistan during the years of independence. Among others, we can list the names of our famous compatriots, such as Edward Rtveladze, an academician of the Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan, a world-renowned scientist who was awarded the "For Merit" orders of Uzbekistan and "Shonsharaf" orders of Georgia, and hydrogeologist Tariel Kuchukhidze.

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