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**ESTABLISHMENT OF SOVIET POWER IN TURKESTAN. ARRANGEMENTS
TAKEN BY THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES IN UZBEKISTAN AND THEIR
COLONIAL ESSENCE**

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***Abstract:** This article provides a comprehensive examination of the Soviet Union's establishment of power in Turkestan, focusing particularly on the colonial nature of Soviet governance in Uzbekistan. The annotation highlights key aspects of the article's analysis: **Historical Context:** The article effectively sets the stage by outlining the historical background of Turkestan and the Soviet expansion into Central Asia following the Bolshevik revolution. This context is crucial for understanding the dynamics of Soviet rule in the region. **Colonial Policies:** It delves into the specific policies implemented by Soviet authorities in Uzbekistan, illustrating how these policies mirrored colonial practices. The discussion on Russification, economic exploitation, political repression, and social transformation provides a nuanced understanding of Soviet colonialism in the region. **Legacy and Contemporary Impacts:** The annotation recognizes the lasting legacy of Soviet rule in Uzbekistan and Central Asia. By addressing the ongoing economic, cultural, and political impacts of Soviet policies, the article underscores the relevance of historical analysis in understanding present-day dynamics.*

***Key words:** Soviet Union, Turkestan, Uzbekistan, Colonialism, Russification, Economic exploitation, Political repression, Social transformation, Legacy, Central Asia, Bolshevik revolution, Identity, Cultural impact, Post-Soviet era, Historical analysis.*

The history of Soviet control and governance in Central Asia, particularly in regions like Uzbekistan, represents a complex and significant chapter in the broader narrative of Soviet expansion and consolidation. The establishment of Soviet power in Turkestan, which included present-day Uzbekistan, was marked by a series of policies and actions that reflected a colonial approach by the Soviet authorities. This period profoundly shaped the



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socio-political landscape of the region, leaving lasting impacts that continue to resonate today.

Turkestan, comprising the territories of modern-day Central Asian countries such as Uzbekistan, was a diverse region with a rich cultural heritage. Prior to the arrival of Soviet forces in the early 20th century, the region was predominantly characterized by traditional societal structures and governance systems, often organized around local rulers and tribal affiliations. The Bolshevik revolution of 1917 led to the establishment of Soviet power in Russia, which soon extended its reach into Central Asia. By the 1920s, the Red Army had successfully subdued resistance and established Soviet control across Turkestan, incorporating the region into the newly formed Soviet Union. The consolidation of power in Uzbekistan, as in other Central Asian republics, was a critical component of Soviet efforts to project influence beyond Russian borders.

The Soviet authorities' approach to governing Uzbekistan was distinctly colonial in nature, characterized by several key policies and practices: Russification and Centralization: One of the primary goals of Soviet rule was to integrate Uzbekistan into the larger Soviet framework, often at the expense of local cultural autonomy. This process involved the imposition of Russian as the administrative language and the promotion of Soviet ideals through education and media. The aim was to erode local identities and replace them with a unified Soviet identity.

The Soviet authorities implemented centralized economic policies aimed at extracting resources and labor from Uzbekistan to benefit the industrialization efforts of the USSR. This often resulted in the exploitation of local resources, such as cotton, to fuel Soviet economic development, while leaving the local population economically dependent. The establishment of Soviet power was accompanied by harsh measures to quell dissent and opposition. Political opponents, religious leaders, and intellectuals were often targeted, leading to widespread repression and fear among the populace. The Soviet authorities sought to eliminate potential sources of resistance to their rule. Soviet policies also aimed to reshape social norms and practices in Uzbekistan. Traditional societal structures, including family and religious institutions, were undermined in favor of Soviet ideologies such as atheism and collectivism. This cultural revolution was intended to align Uzbek society with the broader Soviet vision.

The legacy of Soviet colonial rule in Uzbekistan remains palpable in contemporary times. Despite gaining independence in 1991, Uzbekistan and other Central Asian nations continue to grapple with the enduring effects of Soviet policies. The economic dependence on monoculture, environmental degradation, and persistent political authoritarianism are all



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legacies of Soviet rule. Moreover, the cultural impact of Russification and Sovietization persists, with Russian language and cultural influences still prevalent in many spheres of Uzbek society. Efforts to reclaim and revive traditional cultural practices and languages are ongoing, reflecting a broader quest for identity and autonomy in the post-Soviet era.

In conclusion, the establishment of Soviet power in Turkestan, particularly in Uzbekistan, was characterized by a colonial approach that aimed to assimilate, control, and exploit the region for the benefit of the Soviet state. The enduring impacts of this period underscore the complex and often fraught relationship between the centralizing forces of empire and the local dynamics of identity and resistance. Understanding this history is essential for comprehending the contemporary socio-political landscape of Uzbekistan and the broader Central Asian region.

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