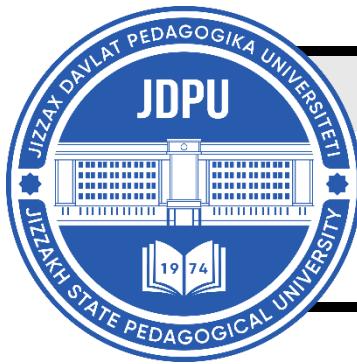


# MENTAL ENLIGHTENMENT SCIENTIFIC – METHODOLOGICAL JOURNAL



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<http://mentaljournal-jspu.uz/index.php/mesmj/index>



### ON THE RESULTS OF THE RELOCATION OF THE POPULATION FROM THE NUROTA OASIS TO THE MIRZACHUL AND JIZZAKH DESERT

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#### ABOUT ARTICLE

**Key words:** Nurata, oasis, Mirzachul, Jizzakh steppe, agriculture, cotton, CPSU, congress, resettlement policy, "Glavgolodnosteprstroy," Sh.Rashidov, labor resources, collective farm, state farm.

**Received:** 10.12.25

**Accepted:** 11.12.25

**Published:** 13.12.25

**Abstract:** This article reflects the author's views on the results of the Soviet government's resettlement of the population from the Nuratau oasis to the Mirzachul and Jizzakh steppes. In it, the researcher, based on a number of archival documents, scientific literature, and materials of periodicals, analyzes that one of the greatest achievements of the Uzbek people in the 20th century - the development of the Mirzachul and Jizzakh steppes - was an important stage in the development of the national economy of our republic.

**Introduction.** During the years of independence, the history of the multinational population of Uzbekistan during the Soviet period - the experience of the country's development, the influence of the totalitarian system based on administrative command on economic, social, and cultural life - is being consistently studied. In this process, the introduction into circulation of many historical materials currently stored in the archival funds of our republic is of great importance. Currently, one of the urgent issues is the development of virgin lands in Uzbekistan and the study of the Soviet government's resettlement policy within its framework.

As is known, on August 6, 1956, the Central Committee of the CPSU and the Council of Ministers of the USSR adopted a historic resolution "On the Irrigation and Development of

Virgin Lands of the Mirzachul in the Uzbek SSR and the Kazakh SSR to increase cotton production." This decision called our people to a great struggle to turn Mirzachul into a garden, to make it serve the happiness and well-being of the people. As a result, large-scale work has begun in our country to develop the Mirzachul. 51 thousand hectares of virgin and fallow lands have been irrigated and put into agricultural circulation. In the center of the Mirzachul, the city of Yangiyer was built, six new state farms were organized, a highway was built for more than 100 kilometers, and several railway stations were built. Housing and public buildings with a total area of 63 thousand square meters were built for workers. 500 million soums were spent on all these works. Such constructive work, carried out in a short time, completely changed the appearance of Mirzachul[1].

Analysis of literature on the topic. The main literature on the issue of resettlement of the population from the Nuratau oasis to the Mirzachul and Jizzakh steppes is covered, first of all, in studies devoted to the agricultural policy and irrigation of Uzbekistan in the second half of the 20th century. The authors analyzed this process mainly from a bilateral-demographic and economic point of view. In particular, Oybek Komilov's article "History of the Development of the Mirzachul and Jizzakh Deserts (1950-1990)" highlights the implementation of irrigation and land reclamation works, the construction of cotton state farms in the Mirzachul and Jizzakh deserts, and the development of hydropower plants and infrastructure. It emphasizes that the resettlement policy provided economic benefits to the country and was important for increasing agricultural productivity.

Some sources emphasize that the main reason for resettlement is the lack of land and water resources in densely populated areas. In a number of studies, the goal of increasing agricultural productivity through the development of new irrigated lands in the Mirzachul and Jizzakh steppes is indicated as the main factor. In scientific literature, it is noted that as a result of the resettlement policy, new villages were built, infrastructure was developed, and opportunities for using labor resources were expanded. Some sources also note that the period of adaptation was difficult for the resettled population, and the initial lack of climate, conditions, and infrastructure caused certain problems. According to the general conclusion of the research, although this resettlement policy caused difficulties in the short term, it played an important role in long-term economic development and the development of new irrigated lands.

Research methodology. In this study, the economic, demographic, and social consequences of the population resettlement from the Nuratau oasis to the Mirzachul and Jizzakh deserts were studied. In the small research work, the analytical method was used, and

literature, articles, and monographs were analyzed. The historical, economic, and social aspects of the resettlement policy were assessed. The problem was analyzed using the following methods and techniques:

Historical-methodological approach: the process of resettlement was studied by periods, the historical-geographical changes of the Nurata oasis and the territories of Mirzachul and Jizzakh were compared;

Statistical method: demographic changes and agricultural indicators were analyzed, changes in irrigated areas, the number of new villages and population were calculated;

Sociological approach: the processes of social adaptation between the resettled population and the indigenous population were studied. The impact on infrastructure and living conditions was considered.

Analysis and results. During this period, the productive forces of Soviet Uzbekistan also developed rapidly, its industry, agriculture, and culture developed day by day. In Uzbekistan, as well as in the neighboring Soviet Socialist Republics of Kazakhstan and Tajikistan, new, largest cotton-growing regions were created in the country due to the development of the Mirzachul[1].

It should be noted that at that time, all work in the field of Mirzachul development was headed by a single organization - "Glavgolodnosepstroy." The organization worked on the basis of a comprehensive method for the development of a new territory in the Mirzachul. This was the world's first experience in desert development and irrigation. Under the leadership of Glavgolodnosepstroy, Mirzachul quickly transformed into a new large cotton-growing region with a high level of development. From 1956 to 1965, cotton fields increased by 1.8 times, from 64,000 hectares to 117,000 hectares. After this, specialized cotton-growing state farms began to be established. From 1956 to 1965, 15 new state farms were established, 14 of which were cotton-growing state farms. In particular, in 1965, fixed assets worth 105 million rubles were put into operation, as well as 83 million rubles for production facilities. The commissioning of fixed assets increased by 16 percent compared to 1964.

In Yangiyer, a reinforced concrete pressure pipe plant, a concrete mix plant in Khavast, a cotton plant in state farm No. 6, six drying and cleaning workshops, two repair workshops, new power transmission lines with a length of 240 km were put into operation, a total of 25,398 hectares of new land were developed, warehouses for storing a significant amount of toxic chemicals and mineral fertilizers in collective and state farms, and buildings for livestock were put into operation [2:24].

However, the development of new lands in Mirzachul required the attraction of labor resources from densely populated regions of Uzbekistan (Fergana, Andijan, Namangan, Samarkand, Tashkent regions). As a result, in the period from 1956 to 1969, 42 thousand families moved to the Syrdarya region (Mirzachul), and in 1969, 25 thousand of them settled down [3:162-163].

As a result of the commissioning of the Syrdarya Hydroelectric Power Station, the cities of Gulistan, Yangiyer, Shirin, and Syrdarya, built on newly developed lands with its electric power, flourished. Households were connected to electricity, industrial enterprises were built and put into operation. However, the peculiarities of the Mirzachul national economy necessitated its separate administrative-territorial division. As a result, in February 1963, as a result of the merger of Tashkent and Samarkand regions and a number of districts of neighboring Kazakhstan, the Syrdarya region was formed [4:70].

In connection with the formation of the Syrdarya region, the Forish district, abolished in 1962, was restored. The state farms "Kyzylkum", "Chimkurgan", named after Amankeldi, "Arnasay" from the Kirov district of the Republic of Kazakhstan, and the state farm named after Timiryazov from the Jizzakh district were added to the district's territory [13:214]. As a result, significant progress was achieved in animal husbandry within the first two years. In 1964-1965, the task of obtaining lambs from ewes, calves from cows, and foals from mares was exceeded. Forish occupied a leading position in the Syrdarya region in the supply of livestock products to the state.

Social security of the population was also strictly controlled by the state during this period. Until 1971, the amount of loans for housing construction for those who moved to work in the desert was increased several times and was set at 4,500 rubles. 50 percent of the debts were covered by the state treasury and the Fund for Socio-Cultural Events and Housing Construction, and the remaining 50 percent was allowed to be repaid within 5 years. Such measures had a positive impact on the development of the desert. Over 10 years, the administrative territories of Jizzakh and Syrdarya regions expanded, the population grew, and benefits increased. Serious attention was paid to all spheres of rural life culture [3:168].

In order to accelerate the development of the Jizzakh desert on December 29, 1973, in accordance with the resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Uzbekistan, as a result of the creation of the Jizzakh region on the basis of the Jizzakh, Farish, Dustlik, Zaamin, Pakhtakor, Mirzachul, Oktyabr (now Zafarabad) districts of the Syrdarya region, Bakhmal, Gallaorol districts of the Samarkand region, many agricultural and industrial enterprises were put into operation, as a result of population growth, the number of schools

and preschool educational institutions increased, and the demand for qualified teaching staff increased [5:182].

The voluntary resettlement of the majority of the population of Uzbekistan in the ninth five-year plan, especially to the Mirzachul and Jizzakh steppes, and the migration of people from densely populated areas, even from the central black soil regions of the former Soviet Union, was of great importance. It was necessary to take all measures to prevent newcomers from returning to their places. For this purpose, measures were taken to create the simplest living conditions for them, to conclude employment contracts, and to create all the conditions for their adaptation to the new environment.

In particular, in 1974, 7,815 people arrived in the Jizzakh region, while the number of those who left reached 5,347. In 1975, the number of arrivals was 9398 people, the number of departures - 6872, in 1976 - 10824 people - 8245, in 1977 - 11113 people - 8793, in 1978 - 10223 people - 9248, and in 1979 - 10486 people - 9680. These figures show that not all those who moved to the Jizzakh steppe settled permanently in the oasis. Nevertheless, the number of migrants increased year by year, and the number of settlers also increased [6:135, 136].

At the meeting of the extraordinary session of the Jizzakh region in 1974, it was planned to create 56 hospitals, 80 (medical) and outpatient clinics, 2 health rooms, 768 feldsher-midwife rooms, and hospitals for 3965 patients [6:141]. Over the past four years of the ninth five-year plan, the consumer service sector has grown by 1848, the number of employees in it - by 6393 people, and the volume of services rendered - by 58.2 million soums. These changes ensured an increase in household services per capita living in rural areas. This indicator was 7 rubles in 1970, and by 1974 it almost doubled, reaching 13 rubles and 90 kopecks [7: 23].

The ninth five-year plan was especially fruitful for "Golodnosepstroy". The five-year assignment was overfulfilled by the management team. During this period, construction and installation work worth 724 million soums was carried out, 100 thousand hectares of new irrigated land were prepared and commissioned, 20 new state farms were created, 900 thousand square meters of housing, many schools, preschool institutions, and other production and cultural-household facilities were commissioned. During the ninth five-year plan, the Mirzachul state farms supplied the state with 1 million 441 thousand tons of "white gold." Cotton production exceeded the five-year target by 130% [8:7].

During these years, the ardent son of our people, Sh.R.Rashidov, as a prominent statesman, was able to organize large-scale work with foresight. Despite all the pressure and resistance from the center, it was possible to receive new, additional funds for social security. As a result, over 10 years, the administrative territories of Karshi, Jizzakh, and Syrdarya

expanded, the population grew, and benefits increased. The social question was formulated on the basis of a comprehensive state policy. Attention was paid to all spheres of rural life culture. In a number of regions of the republic, the organization and improvement of healthcare institutions has become widespread. The structures were built mainly at the expense of collective and state farms.

In particular, in 1968-79, about 16.5 million rubles were allocated from collective and state farms for the same purpose, and hospitals for 5,805 beds were put into operation. These indicators increased year by year. Emergency and outpatient services were established in all collective and state farm territories. Of course, the quality of service was not always at the required level, but it should be noted that a completely new medical structure, previously unrecorded, was created. During this period, at the initiative of the head of Uzbekistan Sh.R.Rashidov, measures were organized for conducting mobile medical examinations. Qualified doctors of our republic frequently visited collective farms and conducted medical examinations of workers [9:42].

In 1974, our workers achieved remarkable successes, excellently fulfilling the resolutions of the XXIV Congress of the Central Committee of the CPSU and subsequent plenums, as well as the socialist obligations adopted in honor of the 50th anniversary of the Communist Party of the republic. The indicated year was a truly impactful year of labor for the Uzbek people, in all spheres of the national economy. This year, when more than 5 million 300 thousand tons of "white gold" were collected and handed over to the state for the first time, will be recorded in the history of our Motherland as the year of the celebration of the "golden anniversary" of the formation of the Uzbek SSR and its Communist Party.

During the period under study, the young and newly virgin lands of the Jizzakh steppe also worked selflessly. The National Economy Plan of 1974 was successfully implemented, and the plans for the production and sale of gross industrial output were exceeded. A number of industrial and cultural facilities were built and put into operation. The farmers of the oasis also achieved high record results. This season, an unprecedented harvest of more than 261 thousand tons of raw cotton was grown, which is 52 thousand tons more than the annual plan. About 176 thousand tons or 62% of the harvest was collected by machines [10:1].

One of the greatest achievements of the Uzbek people in the 20th century was the development of the Mirzachul, and then the Karshi, Jizzakh, and Surkhandarya deserts, which became an important stage in the development of the national economy of the republic. In Uzbekistan, land is the main national wealth, the main source of the well-being of our people. The development of new lands, the introduction of new sown areas into agriculture directly

depends on water availability, the development of irrigation networks and structures. During this period, the construction of canals in the Mirzachul region was of great importance [4:68].

On the developed lands, mainly cotton fields and orchards were created, and food crops were grown. Settlements, villages, farms, and districts were created on virgin lands, and new cities were built. In particular, on the developed lands of the Mirzachul, along with the Mirzachul, Zarbdor, Zafarabad, Dustlik, Arnasay, Akaltyn, Mekhnatabad, and other districts, settlements such as Yangiyer, Gulistan, Pakhtakor, Dustlik, Biston, Gagarin, and Pakhtaabad appeared [3:174].

On February 20, 1978, in order to improve housing construction in rural areas, the USSR State Construction adopted a resolution on the construction of 1-2-story, 1-2-room, and blocked houses as the main types of restored houses in settlements, state farms, collective farms, and other agricultural enterprises [3:173].

According to state instructions, the living space for the state farm population is estimated at 9 sq. m per family member, and for those living in dormitories - at 6.0 sq. m per person. The central fortress of the state farm was intended to include a complete complex of public and cultural-domestic institutions and enterprises, namely a kitchen with a semi-finished product workshop, a teahouse with a concrete pool, a consumer service plant, a hotel for 10-12 people, a kindergarten and nursery, a school, a summer cinema, a club, a sports ground and facilities, a pharmacy, a polyclinic, industrial goods and grocery stores, a bathhouse and laundry service, a bakery, a state farm office, a building for the village council, a savings bank, a post office, telephone communication, a fire station, and so on [9:51].

It should be noted that out of 21 types of household services planned for 1979, 8 types of services were not performed in rural areas, such as shoe repair and individual sewing, knitted goods assembly, dry cleaning and dyeing rolling stations. The population of the village was left without services for 2.3 million soums. 404 collective and state farms, or 24% of all farms in the republic, had no domestic service enterprises until now. In these places, only mobile workshops served the population.

In rural areas, the demand for mass professions was still high. In particular, only 19 people served the rural population of the Kashkadarya region for furniture repairs, while in the villages of the Jizzakh region, only 2 people were engaged in the repair of refrigerators, vacuum cleaners, and washing machines. In the Syrdarya region, only 3 employees were employed for various ceremonies, and only 4 for chemical cleaning [7:50].

In 1959-1970, population growth dynamics are also noticeable. During these years, the growth rate (per thousand people) was 155.7% in the Jizzakh region and 139.4% in the

Syrdarya region. In 1970-1977, the growth was 124.3% in the Jizzakh region and 124.2% in the Syrdarya region. The government's resettlement policy also had a positive impact on such rapid population growth [6:129].

At this point, it is appropriate to pay attention to the information provided by our informants. According to Oqilaoy Qurbanova, born in 1955 in the Nurota district of the Samarkand region, they moved to Mirzachul in 1978,... "my husband Qurbanov Abdumannon was a doctor by profession. Since he couldn't find work in our village, he went to our current state farm "Voroshilov-16" in search of work in 1976. Two years later, we moved in with the whole family. After moving, we were provided with housing by our government. When we moved, all the conditions in our state farm were good, schools, kindergartens, and clubs were in operation" [11].

As is known, in 1979, the session of the Jizzakh Regional Council warmly and unanimously approved the decisions of the November Plenum of the Central Committee of the CPSU and the II session of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR. For 11 months of the reporting year, the volume of gross output was 103.8%, and its sales - 105.6%. In addition to the plan, industrial products worth 10,625 thousand soums were sold. During this period, the labor productivity plan was fulfilled by 103%.

The volume of capital construction in the region gradually expanded. Over the past short period, the region's builders have commissioned major subjects worth more than 121 million soums. Capital investments of 216 million soums were utilized for non-production facilities, and construction and installation work worth 185 million soums was carried out. In 1979 alone, 326 thousand tons of raw cotton were harvested, the average yield increased by 1.5 centners compared to the previous year.

During this period, significant work was also carried out in the region to improve public education, healthcare, culture, and trade services for the population. The turnover plan was fulfilled by 102.2%. In addition to the plan, goods worth 5,526,000 soums were sold. Household service workers have also achieved significant progress. The sales plan was fulfilled by 107.1%, and 105 thousand soums worth of unscheduled services were provided. Consumer services, compared to the same period last year, amounted to 114.8%, services were provided at a cost of 7 soums 91 tiyins per capita. Considerable work has been carried out by utility companies. Improvement of vocational and technical education, secondary specialized and higher education, and public education was achieved. At the same time, more than 134 thousand young people were involved in all forms of training. At the same time, serious shortcomings and mistakes were made in the leadership of the national economy and cultural development, in

organizational and public work. Out of 49 industrial enterprises, 9 failed to fulfill the plan for gross output, and 8 failed to fulfill the plan for product sales.

There were also serious shortcomings in capital construction. The plan for the activation of fixed assets for objects of production significance and non-production prestige was fulfilled by only 40 percent. Serious shortcomings were observed in the management of agricultural production. The yield was low, and the cost of 1 centner of cotton was 45-50 soums instead of the planned 40-42 soums. In the Jizzakh region, 8 farms failed to fulfill their annual cotton harvesting plan, they failed to deliver more than 12 thousand tons of cotton to the state. In addition, meat procurement volumes were not fulfilled in 28 out of 76 farms. Significant shortcomings have been made in the provision of household services to the population of the region. In 12 farms of the region, not a single type of service was established in the indicated years [12].

Conclusions and proposals. According to the general conclusion of research and archival documents, although this resettlement policy caused difficulties in the short term, it played an important role in long-term economic development and the development of new irrigated lands. The policy of the Soviet government to resettle the population from the Nuratau oasis to the Mirzachul and Jizzakh steppes served not only economic goals, but also had strategic significance in terms of demographic control and political direction. Researchers considered this process in two dimensions - economic development (expansion of irrigated lands, cotton growing) and social transformation (improved infrastructure, social stability). However, the adaptation process for the resettled population was not always easy. In general, resettlement policy, despite short-term difficulties, played a major role in long-term development (irrigation of land, efficient use of labor resources).

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