



HISTORY OF THE PRESS IN THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN

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Abstract

The article talks about the history and development of journalism in the Republic of Uzbekistan. The article talks about the events from the emergence of journalism in our republic to the present day and about the reforms in recent years.

Keywords: Press, newspapers, Central Asia, television, democracy, freedom of speech, magazine, publisher, mass media, conference.

Introduction

In the course of historical development, a number of types of press were established by private individuals, social groups (political currents, parties, trade unions, cultural-administrative organizations, etc.), joint-stock societies, government institutions and others and served their purposes. In the early days of the establishment of the press in Europe, the church widely used printed books and pamphlets to promote religious ideology. Secular press was formed and began to develop widely against the backdrop of increasingly limited influence of the church on the spiritual life of society. The service of the progressive ideology was great in the struggle to establish an advanced social system and democratic procedures.

The press was formed in Uzbekistan in the second half of the 19th century. "Turkestanskiye vedomosti" and "Turkestan region's gazette", which were established in Tashkent in 1870 by the country's colonial rulers, are the first examples of the press in Central Asia. In Turkestan, the first progressive national newspapers began to operate in 1905-07 ("Taraqqi", "Khurshid", "Shuhrat", etc.). Their path was followed by the newspapers "Sadoi Turkistan", "Sadoi Fergana", "Najot", and "Oyina" magazines published in the second decade of the 20th century. National publications promoted the ideas of turning Turkestan into a literate, enlightened, developed, prosperous and independent country.

After 1917, as in all allied republics of the former USSR, a multi-branch system of the party Soviet press of a new political orientation was established in Uzbekistan. Contrary to general democratic rules, the process of formation and development of the press took place under conditions of one-party rule - the absolute monopoly of the Communist Party. The appearance and direction of newspapers, magazines, and books were determined based on the instructions of the leadership of this ruling party.





Thanks to independence, a completely new phase of democratic development has begun in the development of the press of Uzbekistan. Now, organizations, parties, associations, some communities, citizens also have the right to establish press publications. An opportunity to ensure freedom of the press began to be created in the country. Socio-political fund for the democratization and support of the mass media of the Republic of Uzbekistan in order to provide practical support for creatives to actively participate in the democratic process in order to create conditions for the normal operation of mass media, solve financial and technical issues related to their publication and distribution was established (August 30, 1996). This foundation is an independent, self-governing, non-governmental organization of media representatives.

Laws of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Publishing Activities" (August 30, 1996), "On Mass Media" (December 26, 1997), "On Protection of Journalism" (April 24, 1997), "On Guarantees and Freedom of Information" (April 24, 1997) played an important role in the development of the press of Uzbekistan.

The State Press Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan, which has been the general leader of the work of the press of the Republic of Uzbekistan, was reorganized as the Press and Information Agency of the Republic of Uzbekistan in accordance with the decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On improving management in the field of press and information" (July 3, 2002). Accordingly, the press and information agency of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, regional administrations of press and information were established in the presence of the regional governments. This reform was a major step forward in the direction of the democratization and liberalization of the social life of the country, to more fully satisfy the information needs of the republic's population, to support the development of mass media, publishing and printing, and to form a modern market of information services.

Press products (printed publications) of Uzbekistan are divided into periodical and non-periodical publications. Periodical publications include newspapers, magazines, magazine-type publications (bulletins, scientific information, etc.); non-periodical publications include books, pamphlets, and printed material. These, in turn, are divided into several types - general political and specialized; by establishment - newspapers of government agencies, people's movements, parties, associations, foundations, commercial, religious organizations and others; Depending on the territorial direction, there will be central (national), regional, city, district, and lower press bodies. Advertising, commercial, and private newspapers appeared in the market economy.





Issues related to the press of Uzbekistan are covered mainly in the magazine "Press of Uzbekistan". "Press of Uzbekistan" is a spiritual-educational, scientific-political magazine. Founder: Press and Information Agency of Uzbekistan, Broadcasting Company of Uzbekistan, Creative Union of Journalists of Uzbekistan. The magazine was originally published twice a month in Uzbek and Russian languages under the name "Turkestan printing house" ("Turkestanskiy pechatnik", 1918-24). Later, it was replaced by "Reporters' Companion" (1928-38), "Bolshevist Press" (1939-41), Russian "Nash Rabkor" (1924-25), "Tribuna Rabkora" (1927-28), in uzbek and russian. "Help to local press workers" ("V pomogd rabotnikam mestnoy pechatni", 1952-64), "Uzbekistan press" ("Pechat Uzbekistana", 1965-68), "Mukhbir" ("Korrespondent", 1969-90) magazines were published in done.

Regardless of the form of ownership, "Uzbekistan press" widely covers the activities of the republic's mass media (media) - newspapers and magazines, TV and radio, news agencies, publishing houses, printing houses, book sales, and creative associations. In the following years, the process of reforms and updates in the mass media of the republic, including improving the professional skills of journalists, helping them to exchange creative and practical experience, training journalist personnel and improving the new technological system of news media, as well as topics related to the dissemination of news and experiences about the activities of mass media in the countries of the world among the mass media of Uzbekistan is widely covered.

Today, mass media plays a key role in society. In addition, the role of mass media in the social and political life of Uzbekistan is rapidly strengthening. If we look at the history of mass media activity in our country, in 1991, only 395 media outlets were operating in our country. By 2016, their number reached 1,437, and today their number is close to 2,000, and most of them are private. The University of Journalism and Mass Communications was established in order to improve the system of training modern specialists for mass media in Uzbekistan. Organizations such as the Creative Union of Journalists of Uzbekistan, the National Press Center, the National Association of Electronic Mass Media, the Public Fund for the Support and Development of Independent Print Mass Media and News Agencies, and the International Press Club are successfully operating. Representatives of leading foreign media, including Reuters, France Press, BBC, The Economist, Xinhua, "Voice of America", "Fergana.Ru", Eurasianet reporters are working freely in Uzbekistan.

Uzbekistan has chosen an irreversible path aimed at ensuring openness, freedom of speech and information, as well as turning mass media into a real "fourth power". Saida Mirziyoyeva, Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the Public Fund for the Support and Development of the National Mass Media of the Republic of Uzbekistan,





spoke about this in her speech at the International Online Conference on Free Public Use of Information held on September 28, 2020.

"We realize that we have just begun the difficult path of creating true independence of mass media. Although a lot has been done in the past four years, there is still a lot to be done. However, I would like to emphasize once again that our country has chosen an irreversible path aimed at ensuring openness, freedom of speech and information, as well as turning mass media into a real "fourth power" - Saida Mirziyoyeva said.

Mass media is the voice of the people and is becoming the fourth power. We may not have reached many heights yet, but there is no denying the progress. According to the recognition of the UN Human Rights Commission, freedom of speech is an indispensable factor of human development. If we talk about people's rights and interests, it cannot be achieved without democracy, freedom of speech and press. Freedom of speech, freedom of the press is the circulatory system of democracy, without which these concepts cannot function. Due to the work done in the field of human rights, our people began to realize their pride. The behavior of mass media and bloggers also shows this pride. Uzbekistan has gained a reputation in the new world. The role of mass media in this was very big. Ensuring the right to use information, establishing and developing information diversity is, on the one hand, an issue of human rights, and at the same time, it is one of the sources of national security. Freedom of speech is the foundation for other types of human rights.

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