



## Evacuation of children during World War II to Uzbek families

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### ABSTRACT

This article highlights the evacuation of orphaned children from different countries and their placement in the regions of the republic and the acceptance of children by their families. A particularly thorough historiographical review of the literature on the topic of study from the Soviet period is presented, and the works of leading theorists of the national question are studied. It shows the transformation of the national composition of the Uzbek SSR population as a result of deportations, the tolerance of Uzbek families toward evacuated and deported children, and the change in the ethnic composition due to the evacuation of children to Uzbek families. The article draws statistical data on the number of deported children and their acceptance into families.

The article considers the issue of Uzbeks' tolerance towards the evacuated and deported children, providing numerous examples of this trait among the Uzbek people. Diagrams show the change in the national composition of the republic as a result of the shift of the USSR population to the east and south-east, as well as the settlement in the provinces of Uzbekistan. Examples from wartime life confirm the humanity, nobility, and love for children of Uzbeks.

The conclusion of the article draws theoretical and practical conclusions on the topic of research. The article collected statistical and archival material, most of which is introduced for the first time in a scientific turnover, studied an extensive literature, both domestic and foreign. For the first time the article gives a contemporary assessment of the Soviet national policy, both theoretically and practically. The article reveals the process of evacuating children and caring for these children regionally and chronologically

### Keywords:

Children, orphans, evacuation, orphanages, tolerance, family, care.

### Introduction

During the Second World War the Uzbek people showed the world their dedication, courage and generosity who, despite all the difficulties of the war years, shared their last piece of bread with the people evacuated to Uzbekistan, the orphans who lost their parents. It is in such difficult years that the spiritual power of our people, their best human qualities - kindness, mercy, generosity and nobleness - are revealed most brightly, the head of our

state noted. I. A. Karimov, the first President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, noted[1].

Before World War II more than 6 million people lived in Uzbekistan, half a million of whom were sent to the front, about 500,000 of whom were killed in the war. Two thousand were missing, and many came back disabled.

In August 20, 1941 was adopted a resolution of the Uzbek SSR on the organization of registration of the evacuated population[2]. The state authorities established a commission for settling the evacuated children into Uzbek

families[3]. Care for the children who arrived was carried out in two ways:

1. Children were taken in by Uzbek families.
2. For the others, children's homes were organized and certain families took care of them.

Uzbek families began to accept the evacuated children and surrounded them with warmth and care. These children were placed in all regions. For example, children brought in from Ukraine, Belarus, and Moldova were placed in Khorezm Province. Figure 1

From the above diagram we can determine that the bulk of the evacuated children were taken from families in Surkhandarya Province. By the end of 1942 1,675 children had been evacuated to Surkhandarya Province[4], of whom 629 were boys, 1,301 were girls, and 375 were children under 14 years of age. By the end of 1942, 1,763 people were evacuated, of whom: boys - 470, girls - 1,060, children under 14 - 333 people[5]. On November 20, 1943 800,000 children were evacuated. Of these, 72444 were in the families of the Samarkand region[6].

In November 1941, the Uzbek SSR government allocated 10,000 rubles for the evacuated children in Khorezm region[7]. The Khazratov and Nadyrov families received the most evacuated children in Khorezm Oblast[8], and the Dimitrov family in Khorezm Oblast warmly welcomed the evacuees. They lived together with them in friendship in these families. In the kolkhozes of Khiva district all the children were placed in families[9]. Thus, children from Kherson were accommodated and placed in a crèche[10].

Another example of tolerant attitude is the material assistance to the evacuated population. For example, the Council of People's Commissars of the Uzbek SSR allocated 50,000 rubles to the Soviet Union, and 40,000 rubles were distributed among the regions, of which 501 children received material aid as of March 1, 1943. On 1 March 1943, maternal aid was provided to 501 children, and 76 families and houses in Urgench received children of various nationalities in order to help the evacuees[11].

By August 8, 1942, 8,000 children had been placed. They were distributed by provinces as follows: Tashkent 300 thousand children, Samarkand Province 30 thousand children, Andijan Province 5 thousand children, Ferghana Province 5 thousand children, Namangan Province 100 thousand children, Bukhara Province 220 children, Surkhandarya Province 800 children, Khorezm Province 5 321 children, Karakalpak SNK 400 children[12].

There were children of different nationalities among the evacuees. For example, families in Bukhara, Fergana, and Samarkand oblasts received Russian, Ukrainian, Polish, Latvian, Belarusian, Jewish, Austrian, German, Tatar, and Moldovan children[13].

From the above diagrams we can learn that children were not evenly distributed throughout the provinces. Uzbekistan was not ready to receive such a large number of evacuated children, so orphanages were organized for the remaining children by the local population[14].

But in spite of this, all possible assistance in food was provided. For example, on February 8, 1944, 180 tons of flour and 30 tons of potatoes were allocated to provide for the evacuated children. On January 22, 1945, 800 tons of flour and 200 tons of wheat were allocated to them"[15].

The Uzbeks' tolerance, kindness and love for children were particularly evident during the war, when children from Eastern and Western countries were sent to the Uzbek SSR. More than 80 families took in 500 orphaned children from Russia, the Baltic republics, Belarus and Moldavia. More than 30,000 children were admitted to schools in Uzbekistan[16].

The families of the adopted children were faced with the important task of employing teenagers. The 5th plenum of the Central Committee of the Communist Party (Bolsheviks) of Uzbekistan made a special decision to arrange for the evacuated citizens and help the families of soldiers. The decision of CC and SNK of Uzbek SSR from November, 16, 1941 the state bodies were obliged to

accept the evacuated children for work and study, and also in orphanages[17].

A commission was created. The purpose of the commission was to receive children at the station and place them in different institutions. Every day the commission received 150-200 orphaned children at the Tashkent railway station and sent them to Uzbek families. The member of this commission general Samoilov mentions that in the first days 2500 children were sent from Russia, 100 children of German nationality arrived and were sent to Uzbek families. All of them found a home here and were surrounded by attention and care[18].

In addition to families, children were also sent to orphanages. In 1941-1942, 300 children were sent to 36 orphanages. By October 1942 68 children's homes had been opened in Uzbekistan and 3,000 evacuated children had been received. Of these, 1,071 children were sent to Uzbek families, Bukhara and Kashkadarya provinces.

Children were also taken in by poor families for upbringing. At a meeting held on January 2, 1943, women from poor families came forward with the initiative to take them into their families. They themselves were from poor families. For example 23 women from poor families took 180 children. Each of them had 5 or 6 children. A meeting of the activists of the women of Andijan, which was held on January 10, 1942, adopted a special decision to take in children, evacuated from the temporarily occupied territory, who had lost their parents. More than 4,800 children were adopted by Uzbek families[19]. The number of adopted or fostered children increased day by day. Even on the part of collectives and enterprises, institutions, and collective farms, children were also adopted. Families from Tashkent Hakimjonov and Turaboev took 10 children each and additionally organized a boarding school for 26 children, providing it with all the necessary things. Women from nine collective farms in Yangiyul District took in 80 children. The employees of the Tashkent railway station and members of the "Brothers" society took in 73 children as guardians, and the T. Shevarov collective farm in Syr Darya

District provided 130 children with homes. The Shamahmudov family adopted 14 orphans, H. Samadov - 13, F. Kasimova - 10, etc.

The Samarkand region during the first years of the war took in about 90,000 children, 16 orphanages with 8,000 children, including 300 children from Poland. The families of the Andijan district received (200 children), 270 children evacuated from Donbas in the Aimsky district, 750 children from Kuibyshev in the Pakhtaabad district[20].

Former pupil of Bobruisk orphanage Vera Shestakova (V.M.Gavrilova) later recalled: "It's hard to remember the long journey from Russia. When the children began to be sent on their way, German planes attacked. They started throwing bombs, even there were several of them. We started running from such hell. In Uzbekistan, we were fed a hot lunch and sent to Samarkand and Bukhara. It is hard for us to forget how they welcomed us Uzbeks. They gave us hot flatbread, fruit, water, and spoke to us politely in an unfamiliar language...".

Children were brought from Moscow, Ukraine, Kursk, Leningrad, Donetsk, and various foreign cities. Families in Tashkent took 130 children from Spain. In 1942 the families of Sherabad district of Surkhandarya region took 564 teenage children, 86 - children under 7 years old. Uzbek families shared their last piece of bread, clothes and lodging with them[21].

One pupil from Samarkand Region, Donya, wrote a letter to her father, who was serving at the front: "The house that took me in was warm, the new trustees took me and the children of other nationalities very kindly.

The Uzbeks opened 10 boarding schools and orphanages at their own expense for children of unsettled families. The prominent poet of the Uzbek people, Gafur Gulyam, organized many boarding schools on his own initiative. The parents of schoolchildren came up with a proposal to allocate a certain amount of money from the dues for the children of orphans who attended these schools. In 1942 the families of the collective farm Pravda in Fergana oblast took in 50 evacuated children[22].

The Korachorbog children's home was opened in Bukhara oblast, where 95 children were placed and cared for by the families who lived near the children's home. A boarding school was opened in Gijduvan and this school was provided with equipment, clothes, basic necessities, etc. This boarding school housed 54 children. During the war years 8 orphanages were opened in Bukhara region for 321 children, 76 families at their own expense were provided with all the necessary products. In 1943, 70 families of the city of Tashkent received hundreds of incoming children. In February, children from the Lithuanian SSR were received by some families near Tashkent. Babies from Lithuania were also sent here. As a result, 70 Lithuanian children were united in the northern part of Tashkent. In the upbringing and material provision of these children the families of the Chinaz district took responsibility. They organized various evening performances for the children and shared their joy on such difficult days with the evacuated children[23].

Unfortunately, there were negative cases in the lives of the evacuated children. In 1944 there was a growing crime among children. July 20, 1943 the USSR Council of People's Commissars Resolution "On Strengthening Measures to Combat Child Neglect, Neglect and Hooliganism". In Tashkent, Namangan and Samarkand oblasts there was an increase in juvenile delinquency. In order to reduce delinquency among children, they were involved in irrigation work, road construction, construction of houses, industrial and cultural buildings, etc. An orphanage was opened for children with violent behaviour in Fergana and 87 children were placed there, and 100 in Tashkent province[24].

During World War II, migration also had an impact on the size of the population during World War II. In the last years of the war, after the Stalingrad war of 1944-1945, after the liberation of vast areas from the Nazis, there was a re-evacuation of the population. The population began to decline because of the repatriation of children to their homelands. But the bulk of the population remained in Uzbekistan. This influenced the demographic

process of the local population. The children who were adopted by their families remained. Children of orphanages were sent back to their homelands. In 1945, 11 Ukrainian orphanages were sent from Uzbekistan. Of these, 2 were from Fergana and Samarkand oblasts, and 6 were from Kashkadarya and Andijan oblasts.

In March 1946, 1,234 and in April 663 Polish children were sent to Poland. In his reminiscences, Róza expressed his gratitude to the Uzbek people, "he expressed his deep gratitude to the Uzbek families for their help and care in such difficult years"[25].

### Conclusion

In conclusion:

1. Thus, from the first days of World War II, orphanages were relocated from the front-line areas to Uzbekistan, and all children picked up there who were left without parents or shelter were brought here. In 1943 the number of orphanages in Uzbekistan was at its highest. In 1944-1945 due to the end of hostilities in their former location, the orphanages moved back. Under extraordinary war conditions, Uzbekistan was not prepared to receive the huge number of evacuated children. There were not enough sanitary and hygienic buildings to accommodate them. In spite of this, thanks to the selfless help of the Uzbek people, efforts were made to accommodate, provide food and clothing, and restore the health of the evacuated children. Thanks to the climatic conditions in Uzbekistan and, most importantly, the diligent help of the people, the lives of a huge number of children were saved. The years of World War II (1939-1945) played a special role in the dynamics of population growth. Although most of the local population died in the war, the population grew at the expense of the children of immigrants who were admitted during those years. During the war, the birth rate and natural increase of the population decreased sharply. The indirect impact of the war in population dynamics is reflected during several postwar generations in the form of so-called negative demographic waves. During the years of World War II Uzbeks took in 200,000 orphaned children,

many of whom became relatives in the families of the native population of the republic.

2. During the evacuation there were several serious flaws: there were no resettlement plans on the part of the government. They violated the order of issuing resettlement tickets. Tickets had to be filled out for each family by the regional resettlement department, after the family was approved for resettlement.

3. the local population's tolerance for the arriving children was manifold: the number of volunteers allocated to the orphanage fund, for warm clothing, increased. Thousands of Uzbeks came forward with the initiative to foster and adopt orphaned children. It was a common pain that united all nations and nationalities into one.

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