

Babaakhun Salimov's Activity in the Khorezm Jadidism Movement and His Historical Place

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Abstract : In the history of every nation, some historical heroes greatly influenced social and political processes with their activities and played an important role in the history of statehood. Babaakhun Salimov was one of those people, the mature representative of the Jadidist movement in Khorezm in the first quarter of the 20th century.

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In the history of every nation, some historical heroes greatly influenced social and political processes with their activities and played an important role in the history of statehood. Babaakhun Salimov was one of those people, the mature representative of the Jadidist movement in Khorezm in the first quarter of the 20th century.

Babaakhun Salimov, one of the most active members of the “Young Khivans” movement, who fought for the reform of all spheres of society and state administration based on the ideas of Jadidism, and for the creation of national revival, was born in 1874 in the Salimakhun’s family who was the Head of the Court of Khivan Khans. Known in his time as a famous lawyer, diplomat, pedagogue, and poet, this figure was a mature representative, and one of the leaders of the Jadidist movement in Khorezm. That is why his name occupies an important place in the history of Khorezm in the first quarter of the 20th century. First, he was educated in the family of his father Salimakhun, and mother Saliyajon, and then he received a school education. Babaakhun then graduated from Allakuli Khan’s madrasah in Khiva. Since his youth coincided with the beginning of the 20th century, when social and political movements began to rise, he became a lifelong companion of enthusiasm and courage. He was appointed the chief of judges (Kazi-kalan) in 1912 after the death of his father Kazi-kalan Salimakhun (Bekmuhammad U., 2022.).

Babakhun, who has not only a high Islamic faith characteristic in his position but also a strong human pride, listens to the complaints of citizens and tries to solve various disputes and complaints reasonably. However, social justice was out of the question in a colonial state based on the feudal monarchy.

In addition, the stubbornness of some priests, knowing several foreign languages, and being close associates with enlightened advanced intellectuals of his time, encouraged Babakhun to unite with advanced progressive forces in the society and carry out reforms. As a result, Babakhun, who realized that the system based on the monarchy in the colony of the Russian Empire, cannot be expected to reform, resigned from the position of Kazi-kalan in 1916. After that, along with Husayinbek Matmurodov, Palvanniyaz haji Yusupov, Khudaybergan Divanov, Nazir Shalikarov, Babaakhun Salimov became a progressive representative of the “Young Khivans” movement.

After the February Revolution in the capital of the Russian Empire in 1917, Khiva Khan Asfandiyar Khan was forced to reduce his authoritarian policy. Historian scientist Bakhrom Irzaev said, “Bobohun is determined to lead the people of religion and the nation from ignorance and lack of enlightenment to prosperity and development. Although knowing the resistance of the khan, his trusted officials, and most of the bigoted religious people, he supported them. That’s why Bobohun Salimov needed a developed homeland, not Khorezm khanate dominated by medieval customs. For this purpose, he was in close contact with enlightened advanced intellectuals of his time. Together with the progressive forces in the society, he encouraged the Khan to reform” (B. Irzaev, from azan.uz).

As a result, BabakhunSalimov participated in the demonstration in front of the “Old Ark” palace on April 5, 1917, along with members of the “Young Khivans” movement, such as Palyaz haji Yusupov, Nazir Shalikarov, Husainbek Matmurodov, Jumanyaz Sultanmurodov.

In February 1917, as a result of the bourgeois revolution that took place in the center of the Russian empire, in this event that took place in Khiva, the “Young Khivans” presented to Asfandiyar Khan a manifesto reflecting their views. From the Manifesto, democratic reforms such as the management of the khanate based on the feudal monarchy through parliament (“Idaraimarshrutia”) took place.

On April 5, when the manifesto was announced, In Husain Matmurodov’s house, a meeting of “Young Khivans” - a new way of managing the state - administrative route - parliament (“Idarai marshrutia”) and the government will be organized. Husainbek Matmurodov is elected as the head of the Council of Ministers, and Babaakhun Salimov is elected as the chairman of the “Majlis” (Parliament). In the first period, the number of members of the “Idarai marshrutia” in the Council of Representatives was 17. Later, the number of members increased to 23 people. As Babaakhun Salimov was well acquainted with the real situation in the oasis, on his advice, representatives of Turkmen, Karakalpaks, and Kazakhs were introduced, and the members made 49 people.

According to Palyaz haji Yusupov’s “Memoirs”, “Babaakhun played a big role in the liberation movement in April. He comes up with the initiative of organizing the work of “Idarai marshrutia” consisting of “Young Khivans” and carrying out reforms related to the freedom of citizens. Being a mature jurist, Babaakhun overcomes the commanders of the Russian tsar’s army in Khiva in negotiations and debates, religious fanatics, with logical, religious and secular questions and answers” (P. Yusupov, 1999.).

According to historian Bakhrom Irzaev, “Young Khivans”, who limited the power of the khan and took control of the state to a certain extent, solve other urgent tasks of their time as building roads and bridges for people, build hospitals such, forming a committee to establish new method schools in the entire territory of the khanate, reformed water distribution, canceled forced labor, and spent state funds. They start practical activities to establish a finance ministry to control the economy. The government of “Young Khivans” lacked experience in managing the country and faced great difficulties in conducting elections and finances. The Provisional Government prohibits changes in the Khiva Khanate without providing support for the reforms and, on the contrary, instructs Mirbadalov to strictly control the reforms of the “Young Khivans” government (B. Irzaev, from azan.uz).

Asfandiyar Khan will do everything in his power to discredit the government of “Young Khivans” among the people. He even gave various gifts to the Turkmen commanders and encouraged them to attack cities and villages. The government of “Young Khivans” did not have weapons to fight against the robbers. The Russian troops in Khiva were under the command of the Provisional Government General Mirbadalov. Therefore, the appeal of the government of “Young Khivans” to Tashkent for weapons will end without result.

On May 23, 1917, Asfandiyar Khan colluded with Junaid Khan, the head of the Yavmud Turkmen tribe, and ended the “IdoraiMashrutiya” – parliament and government. As a result, some of the “Young Khivans” who were in danger of death fled to cities such as Petro-Alexandrovsk, Tashkent, Chardzhou, and Mary and saved their lives. In June 1917, a group of believers and officials who supported the Khan took advantage of the opportunity to organize a demonstration against the government of “Young Khivans” near the “Old Ark” palace and declared them “apostates”. After the demonstration, 17 active members of the assembly, along with Prime Minister Husainbek Matmurodov, were imprisoned.

In this way, with the support of Colonel Zaitsev, the commander of the Orenburg Cossack troops, who came to Khiva in September 1917, Asfandiyar Khan managed to limit democratic reforms again. On November 21, 1917, Asfandiyar Khan ordered the complete extermination of “Young Khivans” in the Muhammad Rahim Khan madrasah with the fatwa of religious fanatics. As a result, representatives of “Young Khivans” began to flee to Turtkul, which belongs to the Turkestan ASSR. Among the leaders of the movement, Pahlavanniyaz Haji Yusupov and Nazir Shalikarov came to Tashkent and applied to the Council of People’s Commissars of Turkestan, and then to the Central Executive Committee of Turkestan, asking for help in freeing their friends who were arrested by Asfandiyar Khan on December 30, 1917. On January 10, 1918, they went to the city of Kokand and asked for help from the government of Turkestan autonomy. The government of the Turkestan Autonomous Republic also sent a telegram to Asfandiyar Khan asking him to release the detained “Young Khivans”.

In this way, the activity of “Idarai marshrutia” based on democracy by Khorezm youths, unfortunately, did not last long. After Asfandiyar Khan’s persecution, Babaakhun fled from Khiva to Turtkul, and from there to the village of Ishanyap in Jumartagh. He makes his living there.

In the meantime, in October 1918, Khiva Khan Asfandiyar Khan was killed by representatives of the Yavmud clan of Turkmens, and Said Abdullah Khan ascended the throne instead. In December 1919, the southern detachment of Turkestan Soviet troops under the command of I. Uryadov, and the northern detachment under the leadership of N. Shaydakov moved to the left bank of the Amu Darya and invaded Khiva Khanate. Despite the opposition, the Bolsheviks deposed Khiva Khan Said Abdullah at the end of January 1920. Thus, on February 1, 1920, after the Khiva Khanate was overthrown, a temporary revolutionary committee was formed. The members of the provisional government consisted of “Young Khiva” from the emigration.

After Mulla Jumaniyaz Sultanmuradov was appointed as the chairman of the temporary government, he invited Babaakhun Salimov to become a member of the government and minister. As a result, “the committee formed to solve daily issues consisted of 3 people, Mulla Jumanyoz Sultanmurodov - Chairman, Polyozhoji Yusupov, and Bobohun Salimov were his deputies” (CSA. Fund R-71, list 1, file 1, pages 4-11).

Also, a People’s Court was established under the Ministry of Justice, its chairman was Olimjon Akchurin, Kuchmamadkhan Sapaev, and Babakhun Salimov were members of the court. The People’s Court was also given the power to impose the highest punishment. Also, the People’s Court continued the work of the Kazi-kalan, such as hearing the complaints of citizens. Two months later, on April 27-30, the People’s Congress will be held and the government will be elected.

Babaakhun Salimov’s experience in statecraft and jurisprudence is taken into account and he is elected as the government’s Minister of Justice. On April 30, 1920, at the 1st All-Khorazm Congress, under the leadership of Palvaniyaz Haji Yusupov, the inspectors made it the most important and urgent issue to organize a state delegation to go to the RSFSR on behalf of Khorezm People Soviet Republic and negotiate with the leadership of the Bolsheviks.

As a result, BabaakhunSalimov, a mature jurist and Minister of Justice, was elected as the head of the delegation. Jumaniyaz Allaquliev, Mulla Nurmuhhammad, Mulla Uraz, Matyakub Okhun, Mulla Ibrahim, Madrimbay, Shikh Muhammad, Mulla Uraz Abdulla, Mulla Jumaniyaz left Khiva on June 3. In Moscow, the delegation led by BabaakhunSalimov, together with representatives of the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the RSFSR such as G. Chicherin, and his deputy L. Karakhan, representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, G. Broido who worked in Khorezm, and A. Samaylovich who was Oriental scientist, began to develop agreements between the two countries. As a result, with the actions of G. Broido, the leader of the Bolsheviks, V. I. Lenin, finally accepted the representatives of the Khorezm delegation for a short time. Finally, on Friday, August 10, 1920, Lenin received BabaakhunSalimov, MullaUraz, and MullaNur Muhammad in the Kremlin palace. The Khorezmians who entered Lenin’s room under the watch of Kremlin employees Burnashev and Kelber told about the situation in the oasis.

At the same time, Babaakhun Salimov and his comrades talk with ambassadors, consuls, and military personnel from Eastern countries in Moscow. In particular, the representatives of the Khorezm delegation met and talked with Nazmi Sadiq Bey and Dr. FuvadBey from Izmir, Mirza Madi Khoja Dadkhah from Bukhara, Saidaliev who was the President of Tatarstan, Jamal Pasha, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Turkish Government, and Mirsalih Muzaffarzada from Iran. They also took part in the international congress of Eastern nations held in Baku in September 1920. At both congresses, where the life of the people of the East and the politics of that time were discussed, Babaakhun Salimov exchanged ideas with representatives from the Eastern countries.

“Thus on September 13, 1920, an agreement was signed between the RSFSR and Khorezm People’s Soviet Republic in the Kremlin. The agreement was signed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the RSFSR, G. V. Chicherin, and the Minister of Justice of Khorezm People’s Soviet Republic, BabaakhunSalimov” (CSA. Fund R-71, list 1, file 6, pages 128-129).

According to this treaty, the government of the RSFSR recognized the independence and inviolability of the Khorezm People’s Soviet Republic (KHPSR). All banks, factories, trade enterprises, and other structures built by Russian capitalists in the territory of the Khiva Khanate during the Russian Empire

are recognized as the property of the Khorezm People's Soviet Republic. The border of KHPSR on September 13, 1920, was recognized as the state border and it was to be determined. Rights and duties of Citizens of KHPSR living in the RSFSR, and citizens of the RSFSR living in KHPSR are determined.

"The signed agreement will be approved at the session of the Central executive committee of the RSFSR on September 29, 1920, and at the Council of Ministers of KHPSR on October 26, 1920" (CSA. Fund R-71, list 1, file 6, pages 128-129). In this way, for two months, the delegation led by Babaakhun Salimov forced V. I. Lenin to recognize the treaty on the independence of the Khorezm People's Soviet Republic prepared by them. On September 15, Babaakhun Salimov met with Anwar pasha in Moscow and discussed the diplomatic victory and the future policy of the Khorezm People's Soviet Republic.

On September 17, the head of the Khorezm delegation, BabakhunSalimov, together with the ambassadors of KHPSR in Moscow and their companions, made a ceremonial reception in honor of the signing of the treaty on the independence of KHPSR on the side of the RSFSR. Anwar pasha, Sami bek, who is the representative of Turkey, Muhammad Muhammad Valikhan the autonomous representative of Afghanistan, Shamil Effendi from Dagestan, Sultan Aliev the chairman of the Council of Muslims in Moscow, and others will take part in this event.

Thus, Babaakhun Salimov's delegation returns to Khorezm with great achievement in diplomacy. However, the activities of the "Young Khivans" who recognized the independence of KHPSR were not liked by the autonomous representative of the RSFSR, M. Safonov, and the leaders of the Khorezm Communist Party of the Red Army troops in Khorezm, who prevented the realization of the independence recognized on paper. As a result, in March 1921, a group of communists and political workers of the Red Army tried to dismiss Palyaz Haji Yusupov and his comrades. They will achieve their goals. As a result, Palyaz Haji Yusupov and Babakhun Salimov, Nazir Shalikarov, who were members of his government, and other comrades had to flee and hide. In this way, the government consisting of Khorezm Jadids removed from the leadership of the republic by the troops of the Red Army. As a result, Babaakhun Salimov had to defend himself again and withdraw from politics for a certain period. In this way, under the influence and demand of the autonomous representative of the RSFSR in Khorezm, M. Safonov, and the Bolsheviks, the government ministers of KHPSR were appointed again. Most of the new ministers of the government of KHPSR which was appointed by bolsheviks were members of the Communist Party.

The situation reached such a level that the Bolsheviks violated the norms of international law and violated the agreement between the RSFSR and KHPSR signed by Babaakhun Salimov and G. V. Chicherins. A clear proof of this was the infamous event that took place on March 6, 1921 - the coup d'état¹.

The fact that the Bolsheviks behaved like tsarist officials can be seen from the fact that they changed the leaders of KHPSR even after 2 months under the pretext that they "did not fulfill their duties". In a short period from March 6 to September 1921, J. Kuchkarov, M. Allaberganov, M. Ibyaminov, and M. Allaberganov led the government of the KHPSR. In addition, many ministers were replaced several times by the Red Army.

In September 1921, the appointment of Atamakhzumakhun Muhammadrahimov as the chairman of the Central Executive Committee made a change in the activities of KHPSR. When he became the head of the government, what he did shocked even the "leader" of the Bolsheviks. A. Muhammadrahimov gave A. A. Ioffe, who was the chairman of the emergency commission of KHPSR on behalf of Moscow, an ultimatum to leave Khorezm within 24 hours for interfering in the internal affairs of KHPSR.

On March 6, 1921, A. Muhammadrahimov invited the people whose names were infamous, and who were hiding because of the persecution of the Bolsheviks, to work as the leaders of KHPSR. Among them, BabaakhunSalimov, who was hiding among Turkmen in Turtkul, Yumritagh, went to Khiva and started political activities again. B.Salimov, who has the diplomatic experience, had been appointed ambassador to Afghanistan by the decision of the Central Executive Committee of KHPSR. However, since February 5, 1922, in connection with the conduct of the foreign policy of KHPSR through the government of the RSFSR, among the ambassadors to the neighboring countries, BabaakhunSalimov was also recalled. Now he started to work in Khorezm as the chairman of the commission for the creation of new teaching manuals for schools under the Ministry of Education and Culture. While working on this task, BobohunSalimov himself

¹a sudden, violent, and unlawful seizure of power from a government; a coup.

creates the book “Alphabet” and “Reading” for primary classes in schools. He also writes training manuals in cooperation with his fellow Jadid Mulla Bekchan Rakhmanov.

His experience in public administration is taken into account, and in 1923 he became the deputy of the Minister of Justice of KHPSR at the 4th Congress of the People of Khorezm, and from March 26, 1924, he began to work as the Minister of Justice of KHPSR. He also directed the convening and holding of the 1st Congress of the clergy on April 17, 1924. Unfortunately, after the delimitation of the national-territorial state on November 22, 1924, B. Salimov was forced to stop his political activity and engage in farming until the end of his life, first in Gurlan district, then in a village near Yumurtagh, near Ishanyap canal. He died in May 1929. Jadid intellectual Babaakhun Salimov most importantly left a name forever sealed in the history of Khorezm with his books, textbooks, and poems, also he left children named Yakutjan, Hadiyakhan, Isamiddin, Saataddin, Abdullah, Hamidullah, Shukurillah.

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