

THE CONTRIBUTION OF INTELLECTUALS TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PRESS IN KASHKADARYA.

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Abstract. *This article scientifically analyzes the contribution of local intellectuals to the formation and development of the press in the Kashkadarya region. The study reveals the influence of regional writers, publicists, and scholars on the spiritual and educational life of society through press publications. In addition, the article puts forward relevant conclusions regarding the creative legacy of journalists who worked for the newspaper “Kashkadarya” during the years of independence, the importance of the press as a platform for intellectuals, and modern transformation processes in the media sphere.*

Keywords: *Kashkadarya press, intellectuals, publicism, spirituality, “Kashkadarya” newspaper, public opinion, national identity, media development.*

Аннотация. *В данной статье научно анализируется вклад местной интеллигенции в этапы формирования и развития прессы Кашкадарьинской области. В исследовании раскрывается влияние творческих деятелей, публицистов и ученых региона на духовно-просветительскую жизнь общества через печатные издания. Также выдвинуты соответствующие выводы о творческом наследии журналистов, работавших в газете «Кашкадарья» в годы независимости, значении прессы как трибуны интеллигенции и современных процессах трансформации в сфере.*


Ключевые слова: *Кашкадарьинская пресса, интеллигенция, публицистика, духовность, газета «Кашкадарья», общественное мнение, национальная идентичность, развитие медиа.*

Introduction. In the 1950s, the press and mass media of the Kashkadarya region became an arena of educational and intellectual struggle for local intellectuals. Despite the strict ideological restrictions of the period, local intellectuals skillfully utilized newspapers, magazines, radio broadcasting, and the newly emerging television media. By raising issues related to education and culture, they succeeded in shaping the intellectual image of society. Most importantly, dedicated representatives of the field expressed questions of national identity and social problems through symbolic and figurative means, thereby preserving the spiritual stability of the population.

Research Methods. The study employed historical-comparative, systemic-structural, and statistical analysis methods. The source base of the research consisted of materials from the National Archive of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the State Archive of the

Kashkadarya Region, reports of the regional Department of Culture and Arts, and data provided by the National Statistics Committee of Uzbekistan. Chronologically, the research covers the second half of the twentieth century and the beginning of the twenty-first century (1945–2025). During the data collection process, methods such as interviews, observation, and document analysis were applied.

Results and Discussion. From the earliest years of Soviet rule, the local press was used as one of the main instruments for instilling ideological ideas alien to the national consciousness. For this purpose, a systematic network of publications aimed at different social groups of the oasis population was established. In particular, the newspaper “Qashqadaryo,” first published on May 22, 1925, occupied a central place in the socio-political life of the region. The fact that intellectuals such as Abdulla Rahmonov (Gulshaniy) served as editors contributed to the formation of the press in both ideological and educational directions [1:26]. As the official organ of the district party committee and the executive committee of the district council in Karshi (Behbudiy) district, the newspaper “Sotsializm Alangasi” began publication. In addition, newspapers such as “Shahrisabz Tongi,” “Yangi Hayot” of Guzor district, “Yakkabog‘ Ovozi” of Yakkabog‘ district, “Sharq Yulduzi” of Koson district, “Olg‘a” of Chiroqchi district, and “G‘alaba” of Kitob district also started to operate [2:81]. After the abolition of Kashkadarya Region as an administrative unit, the newspaper “Qashqadaryo Haqiqati” also ceased its activities. However, following the re-establishment of the region in 1964, the newspaper resumed publication. It should be particularly emphasized that Samad Qodirov, one of the intellectuals who led the newspaper staff during those years, played a significant role in restoring the history of the newspaper, searching for its earliest issues, mobilizing the collective toward continuous research efforts, and ultimately collecting extensive materials related to the newspaper’s history and the creative activities of those who had worked there in different periods. Owing to his direct initiative, communication was established with institutions preserving press publications in many cities of the republic and the former Soviet Union, which became an important factor in the implementation of activities aimed at reconstructing the newspaper’s history. Another intellectual who made a substantial contribution was Hazrat Sunnatov, who worked for many years as executive secretary and deputy editor of the newspaper. Over the years, “Qashqadaryo Haqiqati” was edited by Zaripov, Salim Karimov, Umar Khojaev, Meli Jo‘ra, No‘mon G‘ulomov, and Yo‘ldosh Umarov [3:198]. During the 1970s and 1980s, the newspaper pages were enriched by articles, essays, feuilletons, stories, and poems written by talented journalists such as Samar Nurov, Ahadulla Po‘latov, O‘roq Mustaqiev, Umarjon Ismoilov, Meli Mahmudov, and Abdumannon To‘lanov, all of whom possessed remarkable journalistic skills. Significant contributions to improving the readability and quality of the newspaper were also made by editorial staff members including Islom aka, Oston O‘roqov, Po‘lat Nurqidov, Usmon



Jabbarov, Amir To'raev, Rahmat Murodov, Abdullaev, and many others. Representatives of the younger generation of the editorial team during those years, such as Nurmat Tilovov, Samad Salomov, Bozor Xudoyberdiev, Nosir Berdiev, Suhrob Rustamov, Normuhammad Saloev, Ahmad Hasanov, Tursun Otaqulov, Karim Paradaev, and numerous other journalists, also made valuable contributions to publishing a high-quality and engaging newspaper [4:12]. The contributions of intellectuals who worked for many years in the printing house, including Avliyoqul Hamidov, Qiyomov, Lutfiyev, Haydar Haqberdiev, Turob Yo'ldoshev, Rasul Xamroev, Azim Bo'riev, the Bo'ri brothers, and Rauf Komilov, were likewise invaluable to the newspaper's activities. In 1982, the publication of the newspaper's ten-thousandth issue was solemnly celebrated by journalists and the wider public. Journalists continuously produced articles on political, socio-economic, and cultural issues, thereby meeting the public's demand for information.

By the 1990s, a period of fundamental transformation had begun in the history of Uzbek journalism. During this time, the press gradually moved away from strict Soviet ideological control and started to function as a platform for expressing socio-political thought. The processes of perestroika, glasnost, and the growing awareness of national identity had a direct impact on journalistic activity. Newspaper pages increasingly featured articles on topics that had previously been prohibited, including national history, spiritual heritage, language issues, social justice, and the victims of political repression. Journalists from Kashkadarya also published numerous articles reflecting these issues during this period.

During the years of independence, the press of Kashkadarya followed a distinctive path of development. In this period, the regional media system underwent significant quantitative and qualitative changes. The leading regional newspapers, "Qashqadaryo Haqiqati" (currently "Qashqadaryo") and "Zarya Kashkadari" (currently "Novosti Kashkadari"), adapted themselves to the spirit of the new era [5:12]. The pages of these newspapers increasingly focused on national values, the image of Amir Temur, the rich history of the oasis, and the economic potential of the region. Local newspapers in all 13 districts of the region continued their activities and became a reflection of local reforms.

By the 2000s, the number of sectoral and specialized publications in Kashkadarya Region had increased considerably. Specialized newspapers and journals emerged, including small publications devoted to education, medicine, and law, such as the journal "Nasaf." At the same time, the technical capabilities of the press improved dramatically. Whereas newspapers had previously been published only in black and white, the construction of modern printing houses from the 2000s onward enabled the transition to colorful and higher-quality formats. Newspaper layout and page design were modernized through the use of computer technologies [6:86]. Beginning in 2010, a major turning point occurred in the Kashkadarya press. In particular, electronic versions of traditional newspapers and independent websites, such as qashqadaryogz.uz, were launched. During

the years of independence, the editorial office of the newspaper “Qashqadaryo” served as a distinctive creative school. During this period, both veteran mentors and talented journalists who introduced the spirit of the new era worked actively within the newspaper. Among the prominent intellectuals whose contributions were especially significant were Aziz Abdiev, Olimjon Boboev, Sharif Khalilov, Ahad Muhammadiev, Bekzod O‘ralov, and Jahongir Boymurodov.

The years 2020–2025 became a period of transformation not only for the newspaper “Qashqadaryo” but also for the entire Uzbek press. During this decade, the newspaper underwent a transition from a traditional print publication to a modern media platform. In this period, the newspaper published a number of critical articles addressing issues such as corruption, monopoly, water shortages, and social injustice in the oasis region. The editorial office also introduced a new system for working with citizens’ appeals and complaints. Many articles began to be written on the basis of direct field investigations into local problems. The most significant transformation of this period was the newspaper’s transition into the “digital world.” The official website of the newspaper became increasingly active, and articles started to be published online without waiting for the release of the next printed issue.

Conclusion. According to the results of the study, the role of intellectuals in the development of the press in Kashkadarya Region can be summarized through the following conceptual conclusions: during the 1970s and 1980s, the creative school established by journalists such as Samar Nurov, Ahadulla Po‘latov, and Oston O‘roqov laid the professional foundation of the regional press. The journalistic traditions formed during this period subsequently served as a school of professional mastery for later generations of journalists.

By the 2000s, the modernization of the press in both technical terms (color printing and computer-based layout design) and content-related aspects (the increase of sectoral and specialized publications) enhanced the social activity of intellectuals. Journalist-intellectuals of the region transformed the press from merely a means of disseminating information into a spiritual and educational institution that shaped public opinion and promoted national identity. During the years of independence, the Kashkadarya press was no longer limited to promoting state policy; it also became a force that addressed the unique problems of the oasis region and established active communication with the public.

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