

MUNAVVAR QORI: ON THE PATH OF EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND THE NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENT

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Annotation: *This article analyzes the role of Munavvar Qori Abdurashidxonov in the Uzbek national awakening movement and his contribution to the Jadidist movement. He promoted Jadidist ideas, established new method schools, and played an important role in national enlightenment, press, and political life. His educational reforms were aimed at increasing the literacy of the nation, introducing modern knowledge, and strengthening national identity. The article discusses the formation of the Jadidist movement in the early 20th century, its main goals, and the activities of Munavvar Qori in this process. Additionally, the struggle against the Jadidist movement during the colonial and Soviet periods and its consequences are examined.*

Key words: *jadidism, enlightenment, freedom, peace, justice, equality, democracy, education, ideology, culture, revolution, colonialism.*

The 20th century, first and foremost, brought to the agenda the issue of educating the masses and raising a generation worthy of the evolving era. In other words, concepts such as enlightenment, equality, and freedom, which gained concrete meaning during this period, had to be interpreted together. Within a short period, an entire generation of Uzbek intellectuals emerged in Turkistan. Their activities began at the end of the last century and extended into the years following the revolution. This generation played a significant role not only in the general enlightenment of our people but also in preparing society for a new way of life through social and political awareness. At this point, it is essential to cite the words of our President, Shavkat Mirziyoyev: “The ideological, political, social, educational, legal, and ethical views put forward by our great enlighteners, along with their efforts to establish the principles of tolerance and unity among different nations and peoples, as well as their aspirations to protect national interests, serve as a true example for all of us, especially for our youth, in today’s complex and challenging times. Their lives and bravery remind us that our current peace and stability were not easily achieved, constantly calling us to safeguard our national independence and our beloved homeland as the apple of our eye” [1].

Munavvar Qori Abdurashidkhonov, one of the leading figures of the Uzbek national awakening movement, was a prominent intellectual who promoted Jadidism, established new-method schools, and played a significant role in Uzbek enlightenment and political life. Through his pedagogical, scientific, and social activities, he encouraged the progress of Uzbek society and became known as one of the founders of the national awakening movement. His educational efforts were not limited to the field of schooling but were also closely connected to national independence, the press, and political movements.

MODERN EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM AND INNOVATIVE TEACHING SOLUTIONS

Based on historical events, it must be noted that Munavvar Qori Abdurashidkhonov was one of the key leaders of the national awakening – Jadidism movement – and made a significant contribution to the revival of the ancient Islamic civilization in our country. He personally laid the foundation for one of the most important pillars of the new civilization – the modern three-tier national education system.

Indeed, the first stage of this three-tier system involved the establishment of a four-year primary school, and the second stage included the creation of the “Rushdiya” secondary specialized schools. Along with these, he also organized grand graduation exams. For these exams, he formally invited the students’ parents, religious leaders, enlightened wealthy patrons, as well as prominent Jadid intellectuals and public figures. For example, in the “Invitation” sent to Is’hoqxon To’ra Ibrat in Namangan, it is stated:

“Dear Is’hoqxon Hoji,

Starting from May 1907, the annual exams for the students will be held at the “Khoniya” school in the Tamovboshi neighborhood of Tashkent. We kindly request that you visit the exam sessions with the heads of the new-method schools, as your presence would be greatly appreciated by both the teachers and the students.

Yours sincerely,

Munavvar Qori, March 15, 1907” [2].

Munavvar Qori Abdurashidkhonov worked in various fields during a very challenging time when conflicts were escalating and the fate of the nation and homeland was at great risk. He strived tirelessly for national awakening. In a relatively short period, he rose to the level of a prominent figure in the fields of nation, community, politics, culture, and education. As a result, he gained recognition not only in Turkistan but also on a much broader scale. Furthermore, he left behind a significant and valuable legacy that serves as an enduring example for future generations. We have not yet fully studied and absorbed these contributions. For many years, during the period of Tsarist Russia, the Jadids emerged as a completely new, progressive class of national intellectuals who separated themselves from the conservative, world-progress-lagging national Muslim intellectuals (clerics, qoris, mullahs, madrasa students, school and madrasa teachers). They had a deep awareness of their identity and embraced a religious and secular worldview, considering the pain of their nation and homeland as their own. Their main goal was to free the nation and homeland from the grip of both Tsarist and Communist Russian colonialism, and to enrich and develop the country. To achieve this, the Jadids rejected old methods of struggle – such as uprisings and rebellions – and instead promoted cultural-educational, ideological-philosophical, reformist, peaceful democratic, and organized resistance.

As a result, although full liberation of the homeland was not achieved, colonialism was dealt a serious blow through cultural and educational progress. Most importantly, the National Awakening event mentioned above was realized in a certain sense. This historical truth was deliberately denied during the communist colonial period – the Soviet era. Jadidism was portrayed as a reactionary bourgeois movement. The Jadids were vilified as members of the commercial bourgeoisie and enemies of the people, and were

MODERN EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM AND INNOVATIVE TEACHING SOLUTIONS

physically persecuted. In fact, Munavvar Qori played a significant role in shaping and developing all the fields of the multi-faceted Jadid movement, leaving a lasting mark in history.

Munavvar Qori's article titled "Our Ignorance - The Anger of Ignorance" begins with the words "Every nation has its school" and "Every nation educates its generation". At the same time, he directly addresses the nation, saying, "Oh, brothers, oh, fellow countrymen!!!" [3]. The wise scholar Begali Qosimov's heartfelt words are highly instructive: "The essence of Jadidism was a passionate and emotional process that involved understanding the nation and the country, and struggling for its benefit. It raised them to the level of being able to analyze and seek solutions, rather than simply accepting every misfortune as fate. In particular, our Jadids realized that in order for the nation to live and prosper, it first needed to be free and independent, and they paid special attention to awakening the masses".

The Jadids fought as a political and cultural-educational force to liberate the nation and lead it to development. Munavvar Qori Abdurashidxonov, who rose to the level of a great patriot and the spiritual father of the nation, wrote in his memoirs that the main slogan and goal of the Jadids were encapsulated in these three deeply meaningful words: "Freedom – Peace – Justice" [4].

In conclusion, at the beginning of the 20th century, the Jadid movement in the Turkestan region gained strength, aiming to make the nation literate and progressive. Munavvar Qori, as one of the leaders of this movement, worked to awaken the people, expand their worldview, and instill modern knowledge in the conditions of colonization. However, colonial policies and the Soviet system suppressed this movement and placed restrictions on the activities of the Jadids. Munavvar Qori Abdurashidxonov, as one of the leading figures of the Uzbek national revival movement, made a significant contribution to the nation's enlightenment and development. He promoted the ideas of Jadidism, established new-method schools, implemented educational reforms, and sought to strengthen national self-awareness. His pedagogical activities not only influenced the field of education but also had an impact on national press, social consciousness, and political activism. Today, Munavvar Qori and the Jadids' educational legacy hold an important place in the development of Uzbekistan. Their contributions to knowledge, national revival, and independence are highly valued and remain an exemplary model for future generations.

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