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Some Considerations about "Gap" (Mashrab) Organization and its Activities

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ANNOTATION

In this article, based on archival sources, comments are made about the activity of "Gap" (Mashrab) association (circles) in the national direction, which operated in Verniy (Almaty) and other cities of Ettisuv region of the Turkestan general-governorate.

Among the national associations operating in the Turkestan region during the colonial years of the Russian Empire, the activity of "Gap" ("Mashrab") clubs took an important place. The emergence of such circles began in the city of Verniy (Almaota), located in the Ettisuv region of the Turkestan General Governorate, and then spread throughout the country. The funds of the National Archives of Uzbekistan contain rich information about the activities of "Gap" circles.

According to the archive documents, in December 1911 in Verny (Almaty), the group "Gap" (second name "Mashrab") consisting of representatives of the local nationality (mostly Uzbeks) was formed. This group had a manager, treasurer and charter. In the initial period, approximately 16-19 people united in the circle, they united young people from Uzbek, Jaranchi, Kyrgyz (Kazakh) communities. The members of the circle gathered in the house number 714 on Lezhensky Street in Verniy on Sundays early in the morning at 8:00, and their meeting lasted until 17:00 in the evening¹.

Such circles operated in the cities of Ettisuv regions of Turkestan General Governorate. According to the information given by the spy of the TRQB (Turkestan District Inspection Department-secret office, opened in Tashkent in 1907) at the end of December 1911, the "Gap" ("Mashrab") circles were directed against the colonial policy of the imperial government, national progress, national culture and science have taken the path of struggle for development as their goals. Although the spies of the imperial government were aware of the activities, goals and tasks of such circles and clubs, as well as their meeting places, they could not obtain material evidence to incriminate them².

There are about ten "Gap" or "Mashrab" circles in the city of Verniy Almaty (Almaota, Ettisuv region), in which members are united into separate circles depending on their nationality, age, property status, and in

¹ ЎМА, И.461-фонд, 1-рўйхат, 1116-йиғма жилд, 1,2 вароклар.

² ЎМА, Ўша жойда, 3-варақ, 3-варақни орқа томони.

some cases, their profession. In addition to the representatives of the local ethnic groups, the Uighur, Dungan and Taranchi people who migrated from Eastern Turkestan (Koshgaria) were also united in the circles. The old and young, blacksmiths and small traders were also united in the circles, and there were 17-20 people in each circle³.

As active members of the "Gap" ("Mashrab") circles in the city of Verniy, the sources mention the names of Ismail Jabekov Negmatulin (Tatar), Rakhimkul Pirimkulovich Abdurakhmanov, Gofurjon Jalil Makhsumov. He had mutual relations with the cities of Andijan and national associations in Tashkent⁴.

The "Gap" circles had a strict discipline and met every Sunday at a member's home. Union representatives agreed on their tasks over lunch, and a musician was invited and had fun. A special commission consisting of 4 members of the association periodically audited the funds collected by the treasurer by electing one person from among the members of "Gap".

The weekly membership fee of the members of the "Gap" union was 20 kopecks (with the money of 1911, 1912). The sources of funds of "Gap" circles and clubs consisted of contributions, fines, donations of the rich and voluntary ((I didn't understand the podcher)) transfers by some individuals⁵.

According to some information, during the First World War, in 1914-1916, members of the 2 "Gap" circles in Verni collected a considerable amount of money, which was sent to Constantinople (Istanbul, Turkey) as material aid⁶.

The government of the Russian Empire assessed the activity of "Gap" ("Mashrab") as a "pan-Islamic" and "pan-Turkic" organization. They even believed that they were trying to influence the displaced Russian citizens. Russian citizen Syrtanov (Verniy) from Jumala was arrested by the imperial authorities for using "Gap" members for his own benefit⁷.

"Gap" ("Mashrab") circles took instructions and recommendations from "Tashkent sirt (Uzbek) people's society" which operated in the center of Turkestan general-governorship in 1911-1914, and tried to open educational institutions for representatives of local nationality.

Primary sources clarify that the activists of "Gap" who fought for national interests against the colonial structure of the Russian Empire were arrested in December 1911 and January 1912.

One of the archival sources provides the following information about the members of the arrested ("Mashrab") circles.

- 1) Muhammed Gafur Jalal Makhsumov-Sart (Uzbek) from Tashkent, lives in Verni since 1907, 24 years old, single, engaged in trade.
- 2) Muhammed Ali Normuhammedov - from Tashkent, sirt (Uzbek), living in Verni since 1902, age 25, married, engaged in trade.
- 3) Ismail Jabekov Nigmatulin-chala Tatar-Kazakh, son of a merchant, has been living in Verni since 20 years, has a family, is engaged in trade.

³ ЎМА, Ўша жойда, 4-варак, 4-варакни орка томони.

⁴ ЎМА, Ўша жойда, 4-варак.

⁵ ЎША, Ўша жойда, 4-варак оракси.

⁶ ЎША, Ўша жойда, 5-варак, 5-варак оракси.

⁷ ЎША, Ўша жойда, 6-варак.

4) Rakhimkul Pirimkulovich Abdurakhmanov - Uzbek from Tashkent; Permanent residence Verny, married, son of a merchant, 21 years old (1912 data), partner with his father⁸.

During the research, it was confirmed that "Gap" ("Mashrab") circles and associations were active in the cities of Syrdarya, Fergana, Kaspiyorti regions of Turkestan Governorate, and even in the Russian settlements of Bukhara Emirate.

In one of the archive documents, it is noted that "Mashrab members of Tashkent, Abdulla Vali Abdul Malikov, Said Akhmad Khojaev, Mukhammadamin Khojaev, who live in their private houses, are being taken under the control of the gendarmerie"⁹

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In his secret notification to the head of TRQB on February 8, 1912, Shulga reported: "I would like to inform you that in Bukhara it was discovered that there are "pan-Islamic" and "pan-Turkic" circles with the name "Gap" or "mashrab" and their supporters"¹¹."

The result of the research confirms that the empire's administrators paid special attention to the dictionary meaning of the terms "Gap" ("Mashrab") and showed interest. It is noted in the sources that "Speech" means "conversation" and that the representatives of the Muslim population, especially artisans and merchants, gather from time to time. In the comment about "Mashrab", it is emphasized that Devonai Mashrab is a Muslim writer, and the words "Mashrabkhanlik" are used in the sentences¹².

One of the Russian gendarmes, Rotmeister Pavel Leontyovich Nouminso, managed to get the 93-page notebook of Gap activist Ismail Jabekov Nigmatulen into the lake. The pages of this notebook were written in Uzbek with a pen, and there is a list of 21 members of Gap. On page 89 of the notebook, the amount of contribution paid by each member to the "Gap" association in 1912 is listed one by one. In particular, Gafurjon - 3 rubles. 80 copies. Osmanbek-30 rub. 80 cop. Umar oksokol 3 rubles. 60 copies, Muhammad Ali 3 rubles. 60 copies, Ibrahim 40 copies, Abdullah 3 rubles 80 copies, Imamuddin 2 rubles, 60 copies.

At the moment, Abduzafar 3 rubles.80 kopecks, Alimboy 3 rubles 60 kopecks, Aminjon 3 rubles 60 kopecks, Ismail and Naslar 3 rubles 60 kopecks, Tukhta 3 rubles 60 kopecks. Kanat Haji, Rahimqul, Maruf, Pirmukhammad 3 rubles 80 copies. Yunusbek 3 rubles. 60 copies. Mirhodil 3 rubles 80 kopecks. Mirtogi 1 ruble. Abdulghazi, 60 cops (chiali) 21 people. Also, the list of 12 people who have become debtors in the payment of contributions to the association is given one by one¹³.

⁸ ЎМА,И.3 фонд,1-руйхат,385-йиғма жилд, 60,61-варақлар.

⁹ ЎМА,И.461 фонд,1-руйхат,1116-йиғма жилд,16-варақ,23-варақлар

¹⁰ ЎМА,И.461 фонд,1-руйхат,1116-йиғма жилд,16-варақ,23-варақлар

¹¹ ЎМА,И.461 фонд,1-руйхат,1116-йиғма жилд,26-варақ,

¹² ЎМА,И.461 фонд,1-руйхат,1116-йиғма жилд,27-28-варақлар

¹³ ЎМА,ўша жойда 34-35 -варақлар

Some of the "Gap" (Mashrab) circles participated in the movement of establishing new method schools in order to make the local youth literate. They planned to open a school for 20-25 students in the house of one of the members of the circle, to financially support the school, to hire teachers, etc. The government of the empire, aware of this, was forced to act between them on the basis of the Regulation adopted in 1905 regarding the activities of schools. According to the requirements of the regulation, the plan and program of the schools to be opened were checked by the local educational inspectors, approved from above, and the "national language" i.e. Russian was taught in them¹⁴.

In this regard, the inspector of public educational institutions of the Turkestan region had to approve the textbooks and approve the educational course programs.

In fact, it is worth noting that the history of "Gap" (Mashrab) circles, established in Verniy, Ettisuv region, dates back to 1908. In 1908-1909, Imomiddin Kori Yusupov, who later moved to Tashkent city to live permanently, was at the head of the first such circle. At the beginning, there were 5 young people in the "Gap" club, and by 1909, 20 young people were members. In 1909-1910, there were 8 to 10 such circles in Verni¹⁵.

This circle was different from the chats and chats over tea and soup, where 10-25 Uzbeks gather from time to time in teahouses and apartments and exchange ideas. According to an archival source: "In Skobelov uezd, Syrdarya region, villagers are busy with farm work from early spring to the end of autumn. In late autumn and winter, they gather in teahouses and chat over soup. Daily household issues, family and life memories are discussed in mutual conversations. They do not discuss political issues," it was reported¹⁶.

However, the "Gap" circle was an association with its own rules and official documents. For this reason, the empire's law-enforcement agencies (police, prosecutor, court) were interested in him, and at the end of 1910, information was requested on the basis of 23 questionnaires in the secret instructions sent to the places where they existed.

So, "Gap" ("Mashrab") circles were created in Verni, and then spread throughout the territory of the Turkestan Governorate, even to the Bukhara Emirate. In the circles, they were concerned about the future and fate of the nation, promoted the ideas of enlightenment, and did good things in the way of opening new method schools.

It would be appropriate to include an archived document in place of an attachment to the article. The notes of Ismail Jabekovich Nigmatulin, the treasurer of the "Gap" ("Mashrab") circle in the city of Verny (Almaty) in a 93-page notebook with a black cover. Pages 1, 15, 88, 89, 91, 92 and 93 of the notebook are written with a pen in Uzbek in Arabic spelling. The translation consists of the following.

1)Sheet 1 begins "Honorable"...Sheet 15 lists those who are absent from the meeting of the "Gap" circle....Sheets 88, 89 list dues arrears. Among them, Rakhimkul - 1 ruble, elder Umarov - 50 kopecks, imam Oldin - 1 ruble, Yunusbek - 50 kopecks and hakazo. The following pages list the 21 members of "Gap".

1. Elder Umar 8. Kanagat Khoja 15. Olimjon
2. Ismail Oldin 9. Gafurjan 16. Nasirjan
3. Emin 10. Rahimkul 17. Mirkhodji
4. Ismail 11. Abdulghani 18. Abdul Ghazi

¹⁴ ЎМА,И.461 фонд,1-руйхат,1116-йиғма жилд,60,61,65,67,70-варақлар

¹⁵ ЎМА,И.461 фонд,1-руйхат,1116-йиғма жилд,37,38,39,40--варақлар

¹⁶ ЎМА,И.461 фонд,1-руйхат,1116-йиғма жилд,44-варақ 85, 86 варақлар

5. Yunusbek 12. Abdulmalik 19. Yunusbek
6. Muhammad Ali 13. Ma'ruf 20. Crown of Mir
7. Usmanbek 14. Tokhta Khoja 21. Fir Muhammad¹⁷

USED LITERATURE

1. O'MA, I.461-fond, 1-ro'yxat, 1116-yig'ma jild, 1,2 varoklar.
2. O'MA, O'sha joyda, 3-varaq, 3-varaqni orka tomoni.
3. O'MA, O'sha joyda, 4-varak, 4-varakni orka tomoni.
4. O'MA, O'sha joyda. 4-varaq.
5. O'SHA, o'sha joyda, 4-varak oraksi.
6. O'SHA, o'sha joyda, 5-varak, 5-varak orkasi.
7. O'SHA, o'sha joyda, 6-varak.
8. O'MA, I.3 fond, 1-ruyxat, 385-yig'ma jild, 60,61-varaklar.
9. O'MA, I.461 fond, 1-ruyxat, 1116-yig'ma jild, 16-varaq, 23-varaklar
10. O'MA, I.461 fond, 1-ruyxat, 1116-yig'ma jild, 16-varaq, 23-varaklar
11. O'MA, I.461 fond, 1-ruyxat, 1116-yig'ma jild, 26-varaq,
12. O'MA, I.461 fond, 1-ruyxat, 1116-yig'ma jild, 27-28-varaqlar
13. O'MA, o'sha joyda 34-35 -varaqlar
14. O'MA, I.461 fond, 1-ruyxat, 1116-yig'ma jild, 60,61,65,67,70-varaklar
15. O'MA, I.461 fond, 1-ruyxat, 1116-yig'ma jild, 37,38,39,40--varaqlar
16. O'MA, I.461 fond, 1-ruyxat, 1116-yig'ma jild, 44-varaq 85, 86 varaqlar
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¹⁷ Ўзбекистон Миллий Архиви, I.461-фонд, 1-руйхат, 1116 йиғма жилд, 34.35-варақлар

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