

UZBEKISTAN'S CONTRIBUTION TO VICTORY IN THE SECOND WORLD WAR: UNITY ON THE FRONTLINE AND THE HOME FRONT

Naim Khalimovich Oblomuradov

Doctor of Historical Sciences

Professor of Tashkent State University of Economics

Abstract

This article examines Uzbekistan's contribution to victory during the Second World War through the prism of the unity between the frontline and the home front. Drawing upon historical sources, it highlights military mobilization in the republic, the participation of Uzbekistani citizens in major theaters of military operations, the transition of industry and agriculture to a wartime footing, the activities of the labor front, evacuation processes, and the functioning of science, education, and culture under wartime conditions. The study also analyzes new historiographical approaches and contemporary memory policies related to the war. It argues that Uzbekistan's role in the war was determined not only by its direct military participation but also by the unity of economic, social, and spiritual factors that collectively contributed to victory.

Keywords: Second World War, Uzbekistan, frontline, home front, mobilization, labor front, evacuation, industry, agriculture, historical memory, Victory.

Introduction

Аннотация:

В статье вклад Узбекистана в Победу во Второй мировой войне рассматривается через призму единства фронта и тыла. На основе исторических источников анализируются военная мобилизация в республике, участие узбекистанцев в основных зонах боевых действий, перевод промышленности и сельского хозяйства на военные нужды, деятельность трудового фронта, эвакуационные процессы, а также функционирование науки, образования и культуры в условиях войны. В исследовании также рассматриваются новые историографические подходы и современная политика памяти. Обосновывается, что место Узбекистана в войне определялось не только непосредственным военным участием, но и совокупностью экономических, социальных и морально-нравственных факторов.

Ключевые слова: Вторая мировая война, Узбекистан, фронт, тыл, мобилизация, трудовой фронт, эвакуация, промышленность, сельское хозяйство, историческая память, Победа.

Introduction

The Second World War, as one of the greatest military and political catastrophes in the history of the twentieth century, had a profound impact on the fate of humanity. The global scale of the war, the immense number of human casualties, and its economic and moral consequences



provide grounds for assessing it not merely as an armed conflict, but as a universal human tragedy that radically transformed the lives of nations [2; 31].

Uzbekistan did not remain unaffected by this tragic process. Despite the republic's geographical distance from the front lines, its human, labor, industrial, and spiritual resources were fully mobilized to meet the demands of the war [1; 3].

The relevance of this topic lies in the fact that, for a long time, Uzbekistan's role in the Second World War was examined primarily within the broader framework of Soviet military history, leaving several important aspects of the republic's contribution insufficiently explored. In particular, there remains a need for a systematic assessment of labor mobilization, evacuation activities, humanitarian efforts, and the functioning of education, science, and culture on the home front [1; 4]. In recent years, scholarly approaches to this issue have become considerably enriched. Contemporary monographs, illustrated historical albums, official memory policies, and newly accessible sources make it possible to examine Uzbekistan's role in the war not only through the prism of military participation but also through the unity of the front and the home front [2; 3]. From this perspective, reassessing the republic's contribution carries not only historical significance but also scientific and methodological value.

The purpose of this article is to provide a scholarly historical analysis of Uzbekistan's contribution to Victory in the Second World War from the perspective of the unity between the front and the home front. To achieve this objective, the study examines the interconnections among military mobilization, participation in combat operations, the wartime transformation of industry and agriculture, evacuation and humanitarian processes, and contemporary memory policies.

Methods

The article is based on the fundamental principles of historicism, objectivity, and source-based research. Historical events are interpreted within the context of the conditions of 1941–1945, including state mobilization, economic adaptation, and transformations in social life. This approach makes it possible to distinguish wartime realities from subsequent political or journalistic interpretations and to reveal their intrinsic historical logic.

The source base consists of several layers. The first layer includes a bibliographic index and a monographic study published in 2024 [1], [2]. The second layer comprises conference proceedings and contemporary historical studies in Russian [3], [8], [9], [10]. The third layer consists of official documents, presidential decrees, informational materials, and verified sources related to memory policy [4], [5], [6], [7].

The method of comparative analysis was employed to compare data on mobilization, perspectives on the front and the home front, as well as earlier and more recent historiographical interpretations. A systems approach made it possible to examine Uzbekistan's contribution to the war not as a collection of isolated facts, but as an interconnected system encompassing military participation, labor mobilization, evacuation, scientific activity, and spiritual resilience. Content analysis proved useful for identifying the substantive meanings of concepts such as "courage," "self-sacrifice," "respect," and the "value of peace" in official texts [4].



Results

Uzbekistan's participation in the Second World War was distinguished, above all, by the scale of mobilization. According to data refined in recent years, more than 1.95 million people from Uzbekistan were mobilized to the front, of whom over 538,000 lost their lives and more than 158,000 were reported missing in action [4]. These figures demonstrate that the war was not merely an external political event for the republic, but a national ordeal that resulted in substantial demographic and moral losses.

Participation on the battlefields was closely connected with decisive theaters of military operations. The battles for the Caucasus and Stalingrad, operations aimed at the liberation of the Caucasus, the combat service of military pilots, and evidence concerning resistance movements indicate that Uzbekistani soldiers took part in some of the most critical moments of the war [2; 71]. Therefore, the republic's contribution should be measured not only by the number of those mobilized but also by the heroism displayed directly on the battlefield.

Industrial mobilization on the home front constituted one of the key economic factors behind Victory. By the end of 1941, approximately 300 enterprises had been converted and reconstructed to produce military equipment, weapons, and ammunition [3; 32]. This process led to the rapid and purposeful transformation of the republic's economy from peacetime production to wartime needs. Russian historiography has likewise assessed Uzbekistan's military-industrial sector as a strategic component of the wartime rear [8].

Agriculture and the labor front also assumed decisive importance. As men departed for military service, the burden of labor increasingly fell upon women, the elderly, and adolescents. The republic was tasked with supplying the front with food and providing industry with essential raw materials [2; 187]. The redistribution of labor resources and the introduction of specialized training systems strengthened the organizational foundations of the labor front [10].

The evacuation process further expanded Uzbekistan's historical role in the war. The relocation of civilian populations, children, industrial enterprises, and institutions to the republic transformed it not only into a production base but also into a center of social stability and humanitarian support [2; 237]. Sources indicate that by 25 November 1941, approximately 500,000 evacuees, including 200,000 children, had been relocated to Uzbekistan [2; 5]. Russian sources, in turn, provide detailed accounts of the settlement of evacuated intellectuals in Uzbekistan and their influence on everyday life and cultural development [9].

Science, education, and cultural life did not come to a standstill during the war. Scientific research acquired a stronger practical orientation, the educational system was adapted to the training of personnel required by the wartime economy, and the cultural sphere played an important role in sustaining the moral resilience of society [2; 275]. Thus, the contribution to Victory was determined not only by military and economic indicators but also by intellectual and spiritual mobilization.

The development of memory infrastructure and the emergence of new historiographical approaches in recent years have enabled a deeper understanding of this subject. The Victory Park, the State Museum of Glory and Honor, illustrated historical albums, and official memory policies have transformed the history of the war into an active component of collective memory [6].



Discussion

The most academically sound approach to assessing Uzbekistan's place in the Second World War is through the concept of the unity of the front and the home front. Within this framework, heroism on the battlefield and labor in the rear are inseparable. Just as success at the front was impossible without the support of industry, transportation, food supplies, and human resources in the rear, the selfless labor of the home front acquired historical significance through the sacrifice and courage demonstrated on the battlefield [2; 177].

Whereas earlier studies focused primarily on military heroism, contemporary sources demonstrate that the home front also played a central role. The conversion of hundreds of enterprises to wartime production, changes in labor organization, the redistribution of the workforce, and the adaptation of personnel training systems confirm the depth and systemic nature of this process [3; 32]. The fact that issues of wartime industrialization and labor mobilization in Uzbekistan have also been examined in Russian historical scholarship indicates that the topic has entered a broader academic discourse [8], [10].

The refinement of statistical data also yields important historiographical conclusions. Expanded information on mobilization and wartime casualties suggests that Uzbekistan's role in the war was considerably greater and more complex than previously assumed [4]. This development is linked both to the expansion of archival sources and to the reassessment of wartime history from the perspective of national historiography. In this regard, statistical clarification contributes not only to numerical accuracy but also to the restoration of historical truth.

The issue of evacuation adds a significant moral and social dimension to this historical narrative. The relocation of hundreds of thousands of civilians, children, and specialists to Uzbekistan demonstrates that the republic functioned not only as an economic base but also as a place of social and spiritual refuge [2; 237], [9]. Without taking this aspect into account, it is impossible to fully appreciate the republic's contribution to the war effort.

The role of science, education, and culture during the war likewise requires reassessment. Viewing these spheres merely as a "supporting background" represents an overly narrow perspective. In practice, science served the needs of production and technology, education became an effective instrument for training personnel, and culture helped sustain the moral resilience of society [2; 275]. Consequently, intellectual and spiritual mobilization should be regarded as no less significant than material mobilization.

The memory policy being developed in contemporary Uzbekistan plays an important role in bringing these scholarly findings into public consciousness. The 2025 governmental resolution envisaged the broad commemoration of May 9, the organization of intergenerational meetings, and practical assistance to war veterans [4]. According to official information released in April 2026, proposals were announced to provide veterans with a one-time payment of 30 million Uzbek soums, improve their housing conditions, and organize large-scale commemorative events [6]. This process demonstrates that the memory of the war has evolved from symbolic remembrance into a practical social and moral policy.

Conclusion

The unity of the front and the home front represents the fundamental principle that characterizes Uzbekistan's historical place in the Second World War. This unity comprehensively manifested



the courage of the Uzbek people on the battlefield, their selfless dedication on the labor front, their humanitarian spirit, and their moral resilience.

First, Uzbekistan's contribution to Victory in the Second World War was determined not only by participation in combat operations but also by the integrated unity of the front and the home front. While hundreds of thousands of mobilized citizens from the republic displayed courage on the battlefields, the sectors of industry, agriculture, transportation, education, science, and culture on the home front were adapted to wartime needs, thereby creating both the material and moral foundations of Victory [2; 5], [3; 32]. Second, the experience of evacuation, care for children, tolerance, and humanitarianism occupy a special place in Uzbekistan's wartime history. The reception, accommodation, and support provided to evacuees, children, and institutions relocated to the republic demonstrate that the selflessness of the Uzbek people was not limited to labor or military mobilization but was also characterized by moral resilience and humanitarian values [2; 237], [9].

Third, new sources, monographic studies, and memory infrastructures developed in recent years have enabled a more comprehensive and objective understanding of Uzbekistan's role in the Second World War. Bibliographic indexes, book albums, archival documents, museums, and official memory policies have contributed to presenting this subject as an important component of national historical memory, extending its significance beyond the framework of general military history [1; 4], [6].

Fourth, the following scholarly recommendations may be proposed:

- a) A unified digital database of sources related to Uzbekistan during the Second World War should be established, incorporating archival documents, frontline correspondence, personal memoirs, and local press materials.
- b) Greater emphasis should be placed on studying the front, the labor front, evacuation processes, science, and culture as an integrated research subject rather than as separate fields of inquiry.
- c) The practice of comparative analysis between international historiographical materials and local sources should be further expanded.
- d) The scientific and educational potential of May 9 – the Day of Memory and Honor – should be closely integrated with educational activities, museum pedagogy, and youth development programs [6].

Based on the above considerations, it can be concluded that the unity of the front and the home front, humanitarianism and tolerance, moral resilience, and diligence were the principal factors that determined Uzbekistan's historical place in the Second World War. This experience serves as a solid scholarly foundation not only for understanding the past but also for appreciating the significance of May 9 – the Day of Memory and Honor – in contemporary New Uzbekistan.

References

1. Hidoyatova, M., & Mo'minova, D. Uzbekistan during the Second World War (1941–1945): A Bibliographic Index. Tashkent: Publishing House of the National Library of Uzbekistan named after Alisher Navoi, 2021. 284 p.
2. Saidolimov, S.T., Bobojonov, H.B., Po'latova, S.A., Mustafaeva, N.A., Hamidova, M.A., Mahkamova, N.R., Yusupov, Sh.N., Sa'dullayev, K.Q., Nazirov, M.M., Xolboyeva, Z.S.,



Rahimov, Sh.M., Nursaidova, M.Sh., & Soliev, M.M. Uzbekistan during the Second World War: Monograph. Tashkent: Zamin Nashr, 2024. 368 p.

3. "Uzbekistan in the Early Years of the Second World War." In: Modern Perspectives on the Development of Science: Problems and Solutions. Proceedings of the International Scientific and Practical Conference, pp. 31–33.
4. Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On the Preparation and Worthy Celebration of the 80th Anniversary of Victory in the Second World War and the Day of Memory and Honor." February 19, 2025.
5. "The Contribution of Our People to Victory Is a True Chronicle of Courage and Heroism."
6. "Measures Defined for the Worthy Celebration of the Day of Memory and Honor, Military Preparedness, and Support for Military Personnel." President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, April 16, 2026.
7. "Memory Is Sacred, Honor Is Precious." Official Website of the United Nations in Uzbekistan.
8. Babadjanov, H.B. "Military Industrialization of Uzbekistan in 1941–1945." CyberLeninka, 2022.
9. Zhukova, O.G. "The Evacuation of Russian Intellectuals to Uzbekistan as a Paradox of Everyday Life during the Great Patriotic War." CyberLeninka, 2021.
10. Saipova, K.D. "The Formation of the Labor Army in Uzbekistan (1941–1945)." CyberLeninka, 2021.

