



## FORCED RELOCATION OF KOREANS TO UZBEKISTAN IN 1937-1938

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**ABSTRACT:** - As a result of the repressive policy pursued by the Soviet authorities, even a small part of the nationalities living in the country were unjustifiably expelled from the territories where they lived. As a result of this policy, it was relocated to Uzbekistan, along with other republics of the former Soviet Union. The mass forced relocation of Koreans to Uzbekistan, along with other minorities, began in 1937-1938. In short, this article discusses the history of the resettlement of Koreans.

**KEYWORDS:** Totalitarian, Robert Conquest, The Great Massacre, Deportation, August 21, 1937, Order of L. Beria of June 2, 1945.

### INTRODUCTION

The twentieth century was the most complex and controversial period in the history of civilization. There were major world wars, the

rise and fall of totalitarian systems, the repressive policies of the Soviet government, and a number of other processes and events

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that led to two of the most tragic and unprecedented casualties. In particular, the next stage of the policy of repression in 1937-1938 was called the "Great Massacre" by a phrase introduced by foreign historian Robert Conquest. It caused unprecedented damage to the lives of all peoples living in the territories of the Soviet Union. Thousands of people have been relocated from their homes to foreign lands for no apparent reason. Although nearly 85 years have passed since the horrific historical massacre, it's a tragic consequences still haunt mankind. The forcible relocation of peoples in the 1930s changed the lives of many people. For them, this process was an irreparable blow to their lives, both spiritually and materially. To date, there is no complete information on the number of IDPs. Some sources indicate that their number exceeds about 3.5 million [1].

## **THE MAIN FINDINGS AND RESULTS**

As a result of the repressive policy pursued by the Soviet authorities, even a small number of nationalities living in the country were unjustifiably expelled from the territories in which they lived. As a result of this policy, it was relocated to Uzbekistan, along with other republics of the former Soviet Union. The mass forced relocation of Koreans to Uzbekistan, along with other minorities, began in 1937-1938.

On August 21, 1937, the USSR Council of People's Commissars and the Politburo of the Central Committee of the CPSU (b) decided to relocate Koreans from the Far East to Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan [2]. In this resolution, the Korean population is divided into border areas of the Far East - Posiet, Molotovskiy, Grodekovskiy, Khankayskiy, Khorolskiy, Chernigov, Spasskiy, Shmakovskiy, Postiyshevskiy, Bikyazskiy, Kirovskiy, Kalininskiy, Lazo, Svobodnenskiy, Blagoveshchenskiy, Tambovskiy,

Mikhailovskiy, Arxarin, Stalin and Blyukherovo, a total of more than 172,000 Koreans will be relocated to South Kazakhstan, the Aral Sea, Balkhash and the Uzbek SSR. This decision consists of 12 articles, Article 2 of which states that the transfer must be completed by January 1, 1938[3].

The reason for the forced eviction of Korean peoples from their places of residence was that the communist leadership claimed that they had "collaborated" with Japanese spies. During the execution of Stalin's Decree, freight cars, not passenger trains, were used for transportation. During the relocation, it was difficult to find a place to put a container of water in freight cars that were full and cramped with people, to install a temporary stove, or even to store food supplies. In addition, Article 3 of the decree stipulates that deportees must bring not only their property and household items, but also livestock. If they wanted to take the cattle, they had to go in the same wagon with them, how could people go with the cattle when there was no place for them? This instruction was not only a violation of the rules of sanitation and hygiene, but also an open mockery of the deportees.

In addition, the resolution states that the move should be started at speed. But preparing a home for thousands of people in a month was unthinkable. This decision has created many difficult situations for Uzbekistan. Materially and technically, he was not ready to accept too many people. In the mid-30s of the XX century, the republic was one of the last among the republics of the USSR in its socio-economic development. It could not provide not only the exiles but also its own population with normal socio-economic and living conditions. Nevertheless, the people of Uzbekistan did their best to receive, accommodate, feed and employ all migrants in those difficult conditions.

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Thus, Uzbekistan was scheduled to receive 6,000 families (30,000 people), and in October this number increased to another 5,000 families (22,000-25,000 people)[4].

The evacuees were mainly located in Khorezm region, Chirchik city, Lower Chirchik and Middle Chirchik districts.

In 1937, more than 170,000 Koreans were forcibly relocated to Central Asia and Kazakhstan. More than 74,000 of them were brought to Uzbekistan and the rest to Kazakhstan. From 1937 to 1945, these Koreans were not registered as special immigrants, and their passports forbade them to leave Uzbekistan. Only on the basis of the order of the People's Commissar of Internal Affairs of the USSR L. Beria dated June 2, 1945, the Koreans were registered as special deportees. All measures were taken to strengthen their living conditions. According to Order No. 196 of the USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs of August 2, 1946, exiles, including Koreans deported from the Far East, whose passports were valid for 5 years, were ordered to register them at their place of residence and issue new passports without restrictions [5].

The Uzbek people helped and cared for the Koreans to live and work peacefully in Uzbekistan, in turn, the Koreans had to be educated from the first time they moved, to live and create comfortable conditions for them to live. At the same time, work was done to create favorable conditions for them. Settlements for Koreans have been built in Chirchik, Gurlan, Ikramov, Kuy Chirchik and Orta Chirchik districts. On June 15, 1938, there were 10,837 families in the republic, and on November 15, 1938, there were 16,307 families or 74,500 people [6].

Despite the economic difficulties, the Uzbek people, in turn, have generously provided assistance to the Korean people resettled in Uzbekistan to create conditions for them to settle, study, work and study in this country.

As a result of the tolerance of Uzbeks, Korean migrants found jobs and took part in peaceful labor construction. Thanks to the diligence and diligence of the Koreans, they worked side by side with the Uzbeks on the collective and state farms, in the cotton fields. According to sources, between 1946 and 1991, 650 Uzbeks were awarded the title of Hero of Labor, and 139 of them were Koreans.

## **CONCLUSION**

In short, it should be noted that today in Uzbekistan, representatives of different nationalities and ethnic groups are one family, working selflessly in all areas and sectors, making a significant contribution to the development of society. During the years of independence, more than 120 activists of national cultural centers operating in the country have been awarded state prizes, orders and medals by our government. 14 activists of the cultural center were awarded the high title of "Hero of Uzbekistan".

Today, the state policy aimed at ensuring interethnic harmony and tolerance has reached a new level.

On May 19, 2017, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan issued a decree "On measures to further improve interethnic relations and friendly relations with foreign countries." This decree is aimed at preserving and promoting the unique national traditions and customs of different nationalities and ethnic groups living in our country, ensuring interethnic harmony, tolerance and solidarity, strengthening the sense of a multi-ethnic family in the minds of our compatriots.

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