

The Role Of Uzbek Women-Historians In The Development Of Science

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Abstract: This article analyzes the role of women historians in the historical science of the renewing Uzbekistan, their scholarly legacy, and their influence on the formation of historical consciousness. Based on sources, the article highlights the activities of women scholars-historians, archaeologists, literary scholars, and poets-who actively participated in the development of historical science from the Soviet period to the present day. The article demonstrates the possibilities of rethinking history from a gender perspective through scientific research, archaeological excavations, and artistic and historical images created by women. The article draws on dozens of scholarly sources and aims to reassess the role of women scholars in modern historiography.

Key words: Historiography of Uzbekistan, women historians, archaeology, scholarly legacy, gender approach, Soviet period, Jadidism, poetry and history, women intellectuals, historical consciousness, cultural heritage.

Introduction

After gaining independence, Uzbekistan entered a new phase of restoring historical awareness and redefining its national identity. During this period, the role of women in historical processes became particularly pressing, particularly their active participation in science, literature, art, and historiography. The scholarly legacy of women historians, previously overlooked or undervalued, is now being reexamined in a new research context. This article analyzes the role of women historians in the historiography of Uzbekistan's renewal, their scholarly legacy, their influence on public life, and their contribution to the formation of modern historical consciousness. The work draws on at least ten key scholarly sources, and the work of each scholar is considered within the historical context.

Methods

In the Soviet period pursued a policy of involving women in public life, their academic activity was subordinated to ideological guidelines. Therefore, the first female historians faced certain restrictions in their academic work. In Nigora Tangirova's article, "Attitude Towards Women in the Uzbekistan SSR and First Female Historians," it is noted that the opportunities afforded to female historians strictly adhered to the official government line and did not go beyond it [1, p. 3]. Although their works were often written in line with party ideology, they laid the foundation for the further development of historiography.

Results And Discussions

N. Dzhuraeva's research also contains detailed information on women's participation in historical processes of that time and on the perception of their role in society [2, p. 5]. Particularly illustrative is the example of the "khuzhum" policy—the mass mobilization of women into public life while simultaneously maintaining strict control over them. This practice, on the one hand, contributed to the growth of women's social status, but on the other, deprived them of the opportunity to freely express their scholarly views. Despite this, among the female historians working during that period, there were some scholars who stood out for their scholarly views. Among them, Suyima Ganieva is particularly noteworthy; she was initially known as a literary scholar, but later began to shed light on the historical context in her research [3, p. 12]. During the Jadid era, at the beginning of the 20th century, the first female journalists, poets, and educators began to appear. This process was directly linked to the movement to awaken the educational consciousness of Muslim women and their involvement in public life. An article published in the Times of Central Asia entitled "Great Women in the History of Uzbekistan" tells of such outstanding figures as Nozimakhonim, Uvaysiy, and Nodirabegim, who played an important role in the spiritual and cultural development of their time [4, p. 7]. Their work is

now regarded as a valuable historical source and is being re-evaluated in modern historiography. Nozimakhonim is considered one of the first Uzbek female journalists. In her publications, she raised issues of increasing women's literacy and their active participation in public life. Uvaysiy and Nodirabegim reflected the socio-political events of their era in their poems, thereby contributing to the preservation of historical memory. In modern historical research, these women are considered not only as literary figures but also as full-fledged historical sources. Women occupy leading positions in the archaeological science of Uzbekistan. In this regard, the scientific achievements of such renowned researchers as Margarita Filanovich, Galina Pugachenkova, Zamira Usmanova, and Vera Bulatova, who are rightfully considered among the founders of Uzbek historiography, deserve special attention. Margarita Filanovich is known as a scholar who archaeologically uncovered the ancient history of the city of Tashkent. Her research continues to serve as an important source for an in-depth study of the capital's past [5, p. 10]. She is the author of more than 200 scientific articles and monographs, which detail the urban development of the city and reveal the cultural layers of ancient settlements. Her scientific legacy has been recognized with state awards and international recognition.

Galina Pugachenkova conducted extensive research on the history of architecture and art in Central Asia [6, p. 14]. Under her leadership, archaeological expeditions were organized to such ancient cities as Bukhara, Samarkand, and Termez, where important cultural layers were uncovered. She was not only an archaeologist but also an art historian, who played a key role in popularizing the material cultural heritage of Uzbekistan on the international stage. Zamira Usmanova conducted excavations in such ancient cities as Merv and Erk-Kala, revealing archaic layers of Central Asian culture [7, p. 9]. She is considered one of the key figures in the development of archaeological science in Uzbekistan, as well as the founder of the women's scientific school. Articles based on the results of her research have been published in a number of international scientific journals. Vera Bulatova combined museology and archaeology, becoming a leading specialist in the history of architecture [8, p. 11]. Her work was crucial for the scientific systematization of the processes of preservation, restoration, and museumification of archaeological sites. Thanks to the efforts of these researchers, valuable archaeological data was introduced into science not only on the history of Uzbekistan, but also of the entire Central Asian region. In Uzbek historiography, women scholars who worked at the intersection of philology, literary criticism, and historical science occupy an important place. In this regard, the work of Suyma Ganieva and Rano Abdullaeva is particularly noteworthy. Suyma Ganieva founded a major scholarly school studying the works of Alisher Navoi. Her monographs and scholarly articles played a significant role in revealing the historical development and philosophical content of Uzbek literature [9, p. 6]. Based on historical sources, she examined Navoi's political, spiritual, and philosophical views. Ganieva's methodological approach, combining historiography with literary and philosophical analysis, is rightfully regarded as a scholarly innovation. Rano Abdullaeva is known for her works in the genre of historical journalism and political analysis, dedicated to the restoration of historical memory, the protection of women's rights, and the coverage of the repressions of the Soviet period [10, p. 8]. In her articles and popular books, she revealed the influence of Soviet ideology on the lives of women and called for their active participation in the search for historical justice. Her work is a striking example of the synthesis of historiography and sociology. Historical events can be reflected not only in scientific language, but also through artistic expression. In this context, women's poetry plays an important role in the preservation and reinterpretation of historical memory. In the article by Azimzhanova Mokhinbonu and Tursunova Mahkama "Literary and Aesthetic Features of Historiography in Uzbek Women's Poetry" we examine how female poets convey historical stories through artistic creativity [11, p. 4]. The poetry of authors such as Gulbadanbegim and Dilshodi Barno conveys historical consciousness, national self-identification, and social issues of the past through images and symbols. These literary images have become a unique source of national memory, important for shaping historical consciousness from a female perspective. The work of these poets contributes to the preservation of collective memory, the restoration of cultural values, and the reinterpretation of history from a female perspective.

Conclusion

In a rejuvenating Uzbekistan, women historians have left a significant mark in various fields of scholarship, contributing to the formation of historical consciousness, the creation of scholarly schools, the revival of ancient cultures, and the strengthening of women's role in society. Their work should be assessed

from the perspective of modern historiography - taking into account a comprehensive, gender-sensitive, and critical approach. The researchers presented above deserve high praise not only as historians but also as leaders in spiritual and educational development. Their scholarly legacy should serve not only to restore historical truth but also as a source of inspiration for a new generation of historians.

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