

ENLIGHTENMENT AND THE EDUCATION OF A DEVELOPED GENERATION IN THE ACTIVITIES OF THE JADIDS

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ABSTRACT

The article provides information about the activities of the Jadids and their views on the education of a harmoniously developed generation.

Keywords: Jadids, Jadid movement, Soviet system, ideology, enlightenment, economic pressures.

It is known that the Jadid movement, which aimed not only to elevate political, educational, and cultural activities but also to spiritually and intellectually reform the Turkestan region, played a crucial role in the history of the peoples of the region. The term "Jadid" (from the Arabic "jadid" meaning "new") refers to a social-political and educational movement advocating the application of modern schools, printing, and methods of national development to society, as well as the collective name of its supporters. The Jadid movement, which emerged at the end of the 19th century and developed in the early 20th century, became the national ideology of the national liberation movement of Turkestan and the idea of enlightenment for the region's peoples.

In the 19th century, with the rise of Enlightenment ideas, the Jadid movement developed further in the early 20th century through the works and activities of

progressive figures such as Behbudiy, Fitrat, Cho'lpon, Munavvar Qori, and Abdulla Avloniy. Jadids advanced the idea of uniting the peoples of Turkestan and fighting for the national independence of the entire region.

A key feature of the Jadid movement in the education of a developed generation was their focus on freeing Turkestan from medieval fragmentation, leading the nation toward modern development, establishing a national state, creating a free and prosperous society based on modern governance, and promoting enlightenment. These ideas were reflected in their efforts to unite the younger generation in national, spiritual, and ideological solidarity, encouraging them to live with a sense of responsibility toward the fate of their land.

The main ideological and theoretical direction of Turkestan Jadidism, advanced by figures such as Behbudiy, Munavvar Qori, Fitrat, and Cho'lpon, suggested that the people and state of Turkestan should move toward modern development.

Jadid reformers worked diligently to elevate the social-political, cultural, and educational level of the local population, particularly the youth, to prepare them to fight for the betterment of Turkestan. As Mahmudxo'ja Behbudiy emphasized, "In every country, reform and cultural movements begin with the youth, and just like in our Turkestan, the national press and the educational movement arose through the efforts of the energetic youth seeking enlightenment."

The Jadids' educational philosophy was considered to be the true education of their time. It not only created progressive individuals but also encouraged thinking young people to follow it. The Jadids urged the youth to become fighters for the future and prosperity of Turkestan, emphasizing the need to rid themselves of various vices. For instance, Mahmudxo'ja Behbudiy warned the youth about the dangers of various societal vices and harshly criticized the taverns opened by the Russians near mosques and madrasahs, as they had a negative influence on children.

Behbudiy believed that the development of healthy, educated, and knowledgeable children, who could later serve Turkestan as doctors, lawyers, economists, and other modern specialists, was essential for the region's future. He stressed the importance of parents helping their children acquire modern knowledge and education. Munavvar Qori Abdurashidxonov also emphasized the responsibility of parents in the education and upbringing of their children, encouraging them to make every effort to ensure their children's enlightenment.

The Jadids believed that parents should prepare their children for school and madrasahs, where they would gain knowledge and then continue their studies in developed countries to further their education. Behbudiy, for example, expressed admiration for the European universities and scientific institutions he learned about, including those in Beirut, and noted with sorrow how far behind his native Turkestan was in terms of development.

The Jadids also saw the reform of the educational system in Turkestan as essential. They believed that the youth should be educated not only in religious subjects but also in modern science and technology, and that they should be capable of defending national independence and engaging in socio-political issues. Their aim was to raise young people who could advance the cultural level of the people to an international standard, which could only be achieved by educating them in the best educational institutions in Europe.

Mahmudxo'ja Behbudiy expressed this idea in his article in the journal "Oyna" as follows: "Let us send children and students to places like Mecca, Medina, Egypt, Istanbul, and Russian universities, where they can receive both religious and modern education, becoming knowledgeable and capable people."

Munavvar Qori Abdurashidxonov also worked on this goal through his charity organization "Jamiyati Khayriya," helping send students abroad to further their studies after they completed local schools.

Jadid thinkers often appealed to the youth, encouraging them to strive for progress, gain modern knowledge, and generally contribute to the development of society. One of the Jadid appeals to the youth went as follows: “O, energetic youth! Unite and create societies, serve your nation. Your nation and people expect respect and good from you, not selfishness and pride... Remember, time is yours. Perhaps you will progress along with your people and your nation.”

Jadids believed that learning from history and understanding its truths would empower individuals, enabling them to engage with the reality of life. They also believed that falsifying history harms people, misleading their worldview and perceptions.

In the past, under the oppressive regime, we did not know our history. We were blind to it. We were unaware of the great ancestors who were revered by the whole world, but we knew about false “geniuses” who were praised for trivial details like when they were born, their supposed miracles, and so on. During the oppressive period, not only were we economically destitute, but our honor and dignity were trampled upon, our values and traditions disregarded. It was, in short, a time when we cried not for hunger but for the loss of our dignity.

Recognizing oneself means knowing one's history and thousand-year-old traditions. If each person understands the past, they will never repeat previous mistakes.

Under the communist ideology, the development of national customs and traditions was virtually impossible. The most basic things, like attending a funeral, were prohibited. Today, we must help our children understand this painful past, armed with historical truth, so that they can lead us towards a future where the path is clear, and the whole nation is empowered to achieve progress. This is a life of freedom, peace, stability, and prosperity.

Jadids paid special attention to the education and upbringing of the younger generation, as they saw the youth as the key to independence and the future of the homeland. Therefore, they focused on the future of children and the fate of the nation. They aimed to instill not only national pride but also universal human values, patriotism, and the importance of being aware of global and national events in the youth.

In conclusion, the Jadid movement played a major role in the national, cultural, and social awakening and development of the youth in Turkestan. They proposed solutions to the region's problems through social-political, cultural, and educational means, encouraging the youth to pursue education and engage in the process of industrial and agricultural production. The Jadids believed that it was crucial for the youth to gain knowledge of world progress and bring it to Turkestan in order to contribute to the prosperity of the homeland. They imagined a future where educated, skilled professionals, cultural figures, and scientists would emerge from the youth and build a prosperous and independent nation.

The Jadids, being young themselves, were well aware of the issues faced by local youth and had a deep understanding of their thoughts and aspirations. Their ideas and contributions to education, culture, and enlightenment continued to shape the future of Turkestan until the end of their lives. They were committed to the ideals of progress, enlightenment, and development and remained steadfast in their beliefs, regardless of the difficult circumstances. Their legacy continues to be relevant in today's independent Uzbekistan, where the protection of youth interests and their rightful place in society and state remains a priority.

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