

## CHESSE WORKS IMPLEMENTED IN KHOREZM DURING THE SOVIET AUTHORITY

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**Annotatsiya:** Mazkur maqolada sovet hokimiyati davrida (1920–1990-yillar) Xorazm vohasida shaxmat sportining taraqqiy etishi, uning infratuzilmasi, ommaviy musobaqalar va professional bosqichga o'tish jarayonlari tahlil qilingan. Shuningdek, hududda shaxmatni keng targ'ib qilishda madaniyat uylari, pionerlar tashkilotlari, matbuot nashrlari hamda qishloq xo'jaligi jamiyatlarining o'rni yoritilib, bugungi kundagi xalqaro an'analarga ulangani ko'rsatib berilgan.

**Kalit so'zlar:** Xorazm, shaxmat, sovet davri, infratuzilma, Pionerlar uyi, "Oq ladeya", Georgiy Agzamov, ommaviy sport.

**Аннотация:** В данном тексте рассматривается развитие шахматного спорта в Хорезмском оазисе в советский период (1920–1990-е годы), формирование его инфраструктуры, организация массовых турниров и переход к профессиональному этапу. Также освещается роль домов культуры, пионерских организаций, печатных изданий и сельскохозяйственных обществ в популяризации шахмат в регионе, а также преемственность традиций в современности.

**Ключевые слова:** Хорезм, шахматы, советский период, инфраструктура, Дом пионеров, «Белая ладья», Георгий Агзамов, массовый спорт.

**Annotation:** This text examines the development of chess in the Khorezm oasis during the Soviet period (1920–1990s), focusing on the formation of its infrastructure, the organization of mass tournaments, and the transition to a professional stage. It also highlights the role of cultural centers, pioneer organizations, print media, and agricultural societies in popularizing chess in the region, alongside the continuation of these traditions in modern international events.

**Keywords:** Khorezm, chess, Soviet period, infrastructure, Pioneer House, "White Rook", Georgy Agzamov, mass sports.

During the Soviet era, the development of chess in Khorezm was part of the powerful nationwide concept of the "Soviet Chess School". At this stage, the sphere of chess went beyond the privilege of a narrow class and became truly mass, popular, and systematic.

The following measures were taken to popularize chess in Khorezm and form its infrastructure:

Formation of a material and technical base and a network of clubs (1930s–1950s), including:

- Chess fields in cultural centers and parks: Special chess and checkers corners were built in the palaces of culture and parks of the cities of Urgench, Khiva and Tortkul, which were part of the Khorezm regional structure at that time. These fields became a place where local residents, especially enlightened people and intellectuals, spent their time meaningfully and organized mass competitions.

- Specialized sections in pioneer houses and educational institutions: In order to interest the younger generation in this intellectual game from an early age, free chess clubs were established at the Pioneer and student houses in the oasis districts. It was this system that served as a solid foundation for the future growth of professional chess players of the republican and international level from the land of Khorezm<sup>1</sup>.

Mass competitions and youth initiatives (1960-1970s), during these years:

- Departmental and agricultural championships: In Soviet times, the organization of sports competitions between labor teams and agricultural enterprises (collective farms and state farms) was a tradition. In particular, in the Khorezm region, intense chess tournaments were constantly held between cotton workers, representatives of the public education system, and medical workers.

- Mobile tournaments and chess assignments on the pages of the press: On the initiative of the editorial offices of the newspapers "Khorezm Haqiqati" and "Khorezmskaya Pravda", special mass competitions were organized, and valuable prizes were awarded to the winners. Also, logical chess problems and interesting etudes were regularly covered on the pages of periodicals, and active subscribers who sent the correct answers were encouraged<sup>2</sup>.

Professional level and achievements at the republican level (1980s), during this period:

- Activities of specialized sports schools: By the 1980s, professional chess sections were opened in Urgench on the basis of children's and youth sports schools (DYuSSh) for youth, and qualified coaches were attracted. As a result, young talents

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<sup>1</sup> Materials on the history and local history of the Khorezm region, as well as archival documents and scientific and methodological articles on the history of physical education and sports in Uzbekistan in the mid-20th century (comparative database). Nash chess club: Zadachi i etyudi // "Khorezmskaya pravda" ["Khorezmskaya pravda"]. – October 5, 1975. – No. 198 (6420). – 4 p.

<sup>2</sup> The state of physical education and sports activities // "Khorezm haqiqati" newspaper. – May 14, 1968. – No. 96 (8420). – p. 3.

from the oasis began to participate in the championships of the Uzbek SSR on behalf of Khorezm, competing with the strongest chess players of the republic.

- Master classes of famous grandmasters: At that time, the most famous chess players of Soviet Uzbekistan, including the first international grandmaster from our country, Georgy Agzamov, and other leading athletes, visited Khorezm. They held simultaneous (on several boards at the same time) game sessions for local youth, sharing their rich experience<sup>3</sup>.

The Khorezm regional championship was traditionally held in the region every year. In these competitions, the most selected and leading chess players from the cities of Urgench and Khiva, as well as from Gurlan, Shovot, Khanka, Yangiarik, Hazorasp, Bogot and Qoshkopir districts competed.

Since the main part of the regional economy is specialized in agriculture, special attention was paid to promoting chess in large collective farms and state farms through the voluntary sports societies "Pakhtakor" and "Hosilot". In particular, during the busy cotton harvest season or after field work, it was customary to organize mass matches between collective farmers and peasants in the sheds themselves.

Intellectual competitions organized through the press actively united chess fans in remote districts. Fans sent solutions to complex etudes and tasks published in newspapers to the editorial office by mail. At the end of the year, the most active participants among the residents of the region who answered the most correctly were identified and awarded special editorial prizes. This method served as an important bridge in the timely discovery of hidden talents and young talents in remote villages.

The regional Pioneer House in Urgench provided methodological guidance for the activities of regional clubs. Regional stages of the famous all-Union competition "White Rook" (Белая ладя) were organized among students, and the strongest teams that succeeded in it received a ticket to the championships of the Uzbek SSR. In order to address the issue of personnel and increase the coaching potential, in the 1970s and 1980s, special state funds were allocated to train professional chess coaches in the region, as well as to expand chess clubs within the framework of physical education programs in schools<sup>4</sup>.

Soviet scientists and archaeologists also studied the intellectual heritage of the ancient history of the Khorezm oasis, including objects found in Tuproqqala and other ancient monuments, the origin of chess terms, and chess games that spread during the Great Silk Road period on a deep scientific basis. Such studies have once again confirmed that Khorezm has always been an intellectual land with a rich chess culture.

<sup>3</sup> Khorezm Regional State Archive, Fund 234 (Khorezm Regional Committee for Physical Education and Sports), List 3, File 112 (Reports on the expansion of the activities of children and youth sports schools (DYuSSh) and the opening of new branches in 1980–1985), sheets 45–51.

<sup>4</sup> School of Young Chess Players // "Khorezm Haqiqati" newspaper. – September 18, 1983. – No. 182 (11520).–p. 3.

In general, in the Soviet era, chess in Khorezm did not remain just a personal hobby, but turned into a huge and integral mass sports movement, governed by centralized state policy.

These solid foundations and traditions of mass participation formed during the Soviet era continue to bear fruit today, serving to maintain the prestige of the chess school in Khorezm. Even today, prestigious competitions such as the "Al-Beruni" international tournament are regularly organized at a high level in the cities of Khiva and Urgench.

### **References:**

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