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## **CRAFTSMANSHIP IN THE SOUTHEASTERN REGIONS OF UZBEKISTAN AT THE END OF THE 19TH – EARLY 20TH CENTURY**

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### **Abstract:**

The article is devoted to the study of the interrelation of urbanization processes and crafts in the southeastern regions of Uzbekistan in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The study analyzes the cities of Karshi, Shahrissabz, Kitab, Boysun and Denov as major centers of crafts. The article covers the main branches of crafts (textiles, cutlery), the products they produce, and the place of these products in local and foreign markets. The results show that the rapid development of crafts strengthened the economic basis of cities and increased the living standards of the city's population.

**Keywords:** Urbanization, crafts, textiles, cutlery, Karshi, Shahrissabz, local market, economic development.

### **Аннотация:**

Статья посвящена изучению взаимосвязи процессов урбанизации и развития ремесла в юго-восточных регионах Узбекистана в конце XIX – начале XX веков. В исследовании анализируются города Карши, Шахрисабз, Китаб, Бойсун и Денау как крупные центры ремесленного производства. Рассматриваются основные отрасли ремесла (текстиль, столовые приборы), производимая ими продукция и место этой продукции на внутреннем и внешнем рынках. Результаты показывают, что быстрое развитие ремесел укрепило экономическую базу городов и повысило уровень жизни населения.

**Ключевые слова:** Урбанизация, ремесла, текстиль, столовые приборы, Карши, Шахрисабз, местный рынок, экономическое развитие.



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### Introduction

In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, urbanization processes accelerated in the southeastern regions of Uzbekistan. During this period, cities such as Karshi, Shahrisabz, Kitab, Boysun, and Denov became centers of not only administrative, but also economic and cultural life. Crafts were one of the main driving forces in this process. The purpose of this study is to conduct a comprehensive analysis of the impact of urbanization processes on the development of crafts in the southeastern regions of Uzbekistan, identify the main centers of crafts, and study the types of crafts and their place in local markets.

### Materials and Methods

The study is based on historical-comparative and systematic analysis methods. The data are from the sources of the National Archives of Uzbekistan (Uz MA), Pugachenkova G.A., Sukhareva O.A., Hamidova M.S., Khildiev F., Kamolova H., Ismoilova J.H. was collected using scientific monographs and articles of such scientists. Also, materials from the local periodical press, in particular, the newspaper "Zharkurgan Haqiqat", were analyzed. The collected data were processed through content analysis, and various branches of craftsmanship and their role in urban planning were compared.

### Results

According to the results of the study, Shahrisabz, Karshi and Kitab in the Kashkadarya oasis were considered the main centers of craftsmanship during this period. The economic development of the cities was directly related to various branches of craftsmanship. Textiles were one of the most important industries, which included spinning, weaving and embroidery. The type of yarn and fabric called Boz (karbos) produced in Shahrisabz was especially widespread and was highly valued throughout Central Asia. There were a lot of craftsmen producing this product in Shahrisabz.

The city of Karshi was a thriving center of crafts at the beginning of the 20th century. The development of crafts here was due to the strong demand for these products from the city's residents. The city had such craft neighborhoods as Temirchi,



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Chilangar, Harrotlik, Kulolguzar. The art of knife making also stood out. Knives made in Karshi were sold at high prices not only in local markets, but also in foreign countries such as Iran and Arabia.

### Discussion

The development of crafts in cities was directly related to urbanization processes. The growth of cities increased the demand for craft products. Craftsmen were mainly located in special neighborhoods in the city center and its surroundings, which contributed to their formation as a social and economic class.

Cities such as Denov, Boysun, Sherabad and Jarqurgan in the Surkhandarya oasis were also unique centers of craftsmanship, where products were produced mainly for the needs of the local population. The Denov market was very developed, and 25% of the population was engaged in trade there. The Boysun district was also a unique center of craftsmanship. Due to its location in mountainous areas, crafts made by craftsmen, as well as agricultural and livestock products, were exchanged here. Especially the Boysun embroidery (chiroz, sozana, doppi) attracted the attention of buyers with its beauty. There were also several markets in the Jarqurgan district, through which the population had the opportunity to sell and buy handicraft products. The central market of Jarkurgan was built in 1926, and this new trading area was also a manifestation of the urbanization process.

There were a total of 92 private shops in all district markets, which indicates the expansion of trade. In addition to satisfying local needs, handicraft products were exported to other regions and even foreign markets. This formed an important economic basis for urbanization.

### Conclusion

In conclusion, in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, urbanization and handicraft processes were closely interconnected in the southeastern regions of Uzbekistan. Cities were formed as centers of developed handicrafts. The handicraft industries of the Kashkadarya and Surkhandarya oases, especially textiles and cutlery, formed the basis of the economy of cities. This served to improve the living standards of the urban population and increase the overall economic well-being of the region. This



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sybiosis of urbanization and craftsmanship constitutes an important page in the history of the region.

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