

## UZBEK PUBLICATIONS BORN OF THE JADID SPIRIT. ABOUT THE FIRST YEARS OF THE NATIONAL PRESS

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**Abstract:** *The early years of national press development in Uzbekistan were profoundly influenced by the Jadid movement, a reformist group that sought to modernize Central Asia's educational, social, and cultural landscape in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The Jadid press played a crucial role in shaping national consciousness, promoting the use of the Uzbek language, and fostering educational reforms. Through newspapers and journals, such as *Turkiston* (1906) and *Sada-i Turkistan* (1914), the Jadids introduced progressive ideas, advocated for women's rights, and encouraged political engagement. Despite facing resistance from conservative forces and colonial authorities, the press became a powerful tool for cultural and intellectual liberation. This paper explores the role of the Jadid press in early Uzbek national press history and its lasting impact on the development of journalism in Uzbekistan.*

**Keywords:** *Jadid movement, national press, Uzbekistan, educational reform, Turkiston, Sada-i Turkistan, Uzbek language, cultural identity, early 20th century, political participation, modernization, national consciousness.*

The development of national press in Uzbekistan during the late 19th and early 20th centuries was a pivotal moment in the region's history. It marked the beginning of an intellectual and cultural transformation that sought to modernize society and establish a distinct Uzbek identity. This change was largely driven by the Jadid movement, a reformist group that emerged in the Russian-occupied territories of Central Asia. The Jadids, inspired by progressive ideas from the West, aimed to modernize education, challenge colonial control, and promote social reforms through the use of the press. The role of the national press during this time was transformative, as it became the primary vehicle for spreading the Jadid's ideas of modernization, national identity, and social change. Publications such as *Turkiston* (1906) and *Sada-i Turkistan* (1914) were instrumental in disseminating new ideas about education, women's rights, and political engagement, which were considered revolutionary in the context of a traditional, conservative society.[1]

The introduction of the Uzbek language into the print media was another significant achievement of the Jadid press. Prior to this, the use of Persian and Arabic in official and literary contexts had dominated the region. The Jadids, however, sought to foster a unique Central Asian identity by promoting the use of the Uzbek language in print. They not only modernized the written form of the language by adopting the Latin alphabet but also made it more accessible to the wider population, thereby playing a key role in the cultural revival of the Uzbek people. Despite facing resistance

from both conservative religious groups and the Russian imperial authorities, the press became a powerful tool for the Jadids to challenge traditional norms and encourage social reform. It provided a platform for intellectual discourse and empowered the population with the knowledge necessary to advocate for political, educational, and cultural change.

This paper examines the critical role of the Jadid press in the early years of national press development in Uzbekistan. It explores how the Jadid publications contributed to the rise of a national identity, the promotion of educational and social reforms, and the establishment of a modern Uzbek press. The legacy of the Jadid movement in the development of the national press continues to influence Uzbekistan's media landscape even today, as it laid the foundation for the country's modern journalism and national consciousness.

The Jadid movement, which began in the late 19th century, played a crucial role in transforming Central Asia's intellectual and cultural landscape. The movement was characterized by the desire for reform and modernization, particularly in education, culture, and social practices. It was heavily influenced by the broader intellectual currents of the time, such as the Enlightenment and nationalism, which sought to challenge outdated traditions and the colonial rule of the Russian Empire.

The Jadids recognized the importance of education in shaping a modern society and sought to reform the existing Islamic education system, which they believed was insufficient for the changing times. They advocated for secular education, scientific knowledge, and the modernization of teaching methods. The introduction of the "New Method" schools was a key aspect of the movement's educational reforms. These schools emphasized the study of modern sciences, foreign languages, and the inclusion of the Uzbek language in education. Through these reforms, the Jadids aimed to create an educated populace capable of engaging with modern ideas and challenging colonial oppression.

The press was one of the most powerful tools used by the Jadids to spread their ideas. [2] Given the limitations imposed on traditional education and the limited access to formal political avenues under Russian rule, the press became the central medium through which reformist ideas were disseminated. The Jadid press not only addressed political issues but also focused on social reforms, educational change, and national identity. In 1906, the publication of "Turkiston" marked a significant turning point in the history of national press in the region. This journal became the mouthpiece for the reformist intellectuals and was widely read by those who sought social change. It discussed issues such as land reform, the role of women in society, and the need for a modernized educational system. By using the Uzbek language in print, "Turkiston" helped lay the groundwork for the development of a national language that could unify the region's diverse peoples.

Another influential publication was "Sada-i Turkistan" (1914), which continued the work of its predecessors by discussing progressive ideas and focusing on the

modernization of Central Asian society. These publications played a key role in encouraging intellectual discourse and fostering a sense of collective national identity. The press also served as a platform for the promotion of the Latin alphabet, which would later become crucial for the modernization of the Uzbek language and its standardization in print.

One of the Jadid movement's most significant contributions to the national press was the promotion of the Uzbek language. Before the Jadid period, Persian and Arabic were predominantly used in the intellectual and literary spheres of Central Asia. The introduction of the Uzbek language in print was revolutionary, as it helped establish a unique cultural and linguistic identity for the people of the region.

The Jadids believed that the promotion of the Uzbek language in newspapers and journals would foster greater communication among the people and allow them to engage more effectively with modern ideas. By adopting the Latin script, they sought to make the language more accessible to the common people, especially since the traditional Arabic script was difficult to learn for many. The Latin alphabet helped modernize the written language and provided an opportunity for greater literacy among the population. Publications like "Turkiston" and "Sada-i Turkistan" were not only important for disseminating modern ideas but also for standardizing the language in a way that helped unify the various Uzbek-speaking regions. This focus on language was pivotal in the creation of a distinct national identity that was separate from Russian, Persian, or Arabic cultural influences. Despite the positive impact of the press, the Jadid movement faced significant challenges and resistance. The Russian Empire viewed the spread of progressive ideas as a threat to its control over Central Asia. The Jadids' calls for modernization and national independence conflicted with Russian imperial interests, leading to censorship and suppression of their publications. Many Jadid journalists and intellectuals were arrested, and some publications were banned. Furthermore, the traditional religious establishment in Central Asia also opposed the Jadid reforms, particularly their secular approach to education and their challenges to traditional religious authority. Conservative groups argued that the reforms were incompatible with Islam and would lead to the erosion of religious values. As a result, the Jadids faced criticism from both the colonial authorities and conservative religious leaders. Despite these challenges, the Jadid press continued to flourish and evolve, contributing significantly to the development of the national press in Uzbekistan. The resistance they faced only strengthened their resolve to promote their ideas, and their publications laid the groundwork for the future development of modern Uzbek journalism.

The legacy of the Jadid press remains strong in Uzbekistan today. The efforts of the Jadid intellectuals to promote modernization, national identity, and linguistic reform through the press helped establish a foundation for the modern Uzbek media landscape. After Uzbekistan gained independence in 1991, the country saw a revitalization of its national press, which continues to play an important role in

shaping public opinion, promoting education, and fostering national unity. The promotion of the Uzbek language in media continues to be a key aspect of Uzbekistan's cultural policies. The early contributions of the Jadid press in standardizing the language and promoting literacy were crucial in building a cohesive national identity, and the use of Uzbek in the media today can be seen as a continuation of the reforms initiated by the Jadids. Moreover, the ideas of political and social reform that were promoted by the Jadids continue to influence the discourse around modernization and development in Uzbekistan. The Jadid spirit of reform and intellectual liberation continues to inspire debates about education, governance, and cultural preservation in the country.

The early years of national press development in Uzbekistan were marked by the influential role of the Jadid movement. The press not only facilitated the spread of progressive ideas and reforms but also played a central role in the creation of a modern Uzbek national identity. Through their publications, the Jadids challenged traditional norms, promoted the use of the Uzbek language, and laid the groundwork for the future development of the media in Uzbekistan. Despite facing significant resistance, their legacy continues to shape the modern Uzbek press and the country's ongoing quest for modernization and national pride.

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