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## TURAR RYSKULOV'S STATE ACTIVITIES IN THE FINANCIAL COMMITTEE UNDER THE COUNCIL OF PEOPLE'S COMMISSARS OF THE TURKESTAN ASSR IN 1922–1923 DEDICATED TO THE 130TH ANNIVERSARY OF TURAR RYSKULOV'S BIRTH

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**Abstract. Introduction.** The aim of this article is to analyze the activities of Turar Ryskulov, a Kazakh statesman and socio-political figure of the first half of the 20th century, and to assess his role in the history of Kazakhstan and Central Asia from the perspective of personal history. The objectives of the article include the examination of 79 archival documents to reveal key areas of his work as a member of the Financial Committee under the Council of People's Commissars of the Turkestan ASSR from December 1922 to December 1923. These documents reflect support for the social sphere, science, education, and security, and help explore Ryskulov's contribution to the socio-economic development of the region. **Materials and Methods.** The research is based on historical sources such as orders, work schedules, excerpts from commission meeting journals, a journal on the distribution of the Reserve Fund, letters of committee members, and other documents. These materials provide little-known data on the ethnic composition of Turkestan, the Aulie-Ata district, and the specific support for education and science in the region through the organization «Improz». Using historical-chronological and historical-logical methods, the study contributes significantly to the systematization of Ryskulov's broad activities in the Financial Committee, introduces new sources into scholarly circulation, and offers a new perspective on his biography. **Results.** The article highlights the contribution of Ryskulov to economic development and the political rise of the national intelligentsia of the Turkestan ASSR. It also analyzes the work of the Financial Committee in regulating the financial plan as of September 1923. **Conclusion.** The Financial Committee of the Turkestan ASSR played a vital socio-economic and socio-political role. It coordinated the financial support of the republic and controlled resource allocation. The protocols clearly reflect support for the population, science, medicine, education, youth, and the press, as well as food distribution control, the development of diplomacy, and the



strengthening of internal order. Turar Ryskulov's one-year activity demonstrated his significant contribution to the regional economy and his rising authority at the national level. Notably, it marked a growth in the intellectual potential of the Turkestan ASSR.

**Keywords:** TurASSR, T. Ryskulov, 1922–1923, SNK, intelligentsia, finance committee

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## 1922–1923 Ж. АРАЛЫҒЫНДА Т. РЫСҚҰЛОВТЫҢ ТҮРКІСТАН АКСР ХКК ЖАНЫНДАҒЫ ҚАРЖЫ КОМИТЕТІНДЕ МЕМЛЕКЕТТІК ҚЫЗМЕТ ТУРАЛЫ ТҰРАР РЫСҚҰЛОВТЫҢ ТУҒАНЫНА 130 ЖЫЛ ТОЛУЫНА ОРАЙЛАСТЫРЫЛҒАН

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**Аңдатпа.** *Kіріспе.* Бұл мақалада XX ғасырдың бірінші жартысындағы қазақ мемлекет және қоғам қайраткері Тұрар Рысқұловтың қызметі талданып, оның Қазақстан мен Орталық Азия тарихындағы рөлі тұлғалық тарих тұрғысынан бағаланады. Мақаланың мақсаты – 1922 жылғы 18 желтоқсан мен 1923 жылғы 30 желтоқсан аралығындағы Түркістан АКСР Халық Комиссарлары Кеңесі жанындағы Қаржы комитетіндегі оның қызметінің негізгі бағыттарын 79 архивтік құжат негізінде ашып көрсету, әлеуметтік салаға, ғылым мен білімге, қауіпсіздікке көрсеткен қолдауын зерделеу және аймақтың әлеуметтік-экономикалық дамуына қосқан үлесін бағалау. *Материалдар мен әдістер.* Зерттеуге негіз болған материалдар – бұйрықтар, жұмыс кестелері, комиссия отырыстарының үзінділері, Резерв қорының қалдығын бөлу журналы, комитет мүшелерінің хаттары және т.б. тарихи деректер. Бұл құжаттарда Түркістан аймағы мен Әулиеата уезінің этникалық құрамы, «Инпрос» ұйымы арқылы ағарту, білім және ғылым салаларына қолдау көрсету туралы аз белгілі мәліметтер қамтылған. Тарихи-хронологиялық және тарихи-логикалық әдістер негізінде бұл зерттеу Рысқұловтың Қаржы комитетіндегі кең ауқымды қызметін жүйелеуге, жаңа дереккөздерді ғылыми айналымға енгізуге және оның өмірбаянына жаңаша көзқарас ұсынуға үлес қосады. *Нәтижелер.* Мақалада Тұрар Рысқұловтың Түркістан АКСР-нің экономикасын көтеруге және ұлттық интеллигенцияның саяси өсуіне қосқан үлесі көрсетіледі. Сондай-ақ, 1923 жылдың қыркүйек айындағы қаржы жоспарын реттеу жөніндегі Қаржы комитетінің жұмысы талданады. *Қорытынды.* Түркістан АКСР Халкомкеңесі жанындағы Қаржы комитетінің қызметі әлеуметтік-экономикалық және қоғамдық-саяси жағынан аса маңызды болды. Комитет республика қаржысын үйлестіріп, ресурстарды бөлуді бақылауда ұстады. Құжаттарда халыққа, ғылымға, медицина мен білімге, жастар мен баспасөзге көрсетілген қолдау, азық-түлік бөлу, дипломатиялық қатынастарды дамыту және ішкі тәртіпті нығайту айқын көрініс тапқан. Тұрар Рысқұловтың бір жылдық қызметінің өзі оның аймақ экономикасына сіңірген еңбегі мен бүкілодақтық деңгейдегі беделінің өскенін айғақтайды. Әсіресе, Түркістан АКСР-нің зияткерлік әлеуетінің артуы ерекше атап өтіледі.

**Түйін сөздер:** ТурАКСР, Т. Рысқұлов, 1922–1923, СНК, зиялы қауым, қаржы комитеті

**Алғыс.** Мақала 2024 жылы Түркістан АКСР-нің әлеуметтік-экономикалық және саяси дамуына айрықша үлес қосқан Қазақстанның Отан тарихының тарихи тұлғасының 130 жылдығын мерекелеуді іске асыру шеңберінде орындалды.

**Дәйексөз үшін:** Торғаутова Ш.Ә., Сугірбаева Г.Д. 1922–1923 жылдар аралығында Тұрар Рысқұловтың Түркістан АКСР Халық Комиссарлар Кеңесі жанындағы қаржы комитетінде мемлекеттік қызмет туралы // Отан тарихы. 2025. Т. 28. № 2. 520–529-бб. [Ағыл.]. DOI: 10.51943/2788-9718\_2025\_28\_2\_520-529

## ГОСУДАРСТВЕННАЯ ДЕЯТЕЛЬНОСТЬ Т.РЫСКУЛОВА В ФИНАНСОВОМ КОМИТЕТЕ ПРИ СНК ТУРКЕСТАНСКОЙ АССР В 1922–1923 Г. ПРИУРОЧЕНА К 130-ЛЕТИЮ СО ДНЯ РОЖДЕНИЯ ТУРАРА РЫСКУЛОВА

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**Аннотация.** *Введение.* Цель статьи заключается в анализе деятельности Турара Рыскулова, казахского государственного и общественно-политического деятеля первой половины XX в., и оценке его роли в истории Казахстана и Центральной Азии с позиции персональной истории. Задачи статьи состояли в исследовании 79 архивных документов для раскрытия ключевых направлений его работы в составе Финансового комитета при СНК Туркестанской АССР в период с декабря 1922 по декабрь 1923 года, поддержку социальной сферы, науки, образования и безопасности; изучении вклада Рыскулова в социально-экономическое развитие региона. *Материалы и методы.* Материалами для анализа деятельности Т. Рыскулова послужили исторические источники – приказы, расписания работ, отрывки из журнала заседаний Комиссии, журнал заседания по распределению остатка Резервного фонда, письма членов комитета и др., где даны малоизвестные данные по формированию этнического состава Туркестана, Аулие-атинского уезда, специфике поддержки просвещения, образования и науки региона посредством организации «Инпрос». На основе историко-хронологического и историко-логического методов исследование вносит существенный вклад в систематизацию широкого спектра деятельности Рыскулова в Финансовом комитете, вводит в научный оборот новые источники и предлагает новое видение биографии Турара Рыскулова. *Результаты.* В статье освещен вклад государственного деятеля в подъем экономики и политический рост национальной интеллигенции ТурАССР, проанализирована общая работа Финансового комитета по урегулированию финансового плана на сентябрь 1923 г. *Заключение.* Деятельность Финансового комитета при СНК Туркестанской АССР имела важное социально-экономическое и общественно-политическое значение. Комитет координировал финансовое обеспечение республики, контролировал распределение ресурсов. Из протоколов ясно прослеживается поддержка населения, науки, медицины, образования, молодежи, печати, а также контроль над продовольствием, развитие дипломатии и укрепление внутреннего порядка. Работа Турара Рыскулова в течение одного года показала его значительный вклад в экономику региона и рост авторитета на всесоюзном уровне. Особенно выделяется рост интеллектуального потенциала Туркестанской АССР.

**Ключевые слова:** ТурАССР, Т. Рыскулов, 1922–1923, СНК, интеллигенция, финансовый комитет

**Благодарность.** Статья выполнена в рамках реализации чествования в 2024 году 130-летия исторической личности отечественной истории Казахстана, внесшего особый вклад в социально-экономическое и политическое развитие Туркестанской АССР Тураара Рыскулова.

**Для цитирования:** Торгаутова Ш.А., Сугирбаева Г.Д. О государственной деятельности Тураара Рыскулова в финансовом комитете при Совете Народных Комиссаров Туркестанской АССР в 1922–1923 годы. // Отан тарихы. 2025. Т. 28. № 2. С. 520–529 [на англ.]. DOI: 10.51943/2788-9718\_2025\_28\_2\_520-529

**Introduction.** The study of the development of Soviet state-building from 1922 to 1991 entails an extensive examination of the emergence of a new type of governmental apparatus—an entirely novel model of national governance for the global community. This process included the management of state resources, the ideological war against religion, and the institutionalization of atheism based on Marxist-Leninist ideology. At the core of the Soviet state was the principle of the dictatorship of the proletariat, grounded in the alliance between the working class and the peasantry—symbolized by the hammer and sickle.

The subsequent establishment of a totalitarian regime under a single ruling party marked a turning point in the evolution of socialist legislation and Bolshevik legality. This new system sought to combat the legacy of colonialism, suppress popular dissent, and eliminate localized uprisings against Soviet power. It also aimed at eradicating so-called “national chauvinists,” who advocated for freedom, equality, and the autonomous independence of Central Asian republics and regions of Russia.

Building a new state and maintaining order required the creation of a strong material and production base, the exploration and exploitation of new natural resources, the eradication of alternative ideological worldviews among the population, and reliance on local revolutionary cadres—individuals of strong character capable of influencing the course of socialist transformation.

One such prominent political and public figure in the Turkestan region was the young Kazakh revolutionary Turar Ryskulov (1894–1938). At the time, Turkestan was a strategically significant border region, favorable in terms of natural and climatic conditions for resource exploration and economic development. It was also viewed as a potential outpost for establishing diplomatic relations with Central Asian and Middle Eastern countries. The historical process of establishing the Soviet state apparatus in Kazakhstan was marked by considerable difficulties, largely due to the political immaturity and illiteracy of the majority of the population, particularly in remote areas. In the early years, the shortage of qualified personnel for the Soviet administration made it impossible to fully eradicate traditional clan-based and customary systems of governance, which were deeply rooted in local mentality and cultural practices.

The public, political, and governmental activities of Turar Ryskulov represent one of the most remarkable chapters in the history of Kazakhstan and Central Asia. Turar Ryskulov became the first Kazakh leader to be recognized at the highest levels of the ruling Bolshevik regime. He was frequently involved in shaping decisions of national importance concerning the indigenous population and contributed significantly to the reorganization of economic sectors that laid the foundation for Kazakhstan’s future potential. Though his life was relatively short, it was rich in meaningful accomplishments. Tragically, his story ended unjustly and was long consigned to historical oblivion. However, the discovery of new facts through the study of archival materials remains highly relevant today and provides scholars with a solid basis for forming objective and accurate assessments of his personal qualities, his role, and his historical significance in the context of Kazakhstan and Central Asia. Turar Ryskulov’s legacy should serve as an example of dedicated service to the people for future generations.

**Materials and methods.** The materials for this research also included a collection of documents and materials on Kabulbek Sarymoldayev, compiled in honor of his 125th anniversary by a group of Kazakhstani historians – Shildebay S.K., Konyratbayev O.M., Zamzayeva T.A., and Smagulova S.O. [Shildebay et al., 2023]. This compilation introduced into scholarly circulation a number of articles written by Kabulbek Sarymoldayev, a statesman of the Kazakh people who made a significant contribution to the socio-political, socio-economic, and cultural-spiritual development of Kazakhstan during the 1920s and 1930s. These materials also provide insights into the personality and legacy of Turar Ryskulov. Archival documents from the Central State Archive of the Republic of Uzbekistan were also used [CSA RUz.: F. R-86, Op. 1, D. 1525, L. 4–6; Case of Ryskul Zhilkaidarov, F. FI-44 (Semirechye Administration)], as well as from the Central State Archive of the Republic of Kazakhstan [CSA RK: No. 8898, 9014, 9102].

Valuable information about the politically prominent figure of Turar Ryskulov in the history of Kazakhstan and all of Central Asia is found in the works of both early and modern scholars – Ustinov V.M.



[Ustinov, 1927], Dimitriev S.D. [Dimitriev, 1927], Saipova K.D. [Saipova, 2021], Khaustov V. and Samuelson L. [Khaustov & Samuelson, 2009], Amanzholova D. [Amanzholova, 1996], Inoyatova D. [Inoyatova, 2019], and Doroshenko T. [Doroshenko, 2025]. These researchers have studied and continue to explore the life and public-political activities of Turar Ryskulov, compiling rare archival materials related to his governmental work, diplomatic relations with Central Asian countries, and his role in the development of the economy, education, and science in the Turkestan ASSR. They have also analyzed the historical processes and political movements of the period in which Ryskulov was active.

This study, dedicated to analyzing Turar Ryskulov's role in the activities of the Financial Committee under the Council of People's Commissars (Sovnarkom) of the Turkestan ASSR during the 1920s, employs modern methodological approaches of historical research. The author applies a historical-chronological method to trace the sequence of events and a historical-logical analysis of archival sources to identify the cause-and-effect relationships that led to the emergence and development of various sectors of financial policy in Turkestan. The use of systemic and structural analysis enabled a detailed examination of the Committee's work across different areas within the broader context of administrative and economic reform.

Comparative analysis of historical sources from the same period contributed to an accurate reconstruction of the political and economic conditions under which Ryskulov operated. Particular attention is given to identifying the continuity between the financial strategies implemented by Ryskulov and contemporary approaches to state financial management. The study also reveals new facts about Ryskulov's life and his socio-political activity, offering a revised and updated understanding of his historical legacy.

Thus, Turar Ryskulov is considered within the framework of microhistory as a historical figure whose active engagement and leadership in financial governance significantly influenced the overall trajectory of historical development in Kazakhstan and, more broadly, in Central Asia.

**Discussion.** One of the earliest researchers of Turar Ryskulov's state and political activity was V.M. Ustinov [Ustinov, 1927], who conducted a detailed study of Ryskulov's involvement in collectivization, the fight against famine in the early 1930s, and his international activities. Ustinov's work is a historical-publicist essay based on documents and materials from party and state archives, including those of the Central Committee of the CPSU, the KGB, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, special collections of the Lenin Library, and the Institute of Marxism-Leninism. Employing a historical-chronological approach, Ustinov analyzed the course of the era and Ryskulov's role in it as a statesman. His objective perspective sheds light on the processes taking place within the Bolshevik administration, Ryskulov's civic response to the economic transformations of Kazakh society, and his contributions to improving socio-economic conditions during the famine years, political mobilization, and youth development.

Academician K. Abzhanov provided an objective assessment of the fate of the Kazakh intelligentsia, emphasizing Ryskulov's special significance and the influence of the intelligentsia on national culture [Abzhanov, 1992]. He highlighted the origins of the national intelligentsia and Ryskulov's active role in the economic, agricultural, and cultural-educational spheres, particularly in the struggle against the famine of the 1930s and resistance to the genocide of the Kazakh people.

O. Konyratbayev's monograph «Turar and Turkestan» [Konyratbayev, 2019] offers a comprehensive characterization of Ryskulov's life and political career, covering his leadership of the Muslim Bureau (1919–1920), his role as an official representative of the People's Commissariat for Nationalities of the RSFSR in Azerbaijan in 1921, his work at the Moscow Institute of Oriental Studies in 1922, and his chairmanship of the Council of People's Commissars of the Turkestan Republic (1922–1924). The book also includes a diary covering the years 1903 to 1919, as well as archival reports, transcripts from 1918–1933, and material on uprisings in Central Asia and Kazakhstan, student demographics in the region, proceedings of the First Congress of the Peoples of the East in Baku (1920), and Ryskulov's efforts to combat famine in the Turkestan region (1917–1919). Konyratbayev notes that Ryskulov critically analyzed the colonial policy of the Russian Empire in Turkestan as the transformation of the region into a source of cheap raw materials and a consumer market, and the suppression of Muslim political movements and parties such as Alash, Shura-Islamiya, Turan, and Türk Adami Markaziyat, among others. Overall, the author provides a balanced and positive evaluation of Ryskulov's political activity, particularly regarding his contributions to solving socio-economic issues and promoting regional development.

In his monograph «The History of National Minorities in Uzbekistan (1917–1990)» [Saipova, 2021], Uzbek historian K. Saipova explores the formation of the multinational population of Turkestan during the early Soviet years (1917–1924) and provides an overview of the ethno-demographic landscape in the 1924–1940s. Special attention is paid to the settlement patterns of ethnic groups before 1917 and after 1924,

the impact of the 1917 Russian October Revolution on national transformations, and the repressive policies of the 1930s. Saipov also offers a modern interpretation of Soviet Marxist-Leninist national policy. A noteworthy contribution of his work is the detailed data on ethnic groups residing in the Syr Darya and Semirechye regions, including Hungarians (122/3), Germans (25), Czechoslovaks (28), Yugoslavs (23/19), Poles (45/7), Uyghurs and Chinese (98/369).

In her scholarly work «The German Diaspora in Uzbekistan: Milestones of History» [Inoyatova, 2019], D. Inoyatova analyzes migration processes, settlement patterns, population dynamics, and the adaptation of the German community in the Turkestan region. She explores their relations with the local population, religious and educational development, and the contributions of Germans to the socio-economic and cultural development of the region from 1860 to 1938. This research intersects with the period of Turar Ryskulov's activity in Turkestan and provides a broader context for understanding his role in the region during a time of major political and demographic transformation.

**Results.** Turar Ryskulov was born on December 26, 1894, in the Eastern-Talgar volost of the Vernensky Uyezd in the Semirechye Region, into the family of herdsman Ryskul Zhilkaidarov. In 1903, Ryskul, as a local guide, accompanied the full member of the Imperial Russian Geographical Society, S.D. Dmitriev, during his expedition through the Zailiysky Alatau to its highest peak – Talgar Peak, later named “Ryskul Glacier” in his honor [Ustinov, 1927: 5–6].

Later, in 1904, the gendarmerie accused Ryskul of killing a local bai (wealthy landowner) and forcibly resettled him and his relatives, including ten-year-old Turar, first to the village of Besagash, then to Burundai. Ryskul was permitted to keep his son with him in the Verny prison, where Turar managed the household and accompanied the children of the prison warden, Prikhodko, to the gymnasium. On July 28, 1906, Ryskul was exiled to Siberia on foot along the Kopal-Ayagoz-Semipalatinsk route. These harsh events are also recounted in M. Auezov's story *The Shot at the Karash-Karash Pass*, as well as in works by Kazakh writers T. Nurtazin and Sh. Murtaza [Sarymoldaev, 1926: 66–71].

From a young age, Turar Ryskulov experienced social and national oppression from local bays and incoming kulaks, which contributed to his early maturity. It is not surprising that the struggle against injustice became the cause of his entire life. After his father's exile, relatives from Merke in the Aulie-Ata Uyezd took him in and enrolled him in a local school. His father's property, including livestock, was confiscated by bays. During this time, Turar worked as a courier for investigator A.P. Semashko.

After completing school in Merke, in 1914, he graduated successfully from the Agricultural College in Bishkek, specializing in horticulture. He failed to gain admission to a university in Samara. In 1915, while staying with relatives in Tulkubas, Turar observed the construction of the Arys-Aulie-Ata section of the Semirechye railway under the supervision of engineer M. Tynyshpaev. At the same time, he continued his education as an external student at the Tashkent Men's Gymnasium as a second-class auditor.

In 1916, Turar was arrested for active participation in an anti-colonial protest [Қоңыратбаев, 2019: 26–47]. However, due to a lack of evidence, he was released and admitted to the Tashkent Teachers' Institute. Upon his written request, he was granted 70 rubles in aid for clothing, footwear, bedding, and educational materials [Қоңыратбаев, 2023: 390].

In 1917, a conflict erupted with Russian peasants over a demand for compensation of 500,000 rubles for allegedly stolen cattle and destroyed crops. Turar Ryskulov actively defended the Kazakh population, who were being falsely accused. As a result, the Turkestan Regional Central Council of Kazakhs and Kyrgyzs was created, headed by Ye. Kasymov and M. Shokay, with Turar Ryskulov as secretary.

The hunger, political instability, and polarization between the Socialist Revolutionaries (SRs) and the Bolsheviks in 1917 led Turar to join the Russian Communist Party (Bolsheviks) in 1918. Back in May 1917, he and Kabulbek Sarymoldaev had founded the Revolutionary Union of Kazakh Youth “Bukhara” in Merke, which had 30 members. The organization aimed to defend the political rights and improve the social conditions of the nomadic people. It had its own charter and program, condemned the colonial policies of Tsarist Russia and the abuses of local bays, and sought cooperation with the soviets of workers', soldiers', and peasants' deputies.

After K. Sarymoldaev participated in the First Regional Congress of Kazakh and Kyrgyz Deputies in Tashkent, where 18 issues were discussed, the decision was made to form the Turkestan Regional Kazakh-Kyrgyz Central Council. On April 21, 1918, the First Congress of Aulie-Ata Kazakhs was held, where issues such as famine relief, the fight against infectious diseases, interethnic relations, and the election of Kazakh deputies to the district council were raised. Later, Turar Ryskulov became chairman of the Aulie-Ata District Council.

Due to the shortage of cotton in the northern regions of the country, Turkestan was chosen for cotton cultivation thanks to its favorable climate [Shildebai, Konyratbayev, Zamzaeva, Smagulova, 2023: 19–20].

On November 28, 1918, Ryskulov organized the Central Commission for the Fight Against Hunger. More than 1,200 public food stations, orphanages, and infectious disease clinics were opened. By spring 1919, the famine had eased, and more than a million lives were saved.

Amid increasing contact with the Muslim clergy, Ryskulov attempted to establish a Communist Muslim Party made up of 11,000 young people [Ryskulov, 1925: 12]. In April 1919, the Muslim Bureau was formed within the Communist Party of Turkestan to unite the Turkic-Muslim peoples. It trained cadres from among the indigenous population – state and party officials, scholars, creative intellectuals, and specialists in various fields. Literacy campaigns were launched, cultural and educational institutions opened, and Kazakh-language publishing began to flourish.

On January 21, 1920, Turar Ryskulov was elected Chairman of the Central Executive Committee of the Soviets of Turkestan. He led the development of legislative acts, addressed administrative, financial, sanitary, educational, and cultural issues, and provided assistance to Kazakh and Kyrgyz refugees of 1916 upon their return from China.

Together with A. Baitursynov, Ryskulov sent a letter to V. I. Lenin criticizing the national policy of the Central Committee of the Russian Communist Party (Bolsheviks) in Turkestan. On September 5, 1920, at an expanded congress, he delivered a speech condemning the Bolshevik approach toward the peoples of the East. Later, 23 delegates signed an appeal to Lenin demanding a revision of the policy.

On October 14, 1920, the Politburo of the Central Committee of the RCP(b) appointed Turar Ryskulov as Deputy People's Commissar under Joseph Stalin. In 1921, for his sharp criticism of the “Red imperialism” policy toward Turkic peoples, he was reassigned to Baku, where he fell seriously ill. After recovery, he conducted an inspection of the Institute of Oriental Studies regarding student admissions for 1922–1923 and supported the publication of works by Kazakh scholars. Alikhan Bukeikhanov also worked at the Institute's printing house for a long time.

In September 1922, at the age of 28, Ryskulov was appointed Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars of the Turkestan Republic by the Organizational Bureau of the Central Committee of the RCP(b). There was an urgent need to reconstruct irrigation systems, develop pedigree livestock breeding, improve pastures, hayfields, and trade. In the same year, he initiated the establishment of the “Talap” society in Tashkent [Saipova, 2021: 54], where Kh. Dosmukhamedov, M. Auezov, M. Yespolov, M. Tynyshpaev, and K. Tynystanov were actively involved.

In 1923, the first economic conference of the Central Asian republics was held in Tashkent. A plan to eliminate illiteracy by May 1, 1924, was approved. Ryskulov worked in the archives of Tashkent and Moscow on his monograph dedicated to the national liberation uprising of 1916, carried out professional work in Mongolia, and proposed naming the capital Ulaanbaatar.

In 1925, in the collection *Revolution and the Indigenous Population of Turkestan*, Ryskulov emphasized the role of Turkic peoples in the victory of communism. He presented the programs of the organizations “Bukhara” and the “Revolutionary Union of Kazakh Youth” and became editor-in-chief of the newspaper «Enbekshi Kazakh» [Khaustov, Samuelson, 2009: 12].

In 1926, he was appointed Deputy Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars of the RSFSR and held this position until May 21, 1937. From 1926 to 1930, he contributed to the construction of the Turkestan–Siberian Railway and to the training of engineering personnel from among the Kazakhs.

In 1932–1933, against the backdrop of F. Goloshchyokin's policies, Ryskulov sent a letter to Joseph Stalin criticizing the forced collectivization. In the same spirit, the “Letter of the Five” was composed by G. Musrepov, M. Gataulin, E. Altynbekov, K. Kuanyshev, and others, detailing the consequences of famine, the death of peasants, the mass exodus from ancestral lands, and the condition of refugees. The authors demanded urgent intervention and a change of policy.

In 1936–1937, the arrest of Bukharin and Rykov led to the persecution of many political figures and supporters of democracy and equality. On May 21, 1937, Turar Ryskulov was arrested in Kislovodsk. After eight months of imprisonment and investigation, he was accused of being an «enemy of the people». On February 10, 1938, he was executed by firing squad after a court session, headed by V. Ulrikh, that lasted only 15 minutes. The charges were brought under Clause 4 of Article 58 of the Criminal Code.

His wife, Aziza Tubekovna, was imprisoned on June 30, 1937, where she gave birth to their daughter, Rida. Ryskulov's eldest son, Eskendir, was released from prison due to poor health and was buried in Moscow in 1939 [Amanzholova, 1995: 38].

Turar Ryskulov was posthumously rehabilitated only in 1956, during Khrushchev's "Thaw," the criticism of Stalin's personality cult, and the exposure of the «Yezhovshchina».

Turar Ryskulov was deeply committed to supporting Turkic-Muslim leaders, actively facilitating the release of Kazakh intellectuals from prison—most notably, securing Abay Bukeykhanov's liberation from the Karkaralinsk prison in 1922—and fostered opportunities for talented Kazakh youth to pursue education and creative work at leading universities in Russia and the USSR [Materials, 2019]. One of the notable chapters in Ryskulov's service was his tenure on the Financial Committee of the Council of People's Commissars of the Turkestan Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic from December 1922 to December 1923. During his time on the committee, he played a key role in managing disbursements from the Turkestan ASSR's reserve funds for the needs of the national economy, determining wage scales and payment schedules, allocating funds to support cultural, educational, and other state institutions, overseeing the fulfillment of financial obligations by relevant agencies, and determining the size and scope of allocations to various state funds.

By decree No. 240 dated 18 December 1922, the commission's membership included B.I. Trotsky (RSFSR Commissar for Food in Turkestan), Ievlev (representative of the RSFSR Commissariat of Finance in Central Asia), G. Khamutkhanov (Uzbek Soviet statesman and later a member of the Turkestan Regional Council of Trade Unions), G.N. Cherdantsev (Deputy Chairman of Gosplan of the TASSR), and was chaired by the Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars of the Turkestan Republic – Turar Ryskulov. His deputy was Maevsky.

Archival documents illuminate the flow of revenues into the TASSR budget from the Syr Darya, Fergana, Samarkand, Zhetysay, Turkmen, Amu Darya regions [Protocols, 2023: 49]. Many funds were generated through the sale of wheat via the "Grain Fund" [Protocols, 2023: 107–129] as well as by economic bodies of the TASSR's local budget—such as the Cotton Committee, Oil Syndicate, Water Management Bureau, Agrarian People's Committee, Central Agricultural Committee, Foreign Trade Office, Food Commissariat, Silk Industry Directorate, and Fisheries Department [Protocols, 2023: 19].

Allocated funds supported a wide range of initiatives: publishing newspapers and journals in local languages (including Student Thought, the newspaper Turkestan, periodicals such as Inkilab, Cholpan, Turkmen-Ili, and from March 1923 the Turkestan Truth), as well as funding for the Red Star editorial board and publications in Turkestan studies, economic reviews, and geological maps [Protocols, 2023: 24–145]. They also covered military needs: disabled veteran assistance, uniforms and supplies for NKVD staff, militia support, logistics for troops, and canine kennels [Protocols, 2023: 26–74].

Education received substantial funding for student stipends, school repairs (such as the Syr Darya Party School), and publishing activities, including scholarships for students headed to state institutes, educational exhibitions, and support for the Almaty Teachers' Institute [Protocols, 2023: 28–197]. Medical allocations included funding for clinics, doctor's offices, tuberculosis hospitals, operational supplies, and stipends for researchers and students [Protocols, 2023: 28–133].

Social welfare expenditures covered orphans and hospital patients, inspection of educational and religious endowments (waqfs), and short retraining courses [Protocols, 2023: 130–154]. Agricultural and industrial restructuring—such as transforming military farms into cooperatives, supporting exhibitions and boosting credit for seasonal laborers—was also prioritized [Protocols, 2023: 41–154].

Regional support extended to Kyrgyz refugees from China (bread provisions and medical assistance in April 1923) and malaria control in Fergana [Protocols, 2023: 104–154]. Funds were also earmarked for postal-telegraph services for Muslim schools in Samarkand and home furnishings for settlers in the Chimkent district [Protocols, 2023: 104–154].

A strict budgetary regime was enforced: revenue distribution rules, enforcement of financial laws, accountability, property tax documentation, procurement of typewriters for the Supreme Court, and archive digitization in Tashkent [Protocols, 2023: 104–121].

Finally, the committee addressed regional security issues—funding anti-basmachi efforts in Turkmen oblast (including interethnic commissions and suppression squads), and aiding nomadic tribes affected by Kirghiz-Turkmen conflict [Protocols, 2023: 51–352]. Budget resources were also managed by the Department of National Minorities under the Turkestan Communist Party Central Committee to support Germans, Czechs, Hungarians, Poles, Tatars, Persians, including language sections, schooling, literature, lectures, and youth engagement in cultural exchanges [Protocols, 2023: 207–208].

**Conclusion.** Thus, the activities of the Financial Committee carried immense socio-economic, political, and cultural significance. The Committee performed key organizational and coordinating functions in the financial management and allocation of monetary resources in the Turkestan ASSR. Archival



protocols clearly reveal its contribution to supporting social programs for the population, advancing science, medicine, and education, assisting children and youth, as well as the press. Strict control was maintained over food distribution, diplomatic relations were developed, measures were taken to resolve interethnic conflicts, and the work of security agencies was intensified to maintain internal order.

Turar Ryskulov's contributions to the region's economic development and his rapid rise as a statesman at the all-Union level are evident even in just one year of his more than 20-year public service career. His role in enhancing the intellectual potential of the Turkestan ASSR is especially notable.

The legendary figure of Turar Ryskulov remains in the collective memory of the Turkic peoples as one of the outstanding sons of the Kazakh nation—a fighter for the democratic and independent development of Kazakh and other Turkic nations. He became a major statesman of his time, the first representative of the Turkic peoples to hold a high government position—as Deputy Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars of the RSFSR. His work encompassed the fight against famine and illiteracy, the advancement of education and science, the establishment of industrial and agricultural centers, logistics systems, workforce training, and the flourishing of urban culture in the regions of Kazakhstan [Protocols, 2023: 2].

On December 12, 2019, M. Auezov South Kazakhstan State University in Shymkent celebrated the 125th anniversary of Turar Ryskulov's birth by holding an international scientific conference titled "Unforgettable Great Personalities of the Kazakh Nation."

Turar Ryskulov was among the first to make an invaluable contribution to preserving the spiritual unity and reviving the culture of the Turkic peoples. He played a vital role in shaping and promoting the values of the Turkic World, upheld the ideas of independence in the worldview of the Kazakh intelligentsia of the 20th century, emphasized the importance of Turkestan's political development, contributed to the growth of new academic disciplines, and encouraged high-quality research in Kazakhstan and Central Asia as a whole.

The jubilee events were attended by Turar Ryskulov's descendants: Vladimir Vladimirovich Ryskulov (Moscow), Adel Ryskulova (Almaty), and his relative Muratali Tolepbergenuly (village of Turar Ryskulov, Tulkibas District). Special attention was given to the organization of the event by state officials, researchers from scientific institutions and universities of the republic, young scholars, representatives of republican public foundations, the Sherkhan Murtaza Foundation, and the republican scientific journal Qazaqtaný [Materials, 2019].

On November 15–16, the Akimat of Turkestan held an international conference titled «Turar and the Idea of Turkestan». A series of follow-up events took place in the cities of Taraz and Shymkent. The main goal of these events was to once again highlight the role and historical significance of Turar Ryskulov's legendary personality.

On December 26, 2024, the 130th anniversary of the birth of the prominent statesman Turar Ryskulov was marked. His socio-political and governmental work remains one of the most vibrant chapters in the history of Kazakhstan and the entire Turkic World. The authors of this study also strive to contribute to the exploration of new facts from Turar Ryskulov's life and public service by providing comparative analysis and systematizing archival materials related to various aspects of his work, while evaluating the historical importance of this unforgettable figure whose legacy is embedded in the history of Kazakhstan, Russia, and all of Central Asia.

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GA RK – Central State Archive of the Republic of Kazakhstan

GA RUz. – Central State Archive of the Republic of Uzbekistan

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