



DEVELOPMENT OF THE PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT SYSTEM FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IN THE UZBEK SSR DURING THE POST-WAR PERIOD

Nasilloyev Sunnat Shavkat o'g'li

Doctoral Researcher (PhD Student)

Bukhara State University

Email: nasilloyevsunnat@gmail.com

Abstract: Following the end of the Second World War, the Soviet Union faced the urgent tasks of restoring the national economy, expanding industrial production, and mobilizing scientific and technological potential to meet the needs of state development. Achieving these objectives required the effective utilization of existing scientific capacity, the coordination of research activities toward common strategic goals, and the centralized management of scientific work. Consequently, one of the principal priorities of Soviet science policy in the post-war period was the integration of scientific research into a unified organizational and planning system. As a result, scientific activity gradually ceased to be regarded as an initiative of individual institutions and instead became an integral component of a centrally directed state system.

Keywords: Post-war period; Soviet science policy; scientific research; centralized planning; research management; scientific organization; state regulation; scientific and technological development; Soviet Union; science administration.

Introduction. The initial stage in implementing this policy was marked by the establishment of a Special Council for the Coordination of Scientific Activities of the Academies of Sciences of the Union Republics under the Academy of Sciences of the USSR in March 1945¹³. The Council was entrusted with eliminating duplication in research activities conducted across the republics, preventing parallel investigations, expanding the thematic scope of scientific research, and ensuring the coordination of research plans. Its activities demonstrate that, in the post-war period, the Soviet leadership prioritized the operation of scientific institutions within a unified state policy rather than allowing their independent development. Through the centralized coordination of scientific research, the government sought to direct scientific potential toward the needs of the national economy, ensure the efficient use of available resources, and mobilize scientific capacity in accordance with state-defined strategic priorities.

The practical implementation of this system became particularly evident during the Second Session of the Coordination Council, held in Moscow on 12–14 December 1949¹⁴.

¹³ Калугин В.В. «Из истории организации, планирования и координации научных исследований в СССР (1946–1950 годы)» История и педагогика естествознания № 1. 2013. С – 4.

¹⁴ Фонд 532, Opis 1, File 70, p. 30.



During the session, the annual research plans of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR and the academies of sciences of the Union republics for 1950 were reviewed and discussed. This demonstrates that the Council functioned not merely as an advisory body but also as an important coordinating institution responsible for integrating scientific planning into the broader framework of state policy.

Materials and Methods: The study is based on archival documents, official reports, and normative legal acts concerning the development of the scientific research planning and management system in the Uzbek SSR during the post-war period. The research applies archival analysis and historical-analytical methods based on the principles of historicism, objectivity, and scientific rigor.

Results and Discussion. The next stage in improving the system of scientific governance in the post-war period was associated with the introduction of long-term planning for scientific research. The Soviet leadership sought to manage scientific activity not on the basis of individual institutional initiatives but in accordance with the long-term economic and scientific-technological priorities of the state. Accordingly, in 1945, a preliminary draft of the 1946–1950 Five-Year Plan for Scientific Research was discussed in Moscow with the participation of the heads of the academies of sciences of the Union republics and subsequently revised on the basis of their proposals. The plan was officially approved at an expanded session of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR in July 1946, thereby establishing the organizational and legal foundation for a unified system of scientific planning across the Soviet Union¹⁵. The adoption of the Five-Year Plan introduced fundamentally new principles for the organization and planning of scientific research. Henceforth, every scientific institution was required to conduct its activities in accordance with five-year and annual plans developed within the framework of the all-Union scientific policy. Consequently, research topics, implementation schedules, expected outcomes, and funding allocations were coordinated through a centralized administrative system. This transformation marked the transition from fragmented institutional initiatives to a unified planning mechanism designed to serve the strategic interests of the state.

Research programs, which had previously been regarded as internal working documents of scientific institutions, were transformed into mandatory state-approved planning instruments. The implementation of planned tasks, the final results of research projects, and their practical effectiveness became subject to systematic governmental supervision. As a result, scientific performance was assessed not only by the originality and academic significance of research findings but also by the timely and complete fulfillment of state planning targets. This development illustrates the increasing integration of Soviet science into the administrative-command system that characterized the governance model of the post-war USSR.

¹⁵ Калугин В.В. «Из истории организации, планирования и координации научных исследований в СССР (1946–1950 годы)» История и педагогика естествознания № 1. 2013. С – 6.



The policy of centralized scientific planning was implemented simultaneously with the expansion of the network of scientific institutions. The successful realization of planned research objectives required the further development of scientific infrastructure throughout the Soviet Union. In this context, the Academy of Sciences of the Estonian SSR was established on 5 April 1946, while the East Siberian Branch of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR commenced its activities in February 1949. Although these institutions contributed to the advancement of scientific research in their respective regions, their primary function was to implement the unified scientific policy of the Soviet state at the regional level. This indicates that the creation of new academies and research branches was intended not to enhance scientific autonomy but rather to strengthen the territorial structure of the centralized system of scientific administration.

During the implementation of the 1946–1950 Five-Year Plan for Scientific Research, a system of coordinated research plans was introduced to ensure the effective execution of state scientific policy. These plans specified the stages of each research project, implementation schedules, responsible researchers, lead institutions, and cooperating organizations. Such an approach not only prevented unnecessary duplication of research among scientific institutions but also enabled the concentration of scientific resources and personnel on priorities defined by the state. Draft research plans were initially coordinated with the relevant ministries and governmental agencies before being submitted for review and approval by the State Committee for Science and Technology under the Council of Ministers of the USSR. Once approved, these coordinated plans became mandatory components of both the annual and long-term research programs of the Union republics and branch research institutions. This procedure established a unified vertical system of scientific administration in which both the content of research and the procedures for its implementation were centrally coordinated and supervised.

The centralized system of scientific governance was further strengthened in 1947 with the establishment of the State Committee for the Introduction of New Technology into the National Economy under the Council of Ministers of the USSR. The creation of this committee marked a new stage in Soviet science policy. Whereas earlier reforms had primarily focused on the planning and coordination of scientific research, increasing emphasis was subsequently placed on the practical application of research results, the transfer of scientific achievements into industrial production, the integration of scientific research with key sectors of the national economy, and the enhancement of the economic efficiency of scientific and technological innovation.

The establishment of this committee reflected a significant shift in the objectives of Soviet science policy. Scientific research was no longer regarded solely as a means of expanding knowledge but increasingly as an instrument for promoting economic modernization and technological progress. Consequently, the effectiveness of scientific institutions came to be evaluated not only by their academic achievements but also by the extent to which their research outcomes contributed to industrial production and the broader development





objectives of the Soviet state. These mechanisms of centralized administration and supervision were also directly applied to the activities of the Academy of Sciences of the Uzbek SSR and other research institutions within the republic. Scientific institutions in the Uzbek SSR were required to formulate their research plans in accordance with the all-Union coordinated research programs and to submit regular reports on their implementation. Consequently, the content, implementation schedules, and expected outcomes of scientific research conducted in the republic were monitored within the framework of the unified Soviet science policy. This demonstrates that the scientific development of the Uzbek SSR was shaped primarily by strategic priorities determined by the central authorities rather than by the republic's own independent scientific agenda.

This policy exerted a direct influence on the development of science in the Uzbek SSR. Research institutions were obliged to align their annual and five-year research plans with all-Union scientific priorities. As a result, research topics, directions, and implementation procedures were largely determined by centrally defined strategic objectives. Particular emphasis was placed on research related to agriculture, cotton production, irrigation, geology, mineral resource exploration, and studies serving the needs of industrial development. These priorities indicate that the scientific potential of the republic was primarily directed toward supporting the broader economic interests of the Soviet Union. Although the centralized planning system strengthened the organizational and material foundations of scientific institutions, promoted coordinated research activities, and enhanced cooperation among research organizations, the determination of research priorities, funding, and thematic directions by central authorities significantly restricted the independent development of science in the republic. Consequently, while the system contributed to a more efficient utilization of scientific resources, it also made the content and development of scientific research increasingly dependent on the strategic interests of the Soviet center.

By the second half of the 1940s, Soviet science policy had expanded beyond the planning and coordination of scientific research. In order to ensure the effective functioning of the centralized system of scientific administration, increasing attention was devoted to strengthening scientific capacity, improving the quality of research, and establishing systematic mechanisms for evaluating research performance. Consequently, the improvement of the system for training highly qualified scientific personnel became one of the principal priorities of Soviet science policy.

The practical implementation of this policy in the Uzbek SSR was reflected in the Resolution "On the Training of Highly Qualified Scientific Personnel", adopted by the Council of Ministers of the Uzbek SSR on 24 January 1948 (No. 170) in accordance with Resolution No. 3756 of the Council of Ministers of the USSR dated 4 November 1947¹⁶. Under this resolution, the heads of scientific institutions and higher educational establishments were required to create appropriate scientific and organizational conditions enabling doctoral candidates to complete their dissertations within the prescribed time limits,

¹⁶ Fond 532, Opis 1, File 70, p. 30.



provide them with continuous scientific and methodological assistance, and exercise systematic supervision over their research activities. In addition, a procedure was introduced requiring doctoral candidates to submit semiannual progress reports to the Presidium of the Academy of Sciences of the Uzbek SSR. Besides regulating the organizational aspects of postgraduate training, this resolution further strengthened the mechanisms for planning, monitoring, and evaluating scientific research. As a consequence, state supervision over the quality and implementation of scientific research intensified, while the institutional and individual responsibility of research organizations and scholars in the Uzbek SSR was significantly increased.

Conclusions: By the end of the 1940s, Soviet science policy in the Uzbek SSR had become increasingly oriented toward linking scientific research with the practical needs of the national economy. During this period, the principal objectives of scientific institutions included the investigation of the republic's natural resources, the rational distribution of productive forces, and the scientific development of industry and agriculture. Beginning in 1949–1950, comprehensive studies were undertaken to assess the development prospects of the republic, its economic regions, industrial centers, and agricultural zones. These investigations were carried out under the scientific supervision of the Council for the Study of Productive Forces (SOPS) within the Academy of Sciences of the Uzbek SSR. In addition to economists, specialists in the natural and technical sciences actively participated in these projects. As a result, scientific foundations for the development of productive forces were elaborated for the Fergana Valley, the Angren–Almalyk mining and industrial region, the lower reaches of the Amu Darya, the Kyzylkum Desert, and Southwestern Uzbekistan¹⁷. The research findings were discussed at scientific-production conferences, summarized in monographs devoted to research methodology and methods, and subsequently received recognition throughout the Soviet Union.

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