

## **Asfendiyarov Sanzhar Zhafaruly (1889-1938)**

Statesman, historian, professor, organizer and first rector of the Almaty Medical Institute (now the S. Asfendiyarov Kazakh National Medical University).

He was born in Tashkent. He graduated from the Tashkent Real School, the St. Petersburg Military Medical Academy in 1917, where he studied on a scholarship from the Naval Ministry. This circumstance obliged him to endure in the future all the hardships of military service. As a participant in the First World War, at first he was in Termez, and then, during the hostilities, he served as a military doctor of the Turkestan regiment,

As a participant in the First World War, at first he was in Termez, and then, during the hostilities, he served as a military doctor of the Turkestan regiment, near the city of Lodz, he was taken prisoner by the Germans, as a result of an exchange of prisoners of war, he returned to his homeland in 1916 through Sweden.

After the February Revolution, in 1917-1919, S. Asfendiyarov participated in the work of the Soviets - he was a member of the Bukhara and Tashkent Soviets, the Turkestan Regional Council, a military doctor and a member of the Muslim Bureau of the Chernyaevsky Regiment, a member of the Stargorod Tashkent Council of Muslim Deputies. He took part in military operations on the Caspian coast.

In 1919-1920 S. Asfendiyarov - People's Commissar of Health, People's Commissar of Land and Water Resources of the Turkestan Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic.

S. Asfendiyarov's activity has always been associated with socio-economic and cultural changes in Kazakhstan and Central Asia. As a leading worker, he was well aware of the peculiarities of everyday life, questions of the history and culture of the Eastern peoples. In accordance with this, S. Asfendiyarov was the representative of the Turkestan Republic in Moscow from 1921 to 1922 and at the same time was a member of the board of the Council of People's Commissars of the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic on national issues, where he was included in the special commission of the All-Russian Central Executive Committee on the division of land as an experienced agrarian.

In 1922, being a delegate to the X All-Russian Congress of Soviets, S. Asfendiyarov supported the decision to form the USSR.

In 1923-1925 he was the head of the department of water management of the People's Commissariat of Agriculture of the TASSR, the executive secretary of the

Central Committee of the Communist Party of Turkestan, a member of the Central Asian Bureau of the Central Committee of the All-Union Communist Party of Bolsheviks, deputy secretary and member of the Presidium of the All-Russian Central Executive Committee.

While working in Moscow, another facet of S. Asfendiyarov's talent was revealed, his active scientific searches in the field of history determined the creative future of the scientist. From the very first days of his stay in Moscow, he collaborated with the Institute of Oriental Studies at the Central Executive Committee of the USSR, taught at Moscow State University. During these years, S. Asfendiyarov often met with representatives of the countries of the foreign East. Evidence of scientific merits is his appointment in 1927-1928 as the rector of the Moscow Institute of Oriental Studies named after N. Narimanov and conferring the title of professor at Moscow State University.

The most fruitful years of the scientist's life and work are the period from 1928 to 1937 in Kazakhstan. At this time, S. Asfendiyarov put a lot of effort into organizing science and the first educational institutions in the republic.

From 1928 to 1931 S. Asfendiyarov was the first rector and head of the department of history of the Kazakh Pedagogical Institute.

As the rector of the first university in the republic, he opened departments: general chemistry, biology, physics, anatomy, physiology of internal diseases, histology, microbiology, pharmacology, biological chemistry, hygiene and the department of surgery. He invested a lot of work and knowledge in the prevention of infectious diseases, in providing free medical care to the population of the republic, organized activities to combat common diseases among the population, such as tuberculosis, smallpox, plague, and skin diseases.

In 1931-1933 - People's Commissar of Health of the KASSR - Rector of the Almaty Medical Institute, which today bears his name.

In 1933-1934 - Deputy People's Commissar of Education of the KASSR - Head of the Department of Universities, Science and Libraries.

In 1934-1937 - head of the historical and archaeographic commission of the Kazakh branch of the USSR Academy of Sciences, deputy chairman of the Kazakh branch of the USSR Academy of Sciences, head of the history department of the Scientific Research Institute of National Culture under the Central Executive Committee of the Kazakh SSR, professor of the history department of the Kazakh Pedagogical Institute.

Knowledge of Russian, English, French and Arabic languages gave him the opportunity, using Russian and foreign literary sources, to analyze extensive historical material and prepare a number of scientific works. He was also involved in education and research in history. An analysis of scientific works written in the last period of his life, especially clearly indicates that S. Asfendiyarov had extensive knowledge, had a command of historical research methods. During these years he published generalizing works "History of Kazakhstan since ancient times", "The past of Kazakhstan in sources and materials", monograph "National liberation uprising of 1916 in Kazakhstan". He is the author of books "Essays on the History of Kazakhs" and "Tent of Peace".

State and public figure, organizer of science and teacher, S. Asfendiyarov in 1937 was illegally repressed. Considering the significant contribution of S. Asfendiyarov to state, scientific and social activities and to the development of education and health care in Kazakhstan, the Council of Ministers of the Kazakh SSR on January 11, 1989, adopted a Resolution on assigning his name to the Almaty State Medical Institute. His memory in Almaty is immortalized by the name of the street; a memorial plaque was installed on the building at 29 Tole bi street, where the scientist lived.

Source:

<http://www.tarih-begalinka.kz/ru/history/collectivization/figures/asfendiyarov>