

## **ISMAIL GASPRINSKY AND THE “TARJIMAN” NEWSPAPER**

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**Abstract:** *This article highlights the life of Ismoil G'aspirali, his enlightenment ideas, as well as the establishment and activity of the newspaper Tarjimon. The article analyzes the role of the Tarjimon newspaper in promoting education and enlightenment among Muslim peoples, awakening national consciousness, and spreading Jadid ideas. It also examines the newspaper's influence on the Jadid movement in Turkestan, the development of new-method schools, and its significance in the formation of the national press.*

**Keywords:** *Ismoil G'aspirali, Tarjiman newspaper, Jadidism, Usuli Jadid, Turkestan Jadids, national press, enlightenment, new-method schools.*

In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, significant changes took place in the lives of Muslim peoples. During this period, enlightened intellectuals sought to lead society toward science, knowledge, and progress. One of such great reformers was Ismail Gasprinski. He emphasized the importance of the press and education for the development of Muslim societies. In 1883, Gasprinski founded the newspaper Tarjiman. This newspaper played an important role in spreading ideas of enlightenment, unity, and progress among Muslim peoples. In particular, it had a strong influence on the Jadids of Turkestan and contributed to the formation of the national press and new-method schools.

Ismail Gasprali was born in 1851 in the village of Avjiko'y on the Crimean Peninsula. He was a representative of the Crimean Tatar people and showed a strong interest in science and education from an early age. After studying in a local school, Gasprali later continued his education in Russian military schools. Living in different cities and countries allowed him to become closely familiar with European culture, science, and political ideas. In particular, during his time in France, he observed the main factors of



European progress and came to the conclusion that Muslim peoples should also rely on modern education and enlightenment in order to develop.[1]

In the second half of the 19th century, Muslim peoples were economically and scientifically far behind European countries. Gasprali considered the main reasons for this to be the outdated education system, ignorance, and insufficient attention to science. Therefore, he put forward the idea of establishing new-method schools. These schools later became known as “Usuli Jadid.” The main goal of Usuli Jadid schools was to make children literate in a short period of time and to teach them, in addition to religious knowledge, subjects such as mathematics, geography, history, and natural sciences. Gasprali proposed the use of practical and clear teaching methods in the education system. He criticized the education system of old schools, which was based mainly on memorization, and emphasized the importance of encouraging students to think independently. Ismail Gasprali was not only an educator, but also a strong political and social figure. He paid special attention to the unity and cooperation of Muslim peoples. In his view, divided Muslim communities could not effectively resist colonial policies. Therefore, he supported the formation of a common literary language among Turkic peoples, strengthening mutual relations, and the development of the press.

Gasprali understood well that the press was a powerful tool for spreading his ideas among the people. Therefore, he attached great importance to journalistic activity. One of his greatest achievements was the establishment of the Tarjiman newspaper. Through this newspaper, he addressed millions of Muslims and called them toward enlightenment. Ismail Gasprali also paid serious attention to the issue of women's education. He emphasized that the progress of society also depended on women's literacy and upbringing. For this reason, he supported the opening of girls' schools and the involvement of women in education. These ideas were considered very progressive views in the Muslim society of that time. Gasprali's enlightenment activities also had a great influence in Turkestan. The Jadids of Turkestan were inspired by his ideas, opened new-method schools, and worked to develop the national press. Intellectuals such as Behbudiy, Avloniy, and Munavvarqori highly valued Gasprali's work and recognized him as a great enlightener of the Muslim world.



In 1883, Ismail Gasprali founded the Tarjiman newspaper in the city of Bakhchisaray. This newspaper marked the beginning of a new era for Muslim peoples within the Russian Empire, as modern press activity among Muslims had been very limited until that time. Tarjiman served not only as an informational newspaper but also as an educational and political platform. The main goal of the newspaper was to encourage Muslim peoples toward science and progress and to lead them out of ignorance and backwardness. Gasprali promoted the slogan “Unity in language, thought, and action,” calling all Turkic peoples to unity. He emphasized that linguistic unity was an important factor in the spiritual unity of a nation.[3]

In the Tarjiman newspaper, articles on education, politics, economics, history, culture, and international affairs were regularly published. The advantages of new-method schools were widely promoted in its pages. In addition, existing problems in Muslim society were openly discussed. Another important feature of the newspaper was that it kept Muslim peoples informed about world developments. At that time, many Muslim communities were not sufficiently aware of political and scientific changes in the outside world. Tarjiman helped broaden readers' worldview by covering international events and developments.

Tarjiman quickly spread across Crimea, Turkestan, the Caucasus, the Volga region, and other territories. It was read with great interest by intellectuals, teachers, and students. The newspaper became one of the most influential publications among Muslim peoples. Its pages also paid special attention to issues such as women's education, youth upbringing, and learning modern professions. Gasprali repeatedly emphasized that women's education was essential for the progress of society. At the same time, the Tarjiman newspaper also criticized certain negative aspects of colonial policy. This led the Tsarist authorities to treat the newspaper with caution. Although it sometimes faced pressure from censorship, the newspaper continued its activities.[5]

One of the greatest achievements of the Tarjiman newspaper was that it helped form a new generation of intellectually minded Muslim elites. Through the newspaper, Jadid ideas spread widely, and this movement later became one of the main factors of national awakening in Turkestan and other regions. Ismail Gasprali created the newspaper not only for his own time, but also as an important spiritual legacy for future generations. As



a result of Tarjiman's influence, many local newspapers emerged, and the national press of Muslim peoples took shape.

The Tarjiman newspaper played an extremely important role in the formation and development of the Jadid movement in Turkestan. In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, Turkestan was under the colonial rule of the Russian Empire, and the economic and cultural condition of the local population was gradually worsening.[2] Traditional old-method schools could no longer meet modern requirements, and illiteracy was widespread among the population. In such a situation, the Tarjiman newspaper became an important spiritual and educational source for the intellectuals of Turkestan.

The Jadids of Turkestan were greatly inspired by the articles and ideas of Ismail Gasprali. In particular, his views on new-method schools were widely supported in Turkestan. Mahmudxo'ja Behbudiy, Munavvarqori Abdurashidxonov, Abdulla Avloniy, and other Jadids used Gasprali's experience in establishing their own schools. Behbudiy regularly followed the Tarjiman newspaper and regarded it as one of the most useful publications for Muslim peoples. Through the newspaper, he sought to encourage interest in science among the people of Turkestan and to spread ideas of national awakening. Abdulla Avloniy also emphasized the importance of education and enlightenment in his works, continuing Gasprali's ideas.[4]

The Tarjiman newspaper also had a strong influence on the formation of the national press in Turkestan. In the early 20th century, newspapers such as "Taraqqiy", "Hurshid", "Sadoyi Turkiston", and "Samarqand" began to appear. These publications became the main platform of the Jadid movement, calling the people toward enlightenment, unity, and progress. The influence of the newspaper was not limited only to journalism. It also helped to change the worldview and political consciousness of the people. The Jadids explained the nature of colonial policy and encouraged the people to become aware of their rights and freedoms. They tried to explain that without science and modern education, a nation cannot achieve progress. The Tarjiman newspaper also had an influence on the issue of women's education in Turkestan. The Jadids made efforts to open girls' schools and aimed to see women as active members of society. This was a very significant innovation for that period.



At the same time, the activities of the Jadids were constantly monitored by the Tsarist authorities. Many newspapers were closed, and some Jadids were persecuted. However, despite all difficulties, the Jadid movement formed under the influence of the Tarjiman newspaper played an important role in the national awakening of the people of Turkestan. The Jadids of Turkestan recognized Ismail Gasprali as their mentor, because his ideas were a key factor in the spiritual awakening of the people and their entry onto the path of modern development.

In conclusion, Ismail Gasprali is considered a great enlightener, educator, and press figure who left a profound mark on the history of Muslim peoples. Throughout his activity, he called people toward science, progress, and unity. One of Gasprali's greatest contributions was the establishment of the Tarjiman newspaper. This newspaper served as an important platform for the widespread dissemination of enlightenment and Jadid ideas among Muslim peoples. Through the Tarjiman newspaper, Muslims became closely acquainted with modern science, politics, and culture. The newspaper expanded the worldview of the people and helped form a new generation of intellectually minded elites. In particular, the influence of Tarjiman in the development of the Jadid movement in Turkestan was extremely significant. Jadids such as Mahmudxo'ja Behbudiy, Munavvarqori Abdurashidxonov, and Abdulla Avloniy were inspired by Gasprali's ideas and developed new-method schools and the national press. They struggled to make the people literate, awaken national consciousness, and achieve modern progress. The activities of Ismail Gasprali and the Tarjiman newspaper are of great historical importance not only for their time but also for today. Their legacy is an inseparable part of the history of the national press, education, and enlightenment. The Jadid movement and the Tarjiman newspaper remain an important stage in the awakening and development of Muslim peoples. Even today, the name of Ismail Gasprali is mentioned with respect. His ideas about enlightenment, unity, and progress inspire the younger generation to serve science and the development of the homeland. Therefore, studying Gasprali's legacy and the activities of the Tarjiman newspaper is of great historical and spiritual importance.



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