INTRODUCTION

The peasants are numerically the most predominant section of the world's working population and land is the basic source of livelihood. Agrarian structure of an area is always intimately related to the level and stage of development of a given society. Any change in it produces corresponding alterations in other structural variables of the society. The different forms of ownership of land and that of other means of production represent various stages of the development process of human society. In fact, the study of human history is essentially, "a representation in chronological order of successive changes in the means and relations of production." 1

The present study is proposed to be based on the assumption that the mode of production is one of the 'prime movers' of history. Before making any history, man must have obviously been eating, drinking and clothing himself. This simple daily routine in itself is an important historical act which as Marx says "is a fundamental condition of all history which today as thousand of years ago must daily and hourly be fulfilled merely in order to sustain human life." 2 Therefore, the production process, related to the means of existence;

exerts significant influence upon all other human activities and, to a large extent, conditions their social, political, cultural and spiritual aspects as a whole. It is in this sense that the production of material conditions is "the origin of history". Marx further adds that "the final product of the social process of production is always the society itself i.e., man himself in (all) his social relations ... the direct process of production as such appears only as one factor". In other words, the production of the means of existence is simultaneously the production of the human history in all its variations. The two processes are thus, interlinked. For any meaningful research and in any theoretical and socio-philosophical analysis of the historical process the need to identify the mechanism and the determining factors is thus, of methodological importance. Keeping in view the totality of socio-economic set up, it is important to focus upon various aspects of structural transformation in a historical perspective in order to comprehend the dynamics of development. The change in an economy from 'feudal' to 'capitalist' or 'semi-capitalist' or to 'colonial' and ultimately to the socialist stage of development represents important stages of structural transformation.

Agriculture and agrarian relations have always played a vital role in the development of a society. Agrarian structure in essence comprises four basic elements - the land, the producers, methods and technology used for farming and the appropriation of the production. The class society came into being with the question of the ownership of land. The status of the producers, level of technology and methods of distribution led to various other formations of the class society.

Agriculture acquired crucial importance under feudal system of economy. The agrarian structure in a feudal society is characterised by the poor agricultural performance resulting from low level of technology; and with serf-landlord relations of production. The agricultural activity at this stage is mainly carried out at subsistence level to meet the immediate needs of the peasant households or of the village community and rarely for a wider market. However, some surplus generated by the peasants is taken away through legalised and institutionalised way by the ruling class consisting mainly of the landlords. The coercive forces, operating through military and social customs and backed up by the forces of social conventions and judicial laws, are used for this purpose. This is how the non-productive sections of the society are maintained and
sustained under the system. However, there is no universally applicable definition of feudalism as it was not a world-wide uniform system. Apart from underlying similarities with regard to agricultural performance and production relations, feudalism became more of a time as well as region specific phenomenon. Although in the writings of Karl Marx, feudalism unlike capitalism is not viewed as a world system or a universal phenomenon but there is a little doubt that historical research over the years has showed it to be a wide spread social formation, notwithstanding the considerable variations in its precise forms in different countries.

The essential cause of breakdown of this system was over exploitation of peasants that led to their mass desertion of the lord's estates. Those who stayed back were too few and too overworked to enable the system to sustain itself. Thus, the internal contradictions leading to the


elements of instability and general inefficiency of the system along with the ever increasing needs of the ruling class led to its decline. The growth of trade and of market towns also contributed towards accelerating the process of disintegration of this mode of production.

The decline of the feudal mode of production led to an increase in the proportion of peasants producing for market by regularly hiring agricultural labour. This resulted in the emergence of capitalistic relations of production. Under this system "agriculture is transformed from the privileged occupation of the top estate or the duty of the bottom estate into an ordinary commercial and industrial occupation." However, "the capitalist system never existed without colonialism and/or imperialism". With the maturing of capitalism, need was felt to exploit new regions situated outside the country. In the process, capitalism through commerce and force created developed metropole with underdeveloped periphery.

Although, the economic forces play an important role in bringing basic alterations in the social and cultural

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milieu of a society, yet, the process of economic change itself can be greatly influenced by making important changes in the super-structure at certain critical points in a desired direction. Generally, at the early stage, the guidance comes from the political super-structure namely the state. Therefore, at least at the early stage, there is primacy of the political over the economic forces. This explains the dynamic relationship that exists between the super-structure and the 'base'. The problems of agrarian structure or of the 'base' are too complex to be comprehended in terms of economy alone. This requires an analysis of the economic basis in relation to the super-structure and not in isolation.

At crucial stages governments have used the instrument of 'land reforms' to affect the agrarian 'base'. Agrarian reconstruction besides its economic advantages brings out fundamental structural changes in a society as a whole. Therefore, "the land reforms have their significance in the national plan not only as a precondition for raising productivity in agriculture but primarily as a mean of shattering the foundations of the old class structure of a stagnating society."11 Developed agriculture provides

resources for urban industrial development and creates a more stable economic and political atmosphere. This leads society towards the process of modernization.

The term 'modernization' in the present study means the complex process of economic, socio-cultural and psychological changes which began in the western society in the late 18th century. "The primary effects of modernization are reflected in such tangible changes as economic development, industrialization, urbanization, lower level of fertility and mortality, higher level of education, a redefinition of the status of women and also a number of other subtle and difficult to define changes involving personal aspirations values and attitudes." Modernization is actually a composite and ideological concept. The models of modernization can vary with the choice of ideologies or development models. But in general, it can be equated with concepts like 'development', 'growth', 'evolution' and 'progress' etc. This gives the concept an operational, universal and scientific character. The magnitude of which can empirically be tested.


Most of the above mentioned developmental processes occurred in the Russian territories. The Central Asian region which was conquered by the Russians during the second half of the 19th century, played the role of underdeveloped periphery for the more developed Central Russian region under its capitalist developments till the Revolution.  

A new socialist system of production was experimented for the first time in Russia after the Bolshevik Revolution in 1917. The private ownership of land and other means of production was replaced by the ownership of state and that of the collectives under the new system. The agricultural activity was organised on a large scale social production basis through cooperative associations of the collective farms. The Tsarist policy of colonial exploitation gave way to the Soviet policy of equal economic development of all its nationalities and regions in the Central Asia as well.

The Soviet Central Asian region, with its traditional feudal and patriarchal tribal agrarian base, needed fundamental agrarian reforms to transfer it into modern socialist industrial economy.  


15. Pastoral economy also played an important role in the region.
had area specific problems which were different from the general problems of the country as a whole. Under the Russian capitalist developments, these areas were systematically kept underdeveloped and in many cases their under-development was caused by the colonization. Therefore, the problems of the under-developed peripheries were bound to be different from those of the developed metropoles.

One of the basic purposes of the present study is to comprehend and analyse the processes and patterns of modernization in Tajikistan. These emerged as an outcome of the changes introduced in its basic agrarian structure; whereby, Central Asia by by-passing the capitalist mode of production reached the socialist stage directly from the tribal - patriarchal and feudal relations of production.

Tajikistan is one of the four Central Asian republics of USSR situated in its extreme south.\footnote{The other three republics are: Uzbekistan, Kirgizia and Turkmenia. Though the fifth republic Kazakhstan adjacent to the Central Asian region has many geographical, ethnical and cultural similarities with these four republics but different developmental processes of Kazakhstan generally separated it from the other four republics.} The political, economic and socio-cultural processes have been similar in all the four Central Asian Republics of the Soviet Union in the present century. Even before the revolution, a largely
MAP-1: SOVIET CENTRAL ASIA
homogenous socio-economic structure prevailed in these republics. The economic structure was marked by backward tribal and feudal system with agriculture and livestock rearing being the main occupations of the people. The coming in of the Russians in the 19th century brought colonial-capitalist transformation of the native society. Massive development of cotton cultivation as a cash crop, whereby, land under food crop was rapidly diverted to cotton cultivation, was the chief reflection of this structural change. Monetisation of the indigenous economy, the growth of tenancy and incorporation of property rights into land relations were other important changes. The changes were of the semi-capitalist nature. The full growth of capitalism in the region was hindered by all the colonial ethos brought by the Russians. The Russians under the Tsarist regime used its economy for their own capitalist expansion. Along with semi-capitalist developments old feudal patriarchal structures also continued. The socio-cultural set up remained largely static. Most of the population was illiterate living in backward, feudal, patriarchal-tribal and colonial social set up.

After the revolution, the Soviet regime followed altogether a new path of economic development. Following the socialist path of development within a period of fifty years, the Central Asian society got transformed from a backward
tribal-feudal set up into a modern society. An analysis of
the dynamics of this change is the basic concern of the study.
Only one republic i.e. Tajikistan has been chosen as the
locale of investigation because of the relative lack of
research so far carried out on this republic outside the
Soviet Union. Tajikistan has been chosen due to some of its
unique geographical, historical and cultural features; which
bring the process of socio-political and economic development
into sharper focus. Tajikistan has relatively older and more
advanced sedentary farming tradition and feudal cultural set up
compared to the other republics of the region.

Before the revolution Tajiks had no sense of a separate
national consciousness. The present day Tajikistan then
formed a part of the Bukhara Khanate and Turkestan oblast of
the Tsarist regime. The process of its political consolidation
took nearly ten years after the revolution. Tajikistan
finally came into its present form of a full fledged union
republic of the Soviet Union in December 1929. Since 1930,
Tajikistan has not looked back and followed a path of speedy
transformation.

17. Tajiks are the most predominant ethnic group of the
republic.
The Geographical Setting:

The Tajik Soviet Socialist Republic is one of the smallest republics of USSR. It is situated on the southeasterh border of the country. Uzbekistan and Kirghizia, two other Soviet Central Asian republics, are on its western and north-eastern sides respectively. It touches international boundaries on the southern and eastern sides. Afghanistan is situated to its south and China on the eastern side. This proximity to the international border gives the republic a special strategic significance.

Tajikistan covers an area of over 143,000 sq. kms. Inspite of its small size, the republic is full of amazing geographical diversities. A large variety of landscape is presented by desert, steppe, sub-alpine meadows, inaccessible peaks with eternal snow etc. The mountains dominate the region covering nearly ninety three per cent of the territory. It is only 10,000 sq. kms. area accounting for nearly 6.6 per cent of the total land that constitute low lying valleys. Some highest mountains of the world such as Tien-Shan, Pamir, Hindukush and their associated ranges converge on the republic. The

Panir mountains called the roof of the world make an imposing physiographic feature in its eastern part. The two high peaks of the ranges - 'the Communism' and 'the Lenin' are the highest mountains peaks of USSR having altitude of 7495 meters and 7134 meters respectively.

Aridity and extreme temperature are the most important climatic features of Tajikistan. Due to great distance from sea the climate is marked with continentality having baking hot summer and Siberian like frost in some parts during winter. The republic has a good number of sunny days in a year. The region receives annual precipitation of less than 20 cm mostly occurring during winter in the form of snow and summer remaining largely dry.

The flora of the region is very diverse. Many kinds of wild and cultivated plants are found. Nearly 5,000 northern subtropical and arctic varieties can be seen because of the abundance of sunlight. Poets call it "the land of foot of the sun".

Water in Soviet Central Asia has always been an important factor. It is said that history of Central Asia "flows out of the struggle for water". In Tajikistan although there is no paucity of water as such but often it flows in those parts where it is not needed. The taming of natural drainage, therefore, is the main task in the region.
TAJIKISTAN
NATURAL REGIONS

REGIONS
I South Western Tyan Shan
II Western Fargana Valley
III Central Gissar-Alai Mountains
IV South Western South Tajik Depression
V North Eastern South Tajik Depression
VI Pamir
   a High Mountainous North Western Pamir
   b Western Pamir Mountains
   c Mountains and Plateau of Eastern Pamir

1 PEAK LENIN [7134-M.]
2 PEAK COMMUNISM [7495-M.]
The main rivers of Tajikistan are fed by the glaciers of Pamirs which number over thousand. Some of the glaciers like Fedchenko are counted among the largest mountain (71-77 kms) glaciers of the world. The main river in this part is Amu-Darya. It acquires its name after the confluence of the Vaksh and the Pyandj rivers. Vaksh itself in turn is formed by the confluence of Khingou and Surkhab rivers. Zeravshan and Sokh are other smaller rivers. Syr-Darya, the longest river of Central Asia also flows over the territories of Tajikistan and covers a distance of 195 kms.\textsuperscript{20}

There are a few lakes in the region; largest among these are Karakul, Yashilkul and Iskanderkul. Karakul covers an area of 380 sq. kms. These are situated mainly in the Pamirs and the Alai mountains of the Central part of Tajikistan.

The availability of water makes the region agriculturally rich. Cotton occupies special place in the cropping pattern. Grain, fruit and vegetable crops are also raised. The pastures are available in all seasons of the year which enable extensive distant pasture cattle raising. Cattle graze in the desert zone during winter and early spring and later herds are driven to steppe, sub-Alpine and Alpine pastures which provide good grazing in summer.

\textsuperscript{20} Ibid., pp. 29-31.
The republic is specially rich in mineral-water springs and this water is partly used for medical purposes. Minerals like natural oil, zinc, lead, tungsten, bismuth, arsenic, tin, antimony and mercury have been found in the region. Coal reserves are estimated at 1,800 million tons. Hills around Kulyjab contain large reserves of rock salt which is an important input in chemical industry.

The people of the republic belong mainly to the Tajik national group of Iranian race. Most of the other ethnic groups found in Soviet Central Asia have Turko-Mongoloid origin. The mountain Tajiks of Pamir like Iagnob, Iazgulem, Rushan, Shugnan, Vakhem and Vanch clans represent an almost pure ancient Iranian stock.\textsuperscript{21} They lived in near isolation throughout the history and had very little chance to mix up with other racial groups. Many scholars believe them to be the descendents of the original Aryan race.\textsuperscript{22} The term 'Iran' is said to be derived from aryana (the country) of

\begin{itemize}
\item \textsuperscript{21} L. Krader, People of Central Asia, (Indiana University Publication, USA, 1966), p. 57.
\item \textsuperscript{22} Though many modern researchers refuse to apply the term 'Aryan' to any racial group. They apply the term to a linguistic group, with no reference to ethnic unity. See, G. Child, The Original Home of the Aryans.
\end{itemize}
the Aryans. The formation of the Tajik national group began in the 5th and 6th century and was completed under the Samanids in the 10th century and their language, Dari, also took shape at that time. Today, most Tajiks are Sunni Muslims but some pre-Islamic beliefs such as worship of natural forces, continue to survive in their religion. Traces of fire worship can also be seen among their social traditions. The Pamir Tajiks are Ismailites, the followers of Agakhan.

At present about 60 per cent population of the republic is Tajik with a total strength of 2,237,000 persons in 1979. Tajiks in all accounted for 1.1 per cent of the total population of the Soviet Union in 1979, numbering 2,897,697. There are very few Tajiks who live outside Tajikstan. The second most important national group of the republic is formed by Uzbek, accounting for about 23 per cent of the total population. They are also Sunni Muslims. Relation between these two groups is generally hostile. Uzbek who ruled the Tajiks for a long time before the revolution, treated them with cruelty and contempt. Other minor ethnic groups of the republic are Kirgiz, Turkmen and Russians.

The region saw endless wars and conquests by different foreign conquerers from 13th to 19th century. This kept the

settlements in a state of poverty and held up the region's economic and cultural development till the Soviet period of its history.

**Literature Survey:**

Before making an attempt to understand and comprehend the changes which led to agrarian transformation and modernization in Tajikistan, it is important to look at the studies already conducted on this area with similar or allied objectives. Existing literature on the area in English language is very scanty.

There are some general studies on Soviet Central Asia presenting only limited details on Tajikistan. Moreover, most of these studies do not deal directly with the process of socio-economic development operating in Soviet Central Asia. The specific studies on Central Asia generally deal either with the problem of nationality policy of the Soviet Union or with aspects related to ethnic, cultural and religious variations. These, of course, are important aspects of Soviet Central Asian reality but it is difficult to understand and appreciate them without highlighting the various economic dimensions which provide the basic structure. Detailed history of agricultural economy of USSR has been written by many Sovietologists. Important among them include L. Volin, E. Strauss,
Maynard and S.P. Trapeznikov. Volin gives extensive statistical details of changing agricultural mosaic over hundred years augmenting the account with his views on the peasant life. E. Strauss's book has also been written with a historical perspective and is supported with well organised statistical tables. A comparatively recent work by Soviet scholar S.P. Trapeznikov (translated in English) examines the theoretical basis of agrarian relations from prerevolutionary period to the present day. This detailed study of the Soviet agrarian structure has been published in two volumes. But, as stated earlier the agrarian structure of Central Asia in general and of Tajikistan in particular faces region specific problems due to the backward and colonial background. These related questions have not been properly dealt with in any of the above mentioned works.

The studies done exclusively on Central Asia are by Col. Wheeler and Devender Kaushik. These works are on the


general history of Central Asia and fulfil the need for a good history text book on the region. More specific studies on the area are by Pierce (1960), Conquest (1967), Park (1957), Pipes (1964), Allowarth (1967) and Vaidyanath (1967). They deal mainly with the political aspects or the nationality question of the Central Asian republics. The socio-economic structure of the region has generally been neglected in these studies.

Two important studies on the economic structure were published in 1967. One by V. Conolly and the other by Alec Nove and Newth. Conolly highlights the impact of Soviet economic policies in region strictly in an economic context. The socio-cultural significance of these policies has not been discussed. More pertinent economic questions such as whether the economic and political relation of these republics with the central part of the country were colonial/neo colonial in nature or not have been discussed by Alec Nove and Newth. The role of immigrants in the progress and transformation of the area has also been scrutinised by

26. For complete reference see bibliography.
the two writers. The authors of the book have effectively brought out the role that politics played in bringing out the basic economic change in the region. A more comprehensive study taking into account the socio-economic and political dimensions of the changes in Soviet-Central Asia after the revolution has been conducted by R.R. Sharma.28 The intrinsic relationship of the Soviet nationality policy with the policy of regional economic development and the structural changes brought about in the process have been closely examined. The author has very rightly taken the agrarian transformation to be the focal point of his analysis because the socio-economic structure of the region was basically rural and even after the economic transformation it continues to be, so more particularly in Tajikistan. A recent work by a Soviet economic historian, B. Tulepbayer on agrarian reforms in Central Asia is another important study in the area.

Coming to the works done exclusively on Tajikistan, one may begin by mentioning that works in English language

on this region are very few. Most of the books published by the Soviet press in English language on Tajikistan are of only elementary informative value. Very little has been published by non-Soviet English press on Tajikistan. Among the very few works, one may make a mention of Teresa's work on Tajikistan. She has done a comprehensive study of the post-revolutionary Tajikistan taking into account all its important socio-economic, political and cultural components. She concludes that in a relatively short period of Soviet rule far reaching changes have been brought in Tajikistan transforming it from a feudal backward society into a new modernized Soviet society. She maintains, "Tajikistan became a part of the general dynamics of Soviet political and economic transformation even if, as in the rest of Soviet Central Asia the development indices lagged behind those of European Russia".

For Soviet scholars Tajikistan became an object of serious scientific study only after the establishment of the Soviet government. Two important expeditions 'Tajik-Pamir' and 'Tajik-complex' in 1928 and 1932 respectively.

30. Ibid.
headed by D.I. Scherbakov and N.B. Gorbunov published material on Flora-fauna power resources, pasture lands, fuel potential and the soil and mineral resources of Tajikistan. This first scientific work on the area was an attempt for resource appraisal for development. Subsequently, some important studies were conducted on the history of the region upto the revolution. Sadriddin Aini the founder of the Soviet Tajik literature and history wrote the history of the Bukharan revolution in Tajik language (later translated in Russian). V.V. Berthod in 1925 wrote ethnic history of the Tajik people. G. Gofurov and Iskandarov, two important Tajik historians of the medieval history of Tajikistan wrote about the conditions of the people of this region from the second half of the 18th century upto the beginning of the 20th century. A comprehensive and systematic review of the


32. V.V. Barthold, Tajiki (The Tajiks), 1925.

Civil war period is conducted in the work of Irkayev V. Most of these writings deal with the political and socio-cultural history whereas many problems related to the economic structure remained uninvestigated.

On the post-revolutionary period, a number of important books and other writings on the agrarian reconstruction specially on collectivisation, industrial advancement and building up of the working class in the republic and cultural transformation therein, have appeared in Russian language.

34. M.I. Irkayev, Istoria Grazdanckaya Vaina v. Tajikistane, (History of the civil war in Tajikistan), Dushanbe, 1965. Soviet historians of the civil war period emphasize the counter revolutionary essence of the 'Bashnachi movement' (counter revolutionaries of the area) its social basis and relations with the interventionist imperialist powers and the decisiveness of the old exten by the Russians and Soviet gov't in general to the people of Tajikistan during this period.

But most of the works of the early period were of statistical nature limited to a general collection of various documents. Therefore, many of these are obviously sketchy.

A detailed summarizing work with a Marxist presentation of history of Tajikistan has been compiled in the three volumes (5 books) collective treatise.\(^{36}\) The volume three published in two parts discuss the history of Tajikistan during Soviet period upto the early 60s. "The book reflects the state of historiography of Soviet Tajikistan with (all) its success, problems and shortcoming".\(^{37}\) The book serves as a text book for college and university students.

The above review of existing literature brings out the need to undertake an indepth study highlighting the reconstruction of the agrarian structure which resulted in transforming the Tajik society as a whole. This should include more recent data at micro level with an emphasis to study socio-economic and cultural variations within the republic and its rating at the all union level. The present study is an endeavour in this direction.

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The Objectives and Hypotheses:

It is a difficult endeavour to formulate a general and universally valid theory of economic development and of cultural change. However, an attempt can be made to meet limited objective of concentrating on more specific situations whose empirical study may help in evolving such a theoretical framework which may be replicated in similar other situations after appropriate modifications.

Reforms introduced in any given region need to be in consonance with the specific problems presented by its socio-economic and political set up. The purpose of the present study is to comprehend the mutual dependence that exists between the changes in economic activity and organization on the one hand and those in the social structure on the other. This aspect of economic development is linked with the process where the value of a traditional non-industrial culture sustaining the old socio-economic structure is modified in order to suit the new system in which primary emphasis is placed on collective orientation, universalism, functional specificity and achievements in terms of set economic goals. Such a comprehensive growth model involves not merely reshaping the 'economic order' but also the restructuring of social relations.
Keeping the above in mind, the researcher has tried to answer some important questions in this direction in the present study. These include as to:

i) How was the gap between the formerly exploiting Central Russia and the exploited peripheral region of Central Asia bridged?

ii) What were the specific directions evolved in order to overcome and minimise resistance from the beneficiaries of the old system and to maximise the incentives for the planned change?

iii) How did the development strategies, beside making important economic adjustments, channelise associated socio-cultural change in Tajikistan?

iv) What were the specific forms, methods, difficulties and issues involved in the process of socialistic transformation of economy and society of the republic?

v) And finally, what are the specificities and characteristics of the present day agriculture and social structure in Tajikistan?

The researcher has tried to answer the above-mentioned important questions by testing the following hypotheses:
That the development strategy based on the integrated view of society is able to provide stimulus to alter the overall socio-economic and cultural pattern of society.

That more is radical and revolutionary change in landman relation in terms of its ownership more will be alterations in socio-economic structure of agricultural societies.

That deliberate changes in the superstructure from above may accelerate the process of basic transformation.

That the orientation of the Soviet policy towards Central Asian agriculture was not different from the Soviet strategy implemented elsewhere.

That the advancement of the peripheral regions in the beginning is not possible without the concerted efforts of the core regions.

That more the acceptance of new ideas and scientific world outlook in a society the less will be the influence superstition and religion. And it ensures enhanced social activities and better participation of women in all social activities.

Sources and Methodology:
In preparing this work, the researcher has gone through the available published material both in English and Russian
language published in the western countries as well as in the Soviet Union. The relevant works of Marx-Engles and Lenin and the proceedings of the CPSU Congresses have been consulted in order to comprehend the theoretical and political guidelines of the various development plans. Soviet newspapers and journals in general and Tajik newspapers and other contemporary publications in particular have been consulted. The state documents such as the statistical Annuals of the National Economy of USSR and Tajikistan have been extensively used. Special statistical volumes of Tajikistan have been gone through to collect data and information on education, various branches of its economy, structure of working class, working of the communist party of Tajikistan, culture and status of women etc.

The researcher undertook a trip to USSR for six months for the first hand information and the consultation of the primary source material. The author mainly stayed in Tajikistan and beside going to Moscow, some cities of Uzbekistan were also visited. During the stay in USSR, the author acquainted herself with the bulk of the published material on Tajikistan. Many of the publications cannot be classified as 'primary source' and had limited utility for this study. To overcome some of these deficiencies, extensive use was made of published statistical data and the back
numbers of various Tajik newspapers and their Press bulletins. Extensive use of archival sources could not be made due to paucity of time and other constraints but a number of studies of Soviet scholars based on these were consulted. The author familiarised herself with the functioning of the various socio-economic, cultural and political institutions of the republic. Apart from this, a large number of local people and officials were informally interviewed.

Generally, historico-analytical methods has been adopted in the present analysis. Statistical tables related to agrarian structure before the revolution and changes in it subsequent to major agrarian reforms have been prepared and interpreted. An attempt has been made to analyse important formulations of modernisation of the Tajik society on the basis of empirical observations. The study also endeavours to draw inferences from the time-series data.

Organisation of the Material

First of all there is a need to state clearly the purpose, objectives and scope of a study and present a survey of the works done previously with similar objectives. It should form an important starting point of any research. The introduction of the present work covers these aspects along with a general introduction of the study area.
It is essential to comprehend previously prevalent situation in order to understand any change in a given area. Therefore, an attempt has been made in the first chapter to analyse the socio-economic and political structure of Tajikistan as prevalent in pre-revolution days.

The traditional structure underwent significant change after the revolution. The process of change started immediately after the revolution. It did not emerge from within the society but was brought from outside by the Soviet government after the Bolshevik seizure of power.

Before examining the actual changes that occurred, it is essential to understand the ideological basis of the Soviet model of socio-economic transformation. Therefore, the theoretical basis of the approach adopted to develop then economically backward Tajiks forms the central theme of the second chapter.

The actual processes of agrarian transformation have been discussed and analysed in the third chapter. As no major structural changes in the agrarian sector took place before 1930, therefore, only a general review of these institutional changes has been done. More emphasis has been given to the impact of these changes and subsequent agrarian development in the Republic.
Along with agriculture, the republic witnessed an impressive industrial growth. The fourth chapter centers around the relationship that existed between the agrarian reconstruction and industrial growth in Tajikistan.

The economic reconstruction - agrarian or industrial - cannot be delinked from the political structure of the region. The main focus of the fifth chapter, therefore, is on the political and administrative structure along with the patterns of political participation and democratization of the previously patriarchal-tribal and feudal polity of the republic.

As the agrarian structure formed the core of the rural social structure of the native society, its reconstruction was bound to produce corresponding changes in the socio-cultural milieu of the society. The impact of the agrarian transformation on the overall socio-cultural set-up of the Tajik society has been analysed in the last chapter.

Finally, a summary of the main conclusions has been presented.