

STATESMAN OF A NEW TYPE (1979 — 1991)

In December 1979, Nursultan Nazarbayev was elected the secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Kazakhstan on industrial issues, thus becoming the youngest in the administration of this Soviet Republic. In March 1984, he was appointed the Chairman of the Council of Ministries of the Kazakh SSR.

During this period, Nazarbayev decided to share his thoughts about changes around him with a broad public audience by publishing a series of books. In his books he discussed achievements and problems in the economic development of Kazakhstan. His first book “*The Most Important Condition of Intensification*” was published in 1983, “*The Steel Profile of Kazakhstan*” — in 1985 and “*The Economy of Kazakhstan: Reality and Perspectives of Formation*” — in 1988.

Nazarbayev displayed the ability to go against the obsolete and stagnant rules and concepts. In 1986, at the XVI congress of the Communist Party of Kazakhstan he broke the decades-long tradition and criticised demerits of the Party leadership in the Republic.



Delegates of the XXVI Congress of the CPSU

The delegate of the XXVI Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (1981). At this Congress the future Kazakh leader Nursultan Nazarbayev was elected as a member of the Central Revision Commission of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU) — an institution in charge of auditing the financial activities of the Party authorities. At the next XXVII Congress of CPSU (1986) he was elected as a member of the Central Committee of CPSU, in 1990 at the XXVIII and at the last Congress of CPSU — he was elected a member of the Politbureau of the Central Committee of the CPSU.



Delegates of the XV Congress of the Communist Party of Kazakhstan

The XV Congress of the Communist Party of Kazakhstan took place on 4–6 February 1981 in Alma–Ata. The main focus of the Congress was the reports on the results of the 10th (1976–1980) five-year plan implementation and plans on economic development of the republic for the 11th five-year plan (1981–1985). For the first time Nazarbayev took part in the Congress, as one of the top republic officials (he was elected as the Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Kazakhstan and the Chairman of the Council of Ministers).

The Chairman of the Council of Ministers Nazarbayev delivered a speech on economic development of the Kazakh SSR. In his report, among other things, he criticized the existing shortcomings including the personnel policy.

This speech signified an important and crucial feature of a statesman — the ability to go against existing stereotypes and ineffective methods of governance.



Reception of the delegation from India, 1984

Under the Soviet system Kazakhstan was formally a sovereign state, and the Kazakh SSR had its own Ministry of Foreign Affairs. From time to time, the republic hosted official delegations from foreign countries. The purpose of all international relations of the Kazakh SSR was to demonstrate to foreigners a model for the Oriental way of “transition from feudalism to socialism avoiding capitalism.”

In 1984, Nursultan Nazarbayev, then the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Kazakh SSR, received a delegation from India.



First Congress of People's Deputies of the USSR, Moscow, 25 May 1989

The first Congress of People's Deputies of the USSR took place in May 1989. In the course of unusual public discussions, the country learned about the new generation of political leaders, such as Andrei Sakharov, Boris Yeltsin, and the head of the Kazakh government Nursultan Nazarbayev. Nazarbayev clearly articulated the most important issues for Kazakhstan and for the Soviet Union — the revival of the republic's sovereignty within the Soviet Union, the closure of the Semipalatinsk nuclear testing area, economic inefficiencies including the dictatorship of the various ministries, and a lack of proper economic independence of enterprises. The leader of Kazakhstan offered a new vision for political and economic changes in the Soviet Union.

His speech at the first Congress of People's Deputies of the USSR attracted much attention and support from various groups within the USSR.

In June 1989, he was elected as the First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Kazakhstan.

On 24 April 1990, at the first session of the 12th Supreme Council of the Kazakh SSR, Nursultan Nazarbayev was elected the President of the Kazakh SSR.

Source: NURSULTAN NAZARBAYEV: Founder of the Independent state (the Chronicles of a Leader) published in Almaty "Rarity" in 2010, pages 41 – 47

Data was given from the Institute of State History, Committee of Science of The Ministry of Education and Science