



THE HISTORY OF NAMANGAN RADIO: FORMATION, DEVELOPMENT, AND SOCIO-POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE (A CASE STUDY OF THE FERGANA VALLEY)

Karimova Dildora Sadriddinovna

Namangan Academic Lyceum of the Ministry of Internal Affairs

Senior Teacher of History

Email: karimovadildora975@gmail.com

<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.17348900>

ARTICLE INFO

Received: 11th October 2025

Accepted: 13th October 2025

Online: 14th October 2025

KEYWORDS

Namangan Radio, Fergana Valley, broadcasting history, archival sources, Soviet period, independence, digital transformation, mass media, socio-political communication

ABSTRACT

This paper examines the historical evolution of radio broadcasting in the Fergana Valley, with a particular focus on the Namangan Radio Station as one of Uzbekistan's earliest regional broadcasting centers. Based on archival documents and local sources, the study explores the stages of Namangan Radio's formation, development, and socio-political role from its establishment in 1932 to the present day. The research highlights the key phases of progress—beginning with the first local radio transmissions in the early Soviet era, the expansion of regional broadcasting committees, the radio's contribution during World War II, and its modernization in the independence period. The analysis demonstrates that Namangan Radio played an integral role in shaping public consciousness, disseminating cultural values, and promoting socio-political cohesion across the Fergana Valley.

Introduction

Radio broadcasting has historically served as one of the most influential tools of mass communication in the 20th century. In Uzbekistan, radio not only acted as a channel for disseminating state policies but also became a platform for cultural dialogue and social mobilization. The Fergana Valley, with its high population density and cultural vibrancy, represents a unique case for studying the evolution of local media.

Among the valley's regional broadcasters, **Namangan Radio**, established in **1932**, stands out as an important milestone in the history of Uzbek radio journalism. Its creation marked the beginning of a new stage in local communication and reflected the Soviet Union's broader "radiofication" policy aimed at linking peripheral regions with central ideological narratives. Yet, Namangan Radio simultaneously developed a distinct regional identity—bridging the voices of workers, farmers, intellectuals, and artists of the valley.

This study seeks to trace the trajectory of Namangan Radio's institutional development and analyze its socio-political and cultural significance through archival evidence. It also discusses the transformations brought by technological modernization and the shift toward digital broadcasting in the post-independence era.

Materials and Methods

The research is based on the analysis of **archival manuscripts** preserved in Namangan regional repositories, including the first radio broadcast script dated **May 1, 1932**, and other documents from the Namangan Radio Committee.

Methods employed include:

- **Historical-comparative analysis**, tracing institutional continuity and changes in broadcasting content;
- **Content analysis** of early radio scripts and postwar programming;
- **Sociocultural interpretation** of the radio's influence on community life;
- **Chronological systematization** of Namangan Radio's developmental phases.

Archival materials reveal that the first transmission opened with the phrase:

"Attention, attention! Speaking from Namangan! Assalomu alaykum, dear radio listeners."

This bilingual (Uzbek–Russian) greeting symbolizes both inclusivity and Soviet multilingual propaganda strategy. The archival evidence also demonstrates that the first broadcast commemorated the International Workers' Day, embedding ideological connotations from its inception.

Results and Discussion

1. Formation and Early Development (1930s–1950s)

Namangan Radio began as a relay station connected to the Tashkent central transmitter. By **1941**, it had grown into an independent **Regional Radio Committee** under the Namangan Executive Committee. During World War II, the radio became the main source of wartime news and patriotic mobilization for the local population. Broadcasts conveyed front-line updates, heroic stories, and appeals to contribute to the socialist economy.

Post-war years saw modernization of technical facilities and expansion of program content. By the mid-1950s, Namangan Radio launched daily news bulletins, agricultural programs, and cultural shows, reflecting both Soviet ideological priorities and local realities.

2. The Soviet Maturity Phase (1960s–1980s)

Between the 1960s and 1980s, Namangan Radio emerged as a vital cultural and informational hub of the Fergana Valley. Radio programs featured not only political commentary but also poetry readings, folk music, and live interviews with local industrial and agricultural leaders. Archival documents indicate that many local factories and collective farms used the radio to announce production achievements—often exceeding plan indicators by 101–105%. These "radio reports" served as instruments of socialist competition.

In **1986**, a new "Radio House" was built in Namangan, improving studio quality and transmission coverage. The following year (**1987**), Namangan Radio successfully conducted the USSR's first interregional "radio bridge" connecting **Ivanovo (Russia), Osh (Kyrgyzstan), and Khujand (Tajikistan)**—demonstrating technological and creative innovation at the regional level.

3. Transition and Modernization after Independence (1991–present)

After Uzbekistan's independence, Namangan Radio became part of the **Namangan Regional Television and Radio Company**. The 1990s marked a transformation from a centrally planned propaganda medium into a local public information platform.

In **2004**, the “**Oltin Zamin**” (**Golden Land**) FM channel was launched on **103.6 MHz**, expanding to 17 hours of daily broadcasting and introducing entertainment and public service programs. By **2015**, Namangan Radio adopted **digital transmission technologies**, integrating Internet and social media platforms to reach younger audiences.

Despite these advances, challenges remain—such as digital archiving of old magnetic recordings, attracting youth audiences, and ensuring sustainable funding through local advertising and sponsorship. Nevertheless, the radio continues to function as an important instrument of regional communication, cultural preservation, and civic dialogue.

Conclusion

The history of Namangan Radio mirrors the broader evolution of media in Uzbekistan—from Soviet-era ideological broadcasting to the pluralistic and digital communication environment of the 21st century. The study confirms that radio has long been more than a transmitter of information: it has served as a cultural archive, a tool of social mobilization, and a medium for collective memory.

Namangan Radio’s archival recordings—over **15,000 preserved audio files**, including performances by renowned artists such as **Yunus Rajabi, Halima Nosirova, Mukarrama Azizova, and Komiljon Otaniyozov**—represent invaluable heritage for Uzbekistan’s media and cultural history.

Looking ahead, the modernization of Namangan Radio requires systematic **digitization of archives, training of new-generation journalists**, and **regional cooperation** among the Fergana Valley broadcasters. Such steps would ensure that Namangan Radio continues to be the “voice of the valley” in both historical and contemporary senses.

References:

- 1.Uzbekistan National Television and Radio Company. Historical overview of Namangan Radio. (Accessed: 2024).
- 2.Archives of the Namangan Regional Executive Committee (1932–1988). Radio Broadcast Scripts and Reports.
- 3.Mukarramov Zh. (1985). Development of Regional Broadcasting in the Uzbek SSR. Tashkent: Publishing House of Radio Communication.
- 4.Karimova D.S. (2025). Historical Significance of Namangan Radio in the Fergana Valley. Unpublished manuscript, Namangan Academic Lyceum.