

= Tajik alphabet =

The Tajik language has been written in three alphabets over the course of its history : an adaptation of the Perso @-@ Arabic script (specifically the Persian alphabet) , an adaptation of the Latin script , and an adaptation of the Cyrillic script . Any script used specifically for Tajik may be referred to as the Tajik alphabet , which is written as ??????? ?????? in Cyrillic characters , ?????? ?????? with Arabic script , and alif?oji to?ik? in Latin script .

The use of a specific alphabet generally corresponds with stages in history , with Arabic being used first , followed by Latin for a short period and then Cyrillic , which remains the most widely used alphabet in Tajikistan . The Bukhori dialect spoken by Bukharan Jews traditionally used the Hebrew alphabet but more often today is written using the Cyrillic variant .

= = Political context = =

As with many post @-@ Soviet states , the change in writing system and the debates surrounding it is closely intertwined with political themes . Although not having been used since the adoption of Cyrillic , the Latin script is supported by those who wish to bring the country closer to Uzbekistan , which has adopted the Latin @-@ based Uzbek alphabet . [1] The Persian alphabet is supported by the devoutly religious , Islamists , and by those who wish to bring the country closer to Iran and their Persian heritage . As the de facto standard , the Cyrillic alphabet is generally supported by those who wish to maintain the status quo , and not distance the country from Russia .

= = History = =

As a result of the influence of Islam in the region , Tajik was written in the Persian alphabet up to the 1920s . Until this time , the language was not thought of as separate and simply considered a dialect of the Persian language . The Soviets began by simplifying the Persian alphabet in 1923 , before moving to a Latin @-@ based system in 1927 . [2] The Latin script was introduced by the Soviet Union as part of an effort to increase literacy and distance the , at that time , largely illiterate population , from the Islamic Central Asia . There were also practical considerations . The regular Persian alphabet , being an abjad , does not provide sufficient letters for representing the vowel system of Tajik . In addition , the abjad is more difficult to learn , each letter having different forms depending on the position in the word . [3]

The Decree on Romanisation made this law in April , 1928 . [4] The Latin variant for Tajik was based on the work by Turcophone scholars who aimed to produce a unified Turkic alphabet , [5] despite Tajik not being a Turkic language . The literacy campaign was successful , with near @-@ universal literacy being achieved by the 1950s .

As part of the " russification " of Central Asia , the Cyrillic script was introduced in the late 1930s . The alphabet remained Cyrillic until the end of the 1980s with the disintegration of the Soviet Union . In 1989 , with the growth in Tajik nationalism , a law was enacted declaring Tajik the state language . In addition , the law officially equated Tajik with Persian , placing the word Fârsi (the local name for Persian) after Tajik . The law also called for a gradual reintroduction of the Persian (Arabic) alphabet .

The Persian alphabet was introduced into education and public life , although the banning of the Islamic Renaissance Party in 1993 slowed down the adoption . In 1999 , the word Fârsi was removed from the state @-@ language law . [6] As of 2004 the de facto standard in use is a Cyrillic alphabet , [7] and as of 1996 only a very small part of the population can read the Persian alphabet . [8]

= = Variants = =

The letters of the major variants of the Tajik alphabet are presented below , along with their phonetic values . There is also a comparative table below .

A variant of the Persian alphabet (technically an abjad) is used to write Tajik . In the Tajik version , as with all other versions of the Arabic script , with the exception of ' ? ' (alef) , vowels are not given unique letters , but rather optionally indicated with diacritic marks .

The unusual character ƣ is called Gha and represents the phoneme / ɣ / . The character is found in the Common Turkic Alphabet in which most non @-@ Slavic languages of the Soviet Union were written until the late 1930s . The Latin alphabet is not used today , although the adoption of it is advocated by certain groups . [10]

During the period when the Cyrillicization took place , ? ? also appeared a few times in the table of the Tajik Cyrillic alphabet . [14]

BGN / PCGN ? The standard of the United States Board on Geographic Names and the Permanent Committee on Geographical Names for British Official Use .

The Hebrew alphabet is , like the Persian alphabet , an abjad . It is used for the Jewish Bukhori dialect primarily in Samarkand and Bukhara . Additionally , since 1940 , when Jewish schools were closed in Central Asia , the use of the Hebrew Alphabet outside Hebrew liturgy fell into disuse and Bukharian Jewish publications such as books and newspapers began to appear using the Tajik Cyrillic Alphabet . Today , many older Bukharian Jews who speak Bukharian and went to Tajik or Russian schools in Central Asia only know the Tajik Cyrillic Alphabet when reading and writing Bukharian and Tajik .

Sample text : ?? ????????? ????? ????????? ????????? . ????? ????? ????????? ????????? ??? ????????????? .
? ??? ????????????? ????? ????????????? ????????? . ????????????? ? ????????????? ????????? ?? ????????????? . [15]

= = Samples = =

= = = Tajik Cyrillic , Tajik Latin and Persian alphabet = = =

For reference , the Arabic variant transliterated letter @-@ for @-@ letter into the Latin script appears as follows :

tm?m ?dm?n ?z?d bh dny? my ? ?ynd w ?z l??? mnzlt w ?qwq b? hm br?brnd. hmh ??b ?ql w wjd?nnd , b?yd nsbt bh ykdygr br?drw?r mn?sbt nm?ynd .

And the ISO 9 transliteration of the Cyrillic text :

Tamomi odamon ozod ba dunë meoând va az li?ozi manzilatu ?u?u? bo ?am barobarand . ?ama so?ibi a?lu viçdonand , boâd nisbat ba âkdigar barodarvor munosabat namoând .

= = = Tajik Cyrillic and Persian alphabet = = =

Vowel @-@ pointed Persian includes the vowels that are not usually written .

= = Comparative table = =

A table comparing the different writing systems used for the Tajik alphabet . The Latin here is based on the 1929 standard , the Cyrillic on the revised 1998 standard , and Arabic letters are given in their stand @-@ alone forms .