Cotton Cultivation and Child Labor in Post-Soviet Uzbekistan: A Comprehensive Examination of the Textile Industry's Impact on Children's Rights



Cotton cultivation has been a cornerstone of the Uzbek economy for centuries, and it remains a major source of revenue for the country today. However, the industry has also been plagued by allegations of child labor, with an estimated 250,000 children working in the fields each year.



This book delves into the complex issue of child labor in the Uzbek cotton industry, exploring its historical roots, current manifestations, and the impact it has on children's lives.

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Historical Roots of Child Labor in Uzbekistan

Child labor has a long history in Uzbekistan, dating back to the days of the Soviet Union. During the Soviet era, children were often forced to work in the cotton fields to meet the government's production quotas.

After Uzbekistan gained independence in 1991, the government continued to rely on child labor to fuel the cotton industry. However, the problem worsened in the 1990s and 2000s, as the country faced economic hardship and the government struggled to provide adequate education and social services for its citizens.

Current Manifestations of Child Labor

Today, child labor remains a widespread problem in the Uzbek cotton industry. Children as young as 10 years old are forced to work in the fields, often for long hours and in hazardous conditions.

Children who work in the cotton fields are exposed to a range of risks, including:

- Pesticide poisoning
- Heatstroke
- Dehydration
- Musculoskeletal injuries
- Psychological trauma.

Impact of Child Labor on Children's Lives

Working in the cotton fields can have a devastating impact on children's lives. Child laborers are often deprived of their education, and they may suffer from health problems and psychological trauma.

In addition, child labor perpetuates a cycle of poverty. Children who are forced to work in the fields are less likely to acquire the skills and education they need to break out of the cycle of poverty.

The use of child labor in the Uzbek cotton industry is a serious human rights violation that has a devastating impact on children's lives.

This book provides a comprehensive examination of the issue, exploring its historical roots, current manifestations, and the impact it has on children's

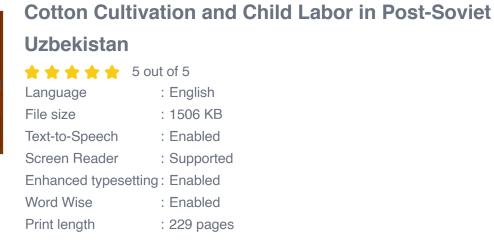
lives.

The book also offers a number of recommendations for how to address the problem of child labor in the Uzbek cotton industry. These recommendations include:

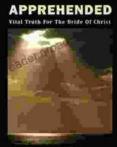
- Increasing access to education and social services for children
- Providing farmers with training and support to help them reduce their reliance on child labor
- Raising awareness of the issue of child labor in the cotton industry
- Holding the government accountable for its role in perpetuating child labor

By working together, we can help to end child labor in the Uzbek cotton industry and create a more just and equitable world for all.









transcribed by Steven L Seabury

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