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Hisao Komatsu

- 1 Burhân Şahîd (1894-1989) is one of the most famous Uighur statesmen in contemporary China. Just after taking office as the president of the Xinjiang province in January 1949, he cooperated with the Communist Party of China and played a great role in the so-called « peaceful liberation » of the Xinjiang province. In later years he worked in the Chinese Muslim Society and on his death he was praised as « a devoted Communist and eminent representative of the Uighur people » by Chinese authorities. However his earlier career has been distorted for many years. For example he was not a Uighur but a Tatar by origin, and was born not in Xinjiang but in a village near Kazan. As a result his earlier career is left unknown in many points. In this paper the author introduced 11 articles written by Burhân, who worked as a correspondent of the Tatar newspaper *Waqf* and sent his articles from Urumchi to Orenburg during the years 1913-1915. This fact has been concealed in China up to the present day. The author supposes that the concealment comes from the young Burhân's pan-Turkic ideas and pro-Russian attitude, which were considered unsuitable for a prominent Uighur Communist. While in the ex-Soviet Central Asia since the Perestroika period new source materials have begun to be discovered and the modern history to be written from a local point of view, in Xinjiang there is no parallel development in historical studies. However this paper

shows the importance of Tatar periodicals for unveiling the historical events in modern Xinjiang.

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Thèmes : 4.6. Histoire de l'Asie centrale et Caucase (à partir de 1917)

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