
INTERRELATIONS OF THE KHOQAND KHANATE WITH THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE (THE 1ST HALF OF THE 19TH OF CENTURY)

SHERZODHON MAHMUDOV

Dr. Senior research fellow,

At the Institute of History of the Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan.

E-mail: mahmudovsh@gmail.com

ABSTRACT:

Relations of the Khoqand Khanate with the Ottoman Empire begun and developed in the first half of the 19th century. Diplomatic affairs of the Khoqand Khanate with the Ottoman Empire which played the most important role in its flourishing period from the end of the 18th century to 40s of the 19th century are less specially studied. Because, in this epoch the Khoqand Khanate was more developed country in political, cultural and social spheres comparing with other Khanates. The Russian Empire planned to conquer this state firstly.

It could be said that early diplomatic relations between the Khoqand Khanate and the Ottoman Empire began between 1819-1820. In the Ottoman archives can be found more data about diplomatic relations of two countries.

This article analyzes the relationship between the Khoqand Khanate and the Ottoman Empire on the basis of manuscript sources and Ottoman archival documents.

KEYWORDS: Khoqand Khanate, Ottoman Empire, interrelation, diplomatic relation, Ottoman archive.

INTRODUCTION:

International relations took an important significance in the development of each country. Without studying the international relation, it is impossible to investigate history, formation and development of the statehood of the every country.

It is true that in Central Asia were formed and developed several states and they faced to crisis with the influence of some factors. However, countries obliged to governing the existed political, socio-economic life and used several means of statehood to implement their duties proficiently. Particularly, they tried to solve some problems appeared in political, socio-economic life through establishing international relations. One of these states was the Khanate of Khoqand which formed in Central Asia in 1709. In the beginning its territory consisted of only the Fergana valley. Later, some territories of modern Kirghizstan, Tajikistan and Kazakhstan were united under the Khanate.

Scholars who studied the history of the Khanate paid more attention to its foreign relations. They especially investigated the relationship of the Khanate with the Russian Empire, China, East Turkistan, the Emirate of Bukhara and the Khanate of Khiva. However, relations of the Khanate with the Ottoman Empire begun and developed in the first half of the 19th century was left out of the sight of scholars.

In some inquiries are met information which the Khoqand Khanate asked aids from bordering countries and the Ottoman Empire in the 60s of the 19th century while the begun its annexation to territories of the Khoqand Khanate. However, diplomatic affairs of the Khoqand Khanate with the Ottoman Empire which played the most important role in its flourishing period from the end of the 18th century to 40s of the 19th century are not specially studied. Because, in this epoch the

Khoqand Khanate was more developed country in political, cultural and social spheres comparing with other Khanates. The Russian Empire planned to conquer this state firstly.

It could be said that early diplomatic relations between the Khoqand Khanate and the Ottoman Empire began between 1819-1820. However, in the Ottoman archives can be found data about the beginning of diplomatic relations earlier than these years.

Information about diplomatic relations of the two countries is mentioned in *Muntakhab al-tawarikh* written by Muhammad Hakim Khan Tura which considered one of the important books to illustrate the history of Khanate. According to this sources, khan of Khoqand Sayyid Amir Umar-khan (1810-1822) sent Sayyid hadji Mirqurbon as an ambassador to Sultan Mahmud II. However, there is not mentioned the purpose of sending ambassadors to the Ottoman Empire[2].

The letter sent by Amir Umarchan to Sultan Mahmud is kept in the Ottoman archive in Istanbul and the first information about it was given by Japan scholar Hisao Kamatsu[3]. Moreover, Turkish scholar Mehmet Saray[6;7] also said that there was sent only one letter by Amir Umarchan. The meaning of this letter was published by literary scholar Hamidulla Boltaboyev on newspaper of "Uzbekistan adabiyoti va san'ati" (Art and literature of Uzbekistan) on 24 October 1997[5]. But it must be mentioned that the letter is not considered the original copy of the letter which Amir Umarchan had sent and it is translated version in Turkish.

In this letter was written that khan's worrying about military annexation of the Russian Empire being built in the frontiers of Khanate and political acts of Amir of Bukhara against the Khoqand Khanate on Kashgar question.

Amir Umar-khan's main target of sending a letter to the Ottoman Empire was not

for getting military aid but getting spiritual aid[1]. Threatening of Emirate of Bukhara instead of uniting while Russian Empire appeared on the borders of the Khanate was a painful situation. From this point of view, Umar-khan considered the Ottoman Empire as the Centre of the Caliphate and asked Sultan Mahmud II to send a credential letter, a sword and a standard of banner. M.Saray analyzed the attitude of Ottomans to this letter in his researches. However, scholars acknowledge of not having the response letter. In *Muntakhab al-tawarikh* is given some information about response letter of Mahmud II and his sending credential letter, sword and standard of banner. According to Muhammad Hakim Khan Tura, Head of the Ottoman Empire Mahmud II sent his ambassador with Sayyid Hadji Mirqubon and two ambassadors from the Khanate of Khiva came with them. The author himself participated to receive the ambassadors. As it is mentioned in *Muntakhab al-tawarikh*, Sultan Mahmud II had sent a sword, two revolvers, two binoculars and the credential letter of "khan of Khans"[2]. In my opinion, Amir of Bukhara and Khan of Khiva had to know about it. One of the reasons of increasing of the authority of the Khoqand Khanate among Central Asian Khanates could be the credential letter of Sultan Mahmud II to Amir Umarchan.

Besides, handwritten copy of The Holy Quran kept in the library of Istanbul University has connections with this diplomatic relations directly. The Book kept under the number of A6540 in the library of the University. In the first volume of "Catalogue of Arabic manuscripts of the library of the University of Istanbul" is given information about this book[4]. Stamp of the Khan of Khoqand was put on the second and last pages of the Book. The stamp was in almond shape and it was written "Amir al-muslimin sayyid Muhammad Umar bin Norbuta-khan 1229". Although the two stamps belong to Umarchan, they have differences in

their shapes. Moreover, there is no date of the second stamp. If we compare this The Holy Quran with the others copied in the Khoqand Khanate, we can see great differences. Decoration of the Book with gold and beautiful ornaments shows its preparation as a special gift.

Ambassador Sayyid hadgi Mirqurbon brought the copy of the Book as a special gift to the head of Ottoman with himself. Seeing the Muskhaf being kept in Istanbul is a fact that it was prepared for a gift to Sultan Mahmud II. In some rare books is mentioned that the Khan of Khoqand had prepared manuscript of other works specially and sent them to the Sultans of the Ottoman Empire. For instance, specialist on literature Miyon Buzruk Solihov says about Amir Umar-khan's collection "Muhabbatnoma" (poems of love) based on the works of Navoiy, Lutfiy his works and sending them as a gift to the Khalifa of the Ottoman Empire. "Muhabbatnoma" sent by Amir Umar-khan is kept in the in the department of "Rare books" with the number of T 5452 at the Library of Istanbul in present days. The book was also prepared elegantly. So, Amir Umar-khan prepared The Holy Quran as priceless book with above-mentioned books and delivered them to the Sultan by his ambassadors. Because, The Holy Quran was always considered priceless among gifts between the Heads of States in every period. In the experience of exchanging ambassadors, the tradition of presenting gifts played very important role in Islamic countries. Copies of The Holy Quran sent by Khans were highly estimated among gifts in mutual relations.

Diplomatic relations between the Khoqand Khanate and the Ottoman Empire lasted in the further years. It lasted in the 50s of the 19th century and in the work of Muhammad Yunusjon shigovul "Tarikhi Aliquli amirlashkar" described the relations. Manuscript of the work kept at the Institute of Oriental Studies of

Academy of Science of the Republic of Uzbekistan under the number 12136. In the work was illustrated socio-political situation in the period of Malla-khan and his son Sulton Sayid-Khan (1863-1865) as the author himself was the participant of the events. The author worked in several posts as mirzaboshi, shigovul in the governance of Khoqand Khanate. According to his information, in 1865 Ahmadhodja Eshon was sent as an ambassador to Istanbul hoping to take military aid from Sultan Sayid-Khan[8]. However, they were informed that the ambassador was being kept in Yarkend by Chinese militants. Chief Commander Aliquli mentioned the necessity of ambassador's visit to Istanbul at the Body of State apparatus – Kengash and sent Muhammad Yunusjon shigovul to make free the ambassador and send to Istanbul. Then, Muhammad Yunusjon shigovul went to Kashgar and made agreement with Chinese officials in collaboration with the Head of Kashgar. He sent Hoji Meliboy as an ambassador to Istanbul instead of Ahmadhoja Eshon and returned [8]. The author did not give any information about the results of this visit.

CONCLUSION:

This must be mentioned that it is difficult to illustrate the information by studying the sources belong to one group. In my opinion, Archive documents must be used in the future investigations. There are a great number of documents in archives. For instance, approximately 190 documents on diplomatic and mutual relations have been kept in Ottoman archive in Istanbul. Nearly 30 of them have been published.

Moreover, information about Amir Umar-khan and Muhammad Ali-khan's (1822-1841) attempts to organize the way to Mecca by Istanbul and their achievement is being kept in the funds of Central State Archive of the Republic of Uzbekistan. New features of the

problem can be studied by comparative analysis of the information of Khoqand historians.

REFERENCES

- 1) Ottoman archive. Fund Hatt-ı Humayun Daftari, nr., 781/ 36547.
- 2) Hajji Muhammad Hakim Khan b. Said Ma'sum Khan, Muntakhab al-Tawarikh, OSIASRU, MS. No. 594 f. 294 a
- 3) Hisao Komatsu. Khoqand and Istanbul: An Ottoman document relating to the earliest contacts between the khan and sultan // Asiatische Studien Etudes Asiatiques LX.4.2006. pp, 963-986.
- 4) Istanbul universitesi kutubhanesi arapcha yazmalar katalogu. / Hazirlayan Fehmi Edhem Karatay. Cilt I. Istanbul universitasi: 1951. 15 s.
- 5) Khamidulla Boltaboyev. Amir Umarkhonning maktubi, // "Uzbekistan adabiyoti va san'ati" (Art and literature of Uzbekistan) on 24 October 1997 № 43.
- 6) Mehmet Saray. Rus isgali devrinda Osmanli devleti ile Turkistan hanliklari arasindeki siyasi munasabetler (1775 - 1875), Istanbul 1990;
- 7) Mehmet Saray. The Russian, British, Chinese and Ottoman Rivalry in Turkestan, Ankara 2003.
- 8) Mukhammad Yunusjon shigovul. Tarikhi Aliquli amirlashkar, OSIASRU, MS. No.12136