

# **POLITICAL AND TRADE-ECONOMIC RELATIONS BETWEEN THE EMIRATE OF BUKHARA AND AFGHANISTAN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS IN THE SECOND HALF OF THE 19TH CENTURY AND THE BEGINNING OF THE 20TH CENTURY**

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## **ABSTRACT**

This article analyzes the relations between Bukhara and Afghanistan in the international relations between the Russian Empire, Great Britain and the Ottoman Turkish Empire in the 1970s. Also, trade and economic relations between the Emirate of Bukhara and Afghanistan in the last quarter of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century are considered and researched.

**Keywords:** Afghanistan, Sherali Khan, Bukhara, Ottoman Turkish Empire, the Russo-Turkish war, Bender-Abbas-Mashhad road, Central Asia, ambassadors, Ost-Indian company.

## **DISCUSSION AND RESULTS**

As a result of the transformation of the Bukhara Emirate into a dependent state of the Russian Empire, the Emirate was deprived of the right to conduct an active foreign policy. This situation damaged the reputation of the Bukhara Emirate as one of the political leaders in the Eastern Muslim world. Since the 70s of the 19th century, the place and role of Bukhara in the region and international relations has also decreased.

In the 70s of the 19th century, there were conflicts between the states of Bukhara and Afghanistan, which gained regional and international importance. The conflict between the Uzbek principalities on the left bank of the Amudarya has a territorial character, and during the colonial process these conflicts grew to the level of international relations. It was important for the Russian Empire to keep the Emirate of Bukhara under control and to improve relations with the country of Afghanistan in order to prevent the British from invading Central Asia. During this period, the ruler of Afghanistan, Sherali Khan, and the governor-general of Turkestan, K.P. von Kaufman had a warm relationship. Correspondence and exchange of letters between the two continued from March 28, 1870 until Sherali Khan's death in 1879[1]. This made it possible to keep Afghanistan neutral in the Russian-Turkish war of 1877-1878. In Afghanistan, the Anglo-Turkish alliance tried to replace Sherali Khan with a person inclined to the new British policy, and to create an alliance against the Russians in Bukhara. For example, in 1875, the emir of Bukhara, Muzaffar Khan, requested the governor-general of Turkestan to release Abdurrahman Khan, the nephew of Sherali Khan, who was living as a fugitive in Samarkand. It was natural that such a request of the Bukhara emir aroused suspicion in the Russian political authorities. On the other hand, the emir of Bukhara demanded the return of the Maimana principality, which was captured in 1874, although he was forbidden to act in foreign political matters without Russia's permission. The emir of Bukhara called Maimana his vassal and demanded the return of this

territory from Afghanistan in 1875 and tried to make the Russian Empire war with Afghanistan. This situation made it more difficult for the British-Turkish alliance to fight against Russia by uniting Afghanistan and Bukhara[2]. The authorities of the Russian Empire felt it important to keep England neutral in the impending war with Turkey, and close relations between the Governor-General of Turkestan and Afghanistan were a guarantee of this. The reason why Sherahli Khan did not join the alliance against Russia was the occupation of Kelat and Quetta regions of Afghanistan by the British. The sensitive point in the British policy is India, Bukhara's dependence on Russia, Afghanistan's inclination towards the Russians allowed Russia to quickly approach the border of India, and the British were worried about the possible attacks of the Russians[3]. After 1876, many Turkish emissaries began to enter Bukhara through Kabul. It is noted in the historical literature that it was especially intensified on the eve of the Russo-Turkish war. In April 1877, the ambassadors of the Turkish sultan came to Kabul and offered to fight against the Russians in alliance with Afghanistan and get help from the British. However, at this time, political and diplomatic relations between Sherahlikhon and Kaufman were well established, and Sherahlikhon K.P. was aware of the proposals and intentions of the Turks[4]. warned von Kaufman. The ambassador of the Ottoman Turkish Empire, who arrived in Kabul and was greeted with great ceremony, Ahmad Khulusi Effendi, told Sherahli Khan that the Ottoman Turks had started a war against the Russians, that all Muslims should participate in it, and that the emir of Afghanistan should join the struggle together with the state of Bukhara[5]. Famous scientist N.A. Khalfin Ahmad Khulusi Effendi noted that he brought a letter from the Ottoman Turkish sultan to the ruler of Afghanistan. In the letter, the Ottoman Turkish sultan offered Sherahli Khan to fight against the Russians in alliance with the British, and cooperate in freeing Bukhara and Khiva from the Russians. A. D. Vasilev also gave information about Ahmad Khulusi Effendi's activities in Kabul, and the need to unite all Muslims during the Russo-Turkish war of 1877-1878, to use the war to liberate Bukhara and Khiva from Russia, with the support of the Turkmen and Bukharans for the Afghans in this regard. cites related information which suggests that there was an attempt to unite Bukhara and the rival Afghans into an alliance. In Bukhara, Ottoman Turkish propagandists were also engaged in creating anti-Russian sentiment by spreading various rumors. In one of the reports distributed in 1877, it was reported that the British had armed 100,000 Afghan troops against the Russians, and that 35,000 British troops were stationed in Peshawar, and that if the emir of Bukhara violated the treaty with Turkey, these troops would occupy Bukhara and incorporate it into the Afghan state[6]. In 1877, the ambassadors of the Turkish Sultan came to Kabul and Bukhara several times and called on the countries of Bukhara and Afghanistan to cooperate with the British and improve relations[7]. This is the basis for concluding that during the Russian-Turkish war, preparations were made to open another front against the Russian Empire through the Bukhara-Afghan alliance in Central Asia. According to D.N. Logofet, who is in favor of annexing the Bukhara Emirate to the Russian Empire, Bukhara's dependence on Russia, Afghanistan's pro-Russian policy during the Russo-Turkish War, and during the Anglo-Afghan War that started later, Northern Afghanistan (South Turkestan), that is, to the former Bukhara Emirate He emphasized that it was possible to annex the territories of the Uzbek principalities to the protectorate of the Russian Empire[8]. In conclusion, it can be said that on the eve of the Russo-Turkish war of 1877-1878, the British-Turkish alliance of Bukhara and Afghanistan tried to open a new war front in Central Asia by forming a mutual alliance against the Russian Empire.

The Emirate of Bukhara had diplomatic and trade-economic relations with countries such as Russia, Iran, Afghanistan, and India in the last quarter of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th

century. After the Bukhara Emirate was declared a vassal of Russia, it became a market for Russian goods. Bukhara's foreign trade relations are mostly with Afghanistan, the closest neighboring country. In the 70s of the 19th century, it was noted that the length of the road leading from Bukhara through Karshi to Balkh through desert regions is 390 versts, and the distance from Bukhara to Andkhoy to Maimana is 531 versts[9]. These communication routes passed through the Kerki pass in Amudarya[10]. Researchers who were on the borders of Central Asia and Afghanistan, for example, M.I. Venyukov, carefully studied the communication routes between Bukhara and Afghanistan and gave the dimensions of the distances between them.

If we delve deeply into the relations between Russia and England in Central Asia, we will see that not only political, but also economic interests collided between them. Just as India is a trade base for England, which is a maritime country, Russia wants to expand the market for its goods by entering into the interior of Central Asia, and refers to Russia's efforts to penetrate the markets of Central Asia and its neighboring countries[11].

According to the issues of the border areas between Afghanistan and Bukhara, after the surrender of Turkmenistan in 1885 and the conflict with Afghans in Kushka, the borders of Bukhara moved to Transcaspian regions. The borders of Bukhara with Afghanistan were 627 BC until Amudarya. In the west, from Zulfuqar on the Tajan river, the road turns south, then east, passing along the left bank of the Murgab river, leaving the Kushka river and the Penda oasis, and after 300 versts in the waterless deserts, it reaches Amudarya. This is where the Bukhara-Afghan borders begin. It is also necessary to emphasize that in the studies of the period under consideration, i.e. in the works after 1880, the word "our" is used in relation to Central Asia, especially the Emirate of Bukhara.

At the request of the Russian government, in the 70s of the 19th century, attention to the strategic exploration of the territories of the Bukhara Emirate increased. Although the works appear to describe trade and economic relations, in fact these studies were conducted for strategic use. M.I. Venyukov, who conducted research in Samarkand region in 1904-1905, gave detailed information on roads, border distances in verst units, metrological measurement units - length and volume, quantity, road units[12]. This information may be useful in terms of political relations with the state of Afghanistan through the territories of the Emirate of Bukhara. Bukhara Emirate's trade with countries with developed trade relations at the end of the 19th century, mainly India, Iran, China, some European countries and the countries of the Atlantic Ocean, along with the fact that it trades with Afghanistan with some goods, is of particular importance, because most of the trade routes passed through Afghanistan. One of the notable aspects is that it is recorded that Indian goods were brought to Bukhara through Afghanistan[13]. For example, in 1891, 97,495 pounds of tea worth 3,427,290 rubles were brought to Bukhara, of which 44,000 pounds of tea worth 1,761,000 rubles were transported to Bukhara through Afghanistan. The remaining 53,495 pounds of tea worth 1,667,290 rubles were imported through Iran[14]. I.A. Remez mentions the data of 1893 while focusing on the issue of Bukhara-Afghanistan. In 1893, according to the information collected by special intelligence agents, expeditions, trade relations on the Bukhara-Afghanistan border amounted to 4-5 million rubles. assessed as In 1891-92, tea was recognized as the main imported commodity, and this commodity was imported not only from British India, but also teas were imported from China. Indigo and cloth were also imported. Research shows that 8-12 thousand pounds of green tea, 2 thousand pounds of Nile dye, and 0.8 thousand pounds of gauze were brought to Bukhara on the border with Afghanistan through the Amudarya and Panj channels.

According to information, 100,000 poods of tea were brought to Bukhara in the last quarter of the 19th century, while at the beginning of the 20th century, it barely reached 40,000-50,000 poods. In the following years, 23,000 pounds of Nile dye and 20,000 pounds of kiseya were transported due to the opening of customs offices on the Bukhara-Afghan border[15]. Even in the data of 1907, it was recorded that Indian teas were brought to Bukhara through Afghanistan and Iran. M. Virsky, who studied tea trade in Samarkand, notes that tea trade increased six times between 1891 and 1906. In 1906, the turnover of tea was 12,695,000 r[16].

In the second half of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century, special emphasis was placed on trade relations between India and Bukhara. Trade goods were delivered to Bukhara mainly through Afghanistan. In the letter of the Bukhara Kushbegi to the political agent, when the goods brought from Afghanistan to Bukhara are mentioned, these goods are recognized as the following goods brought from India through Afghanistan: these are: four kinds of teas, namely: high "lunka", "lunka - nauzugur", "patta" and "kipak" tea, 3,000 bales a year, each bale is worth four poods, their prices are high "lunka" - 44 gold, "lunka - nauzugur" - 22 gold, "patta" - 14 gold and "kipak" tea - Sold for 11 gold[17].

White fabrics, including white and yellow kiseya - 500 bales. Indigo - 500 bales (8.6 and 3 poods each), 14 gold per pood. Some of these goods are imported through Kelif, and the rest through Sherabod. Continuing the data, in 1891: 1) 10 bales of all four types of tea, kiseya and kolenkor - 3 bales, indigo - 1 bale, 14 bales in total through Qabadian; Tea - 40 balls, indigo - 20 balls, kiseya and kolenkor - 15 balls were brought through Denov and Kulob.

It should be mentioned that since 1887, as a result of the construction of railways, the goods transported through Afghanistan were transported to the Zakaspiyy railway via the Bendar-Abbas-Mashhad road, and then brought to the khanate by trains. Since 1894, tea has been imported directly from Shanghai through the Black Sea ports through the customs offices of Kavkazorti.

It should be noted that in the 1880s, representatives of the heads of state of the Russian Empire put the issue of expanding "customs lines" on the agenda. To do this, to make this customs line more useful, to expand its scope, it was proposed to include the Khanate of Khiva and the Emirate of Bukhara. However, only in 1891, the Minister of Finance I.A. Vishnegradsky conveyed this initiative to Emperor Alexander III. In it, he offered to pass Khiva and Bukhara along the Iran-Afghanistan border and continue it to the China-Turkistan border in the future[18]. After receiving the approval of the emperor, the minister went on a trip to Central Asia to study the matter on the spot. After returning from the trip to St. Petersburg, the minister convened a meeting of representatives to develop a draft of the unified customs line. The participants of the meeting, that is, the Minister of Finance, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Defense, the officials of the Turkestan region and the Russian political agent in Bukhara P. M. Lessar will take part. They discussed for a long time how the single customs line would be, how Russia would benefit from it, and how the khanates of Central Asia would benefit from it.

For example, P.M. Lessar, who knows the political situation in the region and the level of economic development of Central Asia well, suggests that if Bukhara is included in the border line, with the help of the emir's officials, strict control over the collected customs tax revenues will be established. The leaders of the Ministry of Defense said that it is necessary to take a position in the approach to the issue, and proposed to adopt a law on the single customs line and inform the emir and khan about this issue. In this case, Russia will not suffer any losses, and instead will earn 2.5 percent from the zakat tax. After the transfer of the single customs line, it is assumed that the price of goods will increase due

to the increase of taxes on goods. However, he left aside the issue of solving the problem that the residents of the emirate and khanate might suffer from this. Although the representatives of Russia knew that the amount of taxes collected from foreign goods would increase, they thought that the increase in prices would be caused by the transportation of Russian goods through Russian railways, which would occupy the markets, and they would not be taxed[19].

Based on this, I.A. Remez admits that there is something difficult in Bukhara-Afghan trade relations. Even so, since 1894, the Bukhara Emirate was annexed to the Russian border line, it is difficult to tell exactly which of the goods transferred to Afghanistan through the borders of Bukhara are Russian goods, and which are Bukhara goods, since they are not distinguished in the list. Because from 1894-1895, the Emirate of Bukhara was transferred to the single customs line of Russia. At the same time, it is noted that it is not indicated how much of the goods brought from Afghanistan to the Bukhara emirate is in Bukhara and how much is sent to Russia. Therefore, the opinion is expressed that the figures of trade and economic relations realized before the transfer of the single customs line can be considered reliable and accurate.

Since the end of the 80s of the 19th century, when a political agency was established in Bukhara, information on trade relations was properly maintained. For example, below we present information on goods exported from Bukhara to Afghanistan in 1889-1992.

Separate information on the amount of goods brought from the provinces of Afghanistan to different regions of the Bukhara Emirate (for example: Denov, Kulob, Kurgantepa, etc.) is given. In Russia's diplomatic relations with Afghanistan, Russia cannot establish diplomatic relations with Afghanistan because Afghanistan is closed to all European countries except England. Russia entered trade relations only through Bukhara merchants.

If we pay attention to the trade relations between Bukhara and Afghanistan, in 1911-1913, goods worth 4,710 thousand rubles were transported to Bukhara from the Afghan-Bukhara border, and 4,796 thousand rubles were transported to Bukhara. 866,000 rubles worth of goods were transported to Bukhara, 100,000 rubles worth of goods were transported from Bukhara to Afghanistan. The total amount of goods is 3,844,000 rubles. the goods were brought to Russia, 4,696 thousand rubles were taken from Russia. Therefore, the amount of goods imported from Afghanistan to Bukhara was more, and on the contrary, goods sold from Bukhara to Afghanistan were less. So, it seems that there is a greater need for Afghan goods in Bukhara. However, a certain part of these goods remained in Bukhara, while a large part was transported to Russia.

A. Gubarevich-Radobylsky's information on trade relations related to tea and other goods in Central Asia includes Gubkina A. Kuznetsov and K, Vogau qv K trading house, which was involved in tea trade in Central Asia, including the Bukhara Emirate. and S. The Popovs gave valuable statistical indicators related to the tea trade of Iranian firms and English-Hund (Peshawar) firms[20].

As a result of the establishment of Russian cordons (a single border line) on the border of Afghanistan and Iran in 1895, the importation of Russian goods to Bukhara increased, and on the contrary, British gauze was reduced and even though customs duties were set lower than those imposed on European goods entering the country, they were not brought. It is recognized that even the smuggled cloths do not exceed 500-800 poods[21].

In some articles on trade relations between Russia and Bukhara, compared to the statistics of the 90s of the 19th century, it was pointed out that the goods transported from Russia to Bukhara have increased[22]. The reason for the year-by-year increase in the flow of goods from Russia to Central Asia is the ban on bringing certain English-Indian teas to Bukhara. In fact, in recent years it has been

recorded that Indian teas are brought to Bukhara through Botum and from there to Turkestan[23]. Indian goods entered Bukhara through Bombay-Batumi-Baku-Bukhara[24].

Based on the above studies, many researchers were sent to Bukhara and studied it comprehensively due to not only political interests, but also economic aspirations in the policy of Russia and England towards Central Asia. The researchers who visited Bukhara consisted of statesmen, officials, and industry experts. They came to the Emirate of Bukhara, conducted a step-by-step search on the territory of the Emirate, and made good use of the statistical data in the customs documents. Therefore, it is reasonable to believe that the information presented in their research is close to reality. They were the diplomatic representatives of the Afghan state before the rulers of the khanates, as well as the authorized representatives of the khans before the Afghan emirs. After the establishment of Soviet power (November 1917), due to the change in the situation in the Turkestan region, representatives of the Turkestan Muslim population were included in the diplomatic missions to establish Soviet-Afghan relations. Also, countries such as the USSR, the USSR and the Turkestan ASSR have established diplomatic relations with Afghanistan on the basis of mutual equality and international political law, albeit for a short time. The historical experience of diplomatic relations between the USSR and Afghanistan is particularly important. With the strengthening of Soviet power and the establishment of the Uzbek SSR (1925), these relations were terminated, and all embassies were merged with the USSR embassy in Kabul. Despite this, ambassadors of countries such as Afghanistan and India stayed in Tashkent, the capital of Uzbekistan.

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