

THE COVERAGE OF THE HISTORY OF THE CITIES IN THE SOUTHERN TERRITORIES OF THE BUKHARA EMIRATE IN HISTORICAL SOURCES IN THE SECOND HALF OF THE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURIES

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Abstract

This article provides information on the significance of the cities in the southeastern territories of the Bukhara Emirate in connection with the Russian conquest, as well as their forms of administration and distinctive features. It also examines the mahallas (guzars) of the cities and their administrative system.

Keywords: Bukhara Emirate, beyliks, guzars, elders, Boysun, Baljuvan, Darvaz, Dehnav, Yakkabag, Kabadian, Karategin, Karki, Karmina, Karshi, Kelif, Kitab, Kulob.

Introduction

Although economic interests were the primary consideration in the colonial policy of the Russian Empire, the Russian authorities encountered a number of problems in bringing the local population under their influence and using the population in accordance with their interests. To address these issues, they also employed a policy of resettlement. As a result, a number of new settlements inhabited by the Russian population emerged. These settlements served political, economic, and cultural purposes. In the course of scientifically studying information concerning population migration and settlement in the cities, numerous materials related to the history of the Surkhan oasis have been identified in the collections of diplomatic officials under the Turkestan Governor-Generalship and the Russian Political Agency in Bukhara. These materials contain considerable information on the social, political, economic, and commercial relations of the region, including accounts reflecting the Russian conquest.

Documents preserved in the archival collection of the Qushbegi of the Bukhara Emirate at the Central State Archive of the Republic of Uzbekistan contain

information on the historical processes that took place in the oasis during the 19th and early 20th centuries, including positive and negative changes in the social, political, economic, and commercial spheres. The above-mentioned archival collections contain important information concerning the history of the region, much of which also includes sources describing the Russian conquest[4].

LITERATURE REVIEW AND METHODS

The work *Tarikhi Nofe'i* by Muhammad Ali Baljuvani is considered one of the sources illuminating the political history of the Bukhara Emirate in the 19th and early 20th centuries. The work contains important information on the political situation in the cities of Denau, Boysun, Sarijuy, Sariosiyo, and Sherabad. The corpus of written sources produced in Russian includes historical works, memoirs, official reports, and accounts written by military officials, Russian scholars, and historians who lived during the period and were directly involved in military campaigns and the implementation of colonial policies. These sources are particularly important because they were written by eyewitnesses and participants in the historical processes of the period. Publications issued during the period of Russian colonial rule primarily addressed the socio-economic life of the Bukhara Emirate in the second half of the 19th century, Bukhara–Russian relations, and political issues associated with the transformation of the emirate into a vassal state of the Russian Empire.

After the Russian Empire established its vassal relationship with the Bukhara Emirate, numerous European researchers arrived in the region and conducted studies in various fields. Almost all works by Russian authors were written in accordance with the political and colonial interests of the Russian Empire at the time. In these works, the empire's policy of conquest was often justified as a “civilizing mission.” Rather than providing a comprehensive analysis of historical realities, many of these studies approached the issues from a one-sided perspective, primarily reflecting the interests of the Russian Empire. The failure to take the interests of local peoples into account and the tendency to conceal or justify the colonial and coercive policies of the Russian Empire were characteristic features of authors writing during the colonial period.

Sources from this period contain information indicating that in 1868 the Qo'ng'iro't tribal population inhabited the plains along the Amu Darya, where they were under the authority of Katta Tura, the emir's son. Later, Turkmen groups also settled in these territories, particularly in the northwestern areas of the Amu Darya and the Kohitang

Mountains. The Turkmen group known as the “Non Talab” also migrated to and settled in these territories. Another significant part of the Turkmen population settled along the Amu Darya within the Sherabad Beklik, gradually becoming sedentary and semi-sedentary Turkmen communities.

DISCUSSION AND RESULTS

At the beginning of the 20th century, the majority of the population of the Kashkadarya region lived around the cities and major settlements of Karshi, Beshkent, Koson, Guzar, Chirakchi, and Kitab. The population consisted primarily of various Uzbek tribal groups, including Manghit, Saray, Qavchin, Qutchi, Kipchak, Khitoy, Qirq, Qatagan, Mirishkor, Yuz, Kenagas, Turk, Qalmaq, Qangli, Guyut, Qiyot, Qo‘ng‘irot, Majar, Manghit, Multan, Mongol, and Paymoq[7].

Based on historical sources dating back to 1920, the tax policy of the Bukhara Emirate was extremely unlawful and was characterized by the exploitation and plundering of the general population, while the number of taxes had increased excessively. For example, taxes on amlokdor lands increased by 50 percent, on waqf lands by 24.8 percent, on mulk-i kharaj lands by 15 percent, and on mulk-i hur lands by 10.12 percent. There is also evidence that the tax policy in the southeastern cities of the Bukhara Emirate imposed an extremely burdensome system of exploitation on the population. In the cities of Denau, Sherabad, Boysun, Guzar, and Kitab, additional taxes were collected at rates of 55.8 percent on amlokdor lands, 24.2 percent on waqf lands, 1.6 percent on mulk-i hur lands, and 12.1 percent on emir's lands. This situation caused serious dissatisfaction among the local population and contributed to popular movements [1].

Based on historical sources, by 1924, it is possible to determine the population size, ethnic composition, and distribution of the population of the Bukhara Republic established within the former territory of the Bukhara Emirate. According to historical sources, 1,531,015 people lived in the Bukhara People's Soviet Republic in 1924.

An analysis of the distribution of the population of Bukhara by cities provides the following information. Among the southeastern cities of the Bukhara Emirate, the city of Guzar was well known as a center of livestock trade. Livestock was brought to the city from the Surkhan oasis, Bukhara, Samarkand, and other neighboring regions. According to historical sources, throughout the summer, caravans carrying wool, flax, sesame, wheat, as well as raw materials necessary for handicraft production, regularly

traveled along the Kulob–Boysun–Guzar trade route. According to the observations of the famous Russian traveler N. Maev, the southeastern cities of the Bukhara Emirate occupied an important position as major centers of trade. Three types of currency circulated throughout the Bukhara Khanate: gold, silver tanga, and copper coins. One gold coin was equivalent to 21 tanga, while one tanga was equivalent to 44 copper coins. The commodities that constituted the volume of trade in the cities during this period were exported or imported. It is rather difficult to determine the exact quantity of goods because laws were not effectively implemented in this area[4]. People engaged in trade were mainly divided into two categories: savdogars, who were large-scale merchants involved in international trade relations, and do‘kondors, who primarily traded in locally produced goods. Brokers also played an important role in commercial relations. For example, according to the ethnographer O. A. Sukhareva, the chief broker continuously maintained control over the market where livestock was traded. The state was responsible for protecting caravan routes, constructing caravanserais and sardobas in cities, expanding markets, and generally constructing infrastructure associated with trade and commerce. In addition, wealthy individuals, merchants, and officials who directly benefited from the development of trade also invested their own funds in the construction of such facilities.

The sources also indicate that 3,125 members of the Qo‘ng‘irot population lived in the Boysun river oasis; 9,325 lived along the Surkhandarya basin; 3,125 lived near Termez in the Amu Darya oasis; 8,875 lived in the upper part of the Guzar river oasis; 4,170 lived in the lower part of the Guzar river oasis; and 18,385 Qo‘ng‘irot people lived near the Sherabad river basin [6].

The majority of the population of the southern cities of the Bukhara Emirate consisted of Uzbeks and Tajiks. Their customs and religious beliefs shared a number of common and distinctive features. In some cities, Uzbeks and Tajiks constituted the majority of the population, as illustrated by the following examples. For instance, Tajiks constituted 18.7 percent of the population of Sherabad city and its surrounding villages, 47 percent of the population of Boysun, and 64 percent of the population of Yurchi in Sariosiyo.

CONCLUSION

The settlement patterns of the Uzbek population in the southern cities can be described as follows. In the western territories of Surkhandarya Province, Uzbeks numbered 83,079 people (64 percent); in the east, particularly in Kulob Province, there were 28,540 Uzbeks (21.9 percent). Among the rural population of Sherabad district, Uzbeks constituted 73.5 percent; in the north, in Yurchi, they constituted 60 percent; in the southern part of Kurgonteppa Province, 58.4 percent; in the northern part of Dushanbe city, 34.3 percent; and in the southern part of Kulob Province and Kulob district, Uzbeks constituted 42.1 percent.

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