

Bukhara-Russia Trade Relations In The Second Half Of The 19th Century And Early 20th Century

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Abstract: The article describes the trade of the Bukhara Emirate with the Russian Empire in the second half of the 19th - early 20th centuries, as well as the content of trade agreements concluded between the Russian and Bukhara governments to regulate trade relations. The types and quantities of goods exported from the Bukhara Emirate and imported from Russia were also analyzed.

Keywords: Russia, Bukhara, caravanserai, tax, shops, political, economic, duty, diplomatic relations, trade, markets, products, merchant.

Introduction: From the second half of the 19th century, trade relations between the Russian Empire and the Bukhara Emirate developed significantly compared to previous periods. The demand for handicraft products manufactured in the emirate grew in Russia. Similarly, the population of the Bukhara Emirate also experienced an increasing need for Russian products. As a result of this trade development, both states began to see a substantial increase in revenue flowing into their treasuries.

RESULTS

In the emirate, the period from January to May was considered the peak season for trade activities. During this time, there was an increased influx of merchants from Russia, Iran, Afghanistan, India, Tibet and other neighboring countries. In the city of Bukhara, more than ten caravanserais served to accommodate the goods of foreign merchants^[1]. In Bukhara itself, about 60 caravanserais operated, and foreign citizens of other nationalities also participated in the construction of these caravanserais, establishing their own. Most merchants from Russia used the Olim caravanserai in Bukhara, while Russian Tatars from the empire primarily utilized the Nogai-Saroy caravanserai^[2].

By the second half of the 19th century, there were 20 small and 5 large covered markets in the city of Bukhara, each adapted for the sale of a certain type of product. For example, Toqi Telpakfurushon was

engaged in the sale of headwear, while in Toqi Zargaron more than 30 jewelry shops and workshops produced and sold jewelry^[3]. In addition to covered markets, there were shops selling certain goods on the shelves. There is information that on one of the streets of the city of Bukhara there were 25 shops selling 150 calico, 40 satin, velvet, silk, and other mixed goods^[4].

H. Vambéry notes that by the end of the 19th century, as a result of the development of trade in the emirate, various foreign and local products were sold in the market stalls. He also stated that 60 porcelain shops, 150 tea shops, 50 halva shops, 60 coppersmith workshops and 26 bookstores served the population in the city of Bukhara^[5]. In the emirate's markets, local and foreign products such as cotton, yarn, sheepskin, silk products, pearls, corals, velvet, gold, silver, china, tiles, sugar, furs, mirrors, iron, tableware, and various steel items dominated the trade, with these products being in high demand among the population^[6].

In the middle of the 19th century, gold, silver, and copper coins were minted in the emirate's mints. These coins were widely circulated in the markets. In many cases, gold coins were not in circulation in the emirate's markets, but trade was determined by the average value of gold. In particular, if the merchant set the price of his product at 20 gold coins, the buyer bought the product with a silver or copper coin equal to the value of gold^[7]. In the 1880s, the value of 1 Bukhara gold

coin in the emirate's markets was equal to 21 silver coins^[8].

In the second half of the 19th - early 20th centuries, the population of the emirate was forced to pay more than 50 taxes and additional payments. The main type of tax in the Bukhara Emirate was zakat, which was collected from adults who owned land, water, livestock, mills, and other income-generating products. Usually, zakat was set at 1/40 of the population's property value and 2.5% of merchants' trade goods. Also, when importing and exporting trade goods from outside the emirate, and when moving from one bekdom to another, zakat of 2.5% was collected depending on the quantity of products. In Eastern Bukhara, zakat was levied at the entrance and exit of the market^[9].

Zakat was collected from caravans in whichever city of the emirate they were heading to. However, according to the Kushbegi's instructions, zakat was levied on caravans transported to Tashkent, Kokand and other foreign lands within the Emirate - in Bukhara, Samarkand or Jizzakh. If merchants refused to pay zakat or cheated without paying zakat through illegal means, they were fined or imprisoned, and their goods were confiscated^[10].

Another main type of tax levied on trade and other products in the Bukhara Emirate was duty, which was levied on livestock, trade caravans, and personal vehicles when traveling from Eastern Bukhara to Western Bukhara and from other border regions^[11]. Customs duties on products imported into the territory of the emirate have been introduced in 2 different ways. In particular, a duty of one-fortieth or 2.5% was levied on Muslim merchants for the products they imported into the cities of the emirate. From Christian or non-Muslim traders, depending on the type of imported goods, a duty of one-twentieth or 5%, and in some cases from 10 to 20%, was levied^[12].

After the defeat of the Russian Empire in the Crimean War of 1853-1856, trade with European countries became a complex process. After the economic crisis, the Russian government began to focus on strengthening trade with Bukhara, Iran, Afghanistan, Turkey, Khiva, and Kokand. During this period, England, considered the biggest rival of the Russian Empire in the markets of Central Asia, had a strong desire to conquer the emirate's markets. This aspect also served as a key factor in the Russian Empire's entry into the markets of Central Asia. P.I. Nebolsin noted that in 1841-1842 various fabrics and trade goods produced in British factories entered the markets of Bukhara in large quantities, and they were sold in the emirate's markets at significantly lower prices than Russian goods^[13].

As a countermeasure, the Russian government was forced to send embassies to the Central Asian khanates. The embassy missions are tasked with revitalizing trade relations in the Khiva Khanate and the Bukhara Emirate, collecting new information about the economic situation of the two countries, as well as a comprehensive study of the political and economic significance of the Amu Darya River^[14].

This responsible task was entrusted to N.P. Ignatiev, who worked as a Russian military officer in London, had extensive experience, and was well-versed in the activities of British agents^[15]. In 1858, a mission led by N.P. Ignatiev visited the Khiva government. He stayed there for three weeks, but the negotiations were fruitless. After this, on September 22, 1858, the ambassadors who set out for the Bukhara Emirate were well received by the Emir of Bukhara, Nasrullo. During the negotiations, N.P. Ignatiev urged the Emir's government not to believe the English's tricks and empty promises, citing India, which had become a British colony and, as a result, had fallen into a deplorable situation. It was also agreed to halve the customs duties levied on Russian merchants in the Bukhara Emirate, to establish a temporary Russian trade agency in the Emirate, to allocate separate caravanserais for Russian merchants, to release captured Russian prisoners, to prevent future capture of Russian citizens, and to allow the free movement of Russian ships on the Amu Darya. However, most of the demands put forward by N. Ignatiev were not fulfilled by the Bukharan government. Russian merchants in Bukhara continued to trade in exchange for high tariffs^[16].

As a result, the Russian government also began to take strict measures against the free movement of the emirate's merchants in the Russian territories. In particular, Bukharan merchants were prohibited from traveling to Moscow, the inner cities of Russia, and to Korennaya, Irbitskaya, and Nizhny Novgorod, where trade fairs were held. This process continued for a certain period. The Russian government suffered more from this. On August 6, 1863, the ban on Bukharan merchants traveling to the inner cities of Russia was lifted, and trade relations between Russia and the Bukhara Emirate continued as before and gradually developed.

On June 23, 1868, a trade agreement was signed between Russia and Bukhara. According to this agreement, merchants of both countries had equal rights, and merchants of both sides were given the opportunity to build caravanserais on the territory of the country and appoint caravan leaders. Also, the trade tax levied on Russian merchants in Bukhara will be reduced from 5% to 2.5%^[17]. After that, trade

relations between the two countries will reach a new level.

By the middle of the 19th century, Russian merchants continued to conduct trade in the territory of the Bukhara Emirate mainly through Tatar merchants. Russian General N.F. Petrovsky also emphasizes that Russian trade in the emirate's markets was in the hands of Bukharan and Tatar merchants. He also stated that the trade in cotton, silk, and karakul in the territories of the emirate and Russia was still controlled by Bukharan merchants, in addition, the tea trade was also in the hands of local merchants, and as a measure, he informed the Russian government that the opening of Russian trading houses in Bukhara is a requirement of today^[18].

Evaluating the thoroughness and resourcefulness of Bukharan merchants, Eugene Schuyler noted that the main part of Russian trade was in the hands of Bukharan and Tatar merchants, and it was quite difficult to penetrate them^[19].

In the 1850-1880s, trade between Bukhara and Russia was controlled by Bukharan merchants, whose influence was significantly higher than that of Russian merchants. Local merchants acted as intermediaries, controlling trade not only in Bukhara, but also in various Russian cities. Only Tatar merchants could compete with the Bukharans in Russia. Despite the large influx of Russian goods into the Bukhara Emirate, the position of Russian merchants in Bukharan-Russian trade was not high. Until the 80s and 90s of the 19th century, the role of Bukharan and Tatar merchants in trade relations between Bukhara and Russia was preserved. Also, in such cities as Petersburg, Moscow, Orenburg, Orsk, Tyumen, Astrakhan, Kazan, Ibrat, Nizhny Novgorod, Bukharan merchants conducted trade independently without the participation of Russian merchants^[20].

On September 23, 1873, a treaty was signed between Russia and Bukhara in Shakhrisabz. According to the terms of the treaty, Bukhara was prohibited from conducting independent diplomatic relations with foreign states and was recognized as a protectorate of Russia. Also, Russian traders will have the right not to pay customs duties when moving to other countries through the territory of Bukhara^[21]. On September 28, 1873, a third treaty was signed between Bukhara and Russia^[22]. This treaty, consisting of 18 articles, provided broad opportunities for Russian merchants. In particular, its 5th article assigned the safety of Russian caravans arriving in Bukhara to the Bukharan government and established that all cities and villages of the emirate were open to Russian trade. Also, another article states that the Russians had the right to

build a warehouse on the banks of the Amu Darya, which belonged to the territory of the emirate, and the protection of the warehouse was entrusted to the Bukhara government^[23]. According to section 6 of the treaty, Russian merchants would not pay any taxes other than customs duties in the amount of 25% of the products they transport from Bukhara to Russia or from Russia to Bukhara. However, since the main income of the Emir's treasury consisted of duties and taxes levied on foreign merchants, this issue caused long debates. Negotiations were held several times between the Governor-General of Turkestan and the Emir of Bukhara. As a result, Emir Muzaffar agreed to set the 2.5% trade duty at 1.5%^[24].

CONCLUSION

Russia was one of the leading states in the trade relations of the Bukhara Emirate with foreign countries. At the end of the 19th - beginning of the 20th centuries, the Bukhara Emirate maintained a high demand for goods imported from Russia. Products exported from the emirates to Russia also acquired special significance due to their demand in Russia. Bukharan merchants freely conducted trade directly in Moscow, Petersburg, Kazan, Orenburg, Orsk, Tyumen, Astrakhan, and other Russian cities. During this period, the Russian government tried to open partnership societies, branches of Russian firms and trading houses in the Bukhara Emirate. Beginning in the 1880s, the penetration of various monopolistic firms and bank branches of the Russian government, connected with trade, into the territory of the emirate accelerated.

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