

Bukhara Emirate And India In The 19th-20th Centuries

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Abstract: This article examines the markets and caravanserais in the trade relations between the Bukhara Emirate and India during the second half of the 19th century and early 20th century. It explores the products exported from Bukhara to India and from India to Bukhara, as well as the development of trade relations between the two countries over the years. The study focuses on the trade connections between the cities of Bukhara, Samarkand, Karshi, Termez, and Sherabad with the Indian trading centers of Peshawar, Shikarpur, and Multan.

Keywords: Markets, Caravanserais, trade, transit, import, export, trade duty, caravan routes, rasta, khanqah, hujra, monetary relations, lunka, religious tolerance.

Introduction: When examining the trade relations of the Bukhara Emirate in the 19th-20th centuries, we find that the Bukhara Emirate consistently engaged in trade with Khiva, Kokand, Russia, Afghanistan, Iran, China, India, and European countries. During this period, competition between English and Russian products was particularly intense in Bukhara's markets compared to goods imported from other foreign countries. English products were primarily imported to Bukhara's markets through India. E.D. Eversman notes that in 1820, Persian and Indian merchants brought English manufactured goods to the markets of the Bukhara Emirate [1].

METHOD

By the second half of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century, trade relations between Bukhara and India continued consistently. Trade connections between the Emirate's cities of Bukhara, Samarkand, Karshi, Termez, and Sherabad and Indian trade centers such as Peshawar, Shikarpur, Multan, and others developed progressively year by year [2].

A. Negri, who visited Bukhara in 1820, recorded that there were 14 caravanserais: Abdullajon, Kushbegi, Hind, Nogay, Khoja Juybara, Tashkent, Karshi, Miragul, Amir, Kull ota, Fishana, Jankulshira, and Urgench, where English and foreign trade goods were sold. In caravanserais and bazaars, imported products were sold alongside local trade goods [3]. Merchants rented one or more rooms from these caravanserais according to their needs. Additionally, in covered markets,

foreign traders rented small or large rooms, either permanently or for specific periods, to store their products. Sources indicate that expensive Indian, Persian, Russian, and English goods were sold in large quantities in the markets located throughout the emirate [4].

Indian merchants brought English products to the markets of Bukhara alongside Indian trade goods. Anglo-Indian merchandise was imported into the emirate's territory primarily through two routes. The first route went from Calcutta or Bombay through Peshawar to Kabul, and from there to Bukhara. The second route was by sea, going to the port of Bandar Bushehr in the Persian Gulf, and from this port through Isfahan, Mashhad, Merv, and Chardzhou to Bukhara. Merchants rarely used the second route, mainly employing it in emergency situations. Furthermore, this route was much longer in distance and thus more inconvenient for traders [5].

According to historical records, foreign merchants in the emirate's markets were granted the right to trade freely and reside without restrictions within the emirate's territories. Furthermore, guarantees were provided to prevent discrimination against people of other faiths, and they were assured the freedom to return to their homeland whenever they wished. However, these non-Muslim merchants were required to pay twice the amount of customs duty compared to Sunni Muslims [6]. A. Burns noted that in the Bukhara Emirate, Indian merchants enjoyed the same privileges

as Muslim merchants, and no one in the emirate forced them to convert to Islam [7].

In the bazaars of the emirate, one piece of English-Indian pocket fabric cost 15-17 tangas, first-grade calico cost 2 gold pieces per piece, second-grade 1.5 gold pieces, and third-grade 1 gold piece and 7 tangas. 20 pieces of yellow alvukelnins were priced at 34 gold pieces, while red ones cost 40 gold pieces. Four poods of blue tea of the lunka variety cost 55 gold pieces, black tea 40 gold pieces, chopped variety tea 30 gold pieces, and white-headed variety tea 25 gold pieces. One pood of indigo could be purchased for 4-4.5 gold pieces, one botmon of sugar for 16 gold pieces, and a botmon of pepper for 24 gold pieces [8]. In the 1860s, British cotton, wool, and silk goods worth 170,000 pounds sterling were brought to Bukhara annually from India through Kabul [9].

L.F. Kostenko provided not only the prices of Anglo-Indian goods in the emirate markets but also the cost of products imported from Russia. In the emirate bazaars, the following items were sold: one pood of white sugar for 40 tanga, one pood of tea for 14 tilla, one pood of candles for 55 tanga, one batman of copper for 23 tilla, one pood of brass for 80-85 tanga, 16 poods of iron for 200 tanga, cast iron vessels priced up to 12 tilla depending on their size, one pood of tin for 55 tanga, a piece of chintz for 29-45 tanga, one piece of calico for 35 tanga, a piece of woolen cloth for 5-5.5 tilla, 10 pieces of black leather for 230-250 tanga, red leather for 250-270 tanga, a piece of tik fabric woven at the Bogomozov factory for 57-60 tanga, a box of kalyabatun (dlya rasshivki kalyapushey) for 100-114 tanga, a batman of kvass for 7 tilla, and a batman of sal ammoniac for 7 tilla [10].

Indian-British products were also imported to the emirate's markets in large quantities from Afghanistan. The Bukhara Emirate conducted trade with Afghanistan primarily in summer, as the mountain passes of the Hindu Kush were completely covered with snow in winter. Every year, trade goods were brought from Afghanistan to Bukhara on 3-3.5 thousand camels. According to reports, Indian-British goods worth 170,000 pounds sterling, or over 1 million rubles, were imported annually from Kabul to the emirate's markets. The main trade goods consisted of various paper, silk and wool products, cashmere shawls, indigo, and blue and white striped paper scarves (pota) used for summer turbans. The emirate exported silk raw materials, cotton fabrics, and Russian products such as textiles, metal items, chests, and other goods to Afghanistan [11].

The development of industry and manufacturing in the country led to an increase in production volumes. As a

result, special attention began to be paid to trade relations with foreign countries. In the 1870s and 1880s, the volume of products imported from India to Bukhara increased significantly. During these years, 70,000 poods of tea, 18,000 poods of indigo (dye) or 1,400 rolls, 80 poods of paint, 50 Kashmir carpets, and 30 gold-woven Indian products were brought to Bukhara from India [12]. Subsequently, imports of Indian goods steadily increased. According to official data (in 1881), 600 bales were transported annually from India to Bukhara on 300 camels, each bale containing 2,400 pieces of fabric, totaling 1,440,000 pieces of cargo [13].

Tea was the most imported product from India to the Bukhara Emirate. In 1860, 84,000 poods of tea were brought to Bukhara from India and distributed among 6 caravanserais in Bukhara. For example, "Saroyi Abdurashid" received 3,000 camel loads of tea per year, "Saroyi Mirzagul" received 1,500 camel loads, and "Saroyi Badriddin" received 1,200 camel loads of tea. In the 1870s and 1880s, 112 thousand poods of green tea, 23 thousand poods of indigo, and 20 thousand poods of muslin were imported to Bukhara [14]. According to information provided by the Kushbegi to the Russian political agent in Bukhara (October 1886), in 1886, tea was brought from India to Bukhara through Afghanistan on 200 camels [15]. M.A. Terentyev, also commenting on the tea trade in the emirate, noted: "Our position in Bukhara is very weak, these markets are completely foreign to us" [16]. In this manner, they expressed their concerns to the Russian government.

In Bukhara's markets, tea imported from India was considerably cheaper, with one pood of tea priced at 20-28 rubles. As a result, Bukharan merchants exported Indian tea to the Turkestan region, paying a duty of 14 rubles 40 kopecks per pood, and sold it in the Tashkent market at 54 rubles per pood. Including customs duties, merchants earned 11 rubles and 60 kopecks from each pood of tea, and up to 26 rubles when transported secretly without paying customs duties. In the Turkestan region, there was also high demand for indigo dye imported from India, which was sold at rather high prices in the markets. For example, merchants paid a duty of 6 rubles per pood of indigo dye, but received a profit of 36 - 38 rubles per pood [17].

In 1887, caravans from India made 15 trips to the markets of Bukhara through Afghanistan [18]. Among their products were 1400 pieces of gauze and unbleached calico, which were quite expensive in the emirate's markets, 250 Kashmir carpets, and 300 pieces of gold-woven kimkhob (brocade) fabrics popular in Central Asia. Various statistical data on Bukhara-India trade relations are presented in the available scientific literature. For example, according to E.Ya. Lyusternik,

in 1889 products worth 2,924,420 rubles were imported from India through Afghanistan to Bukhara, and in 1890 - 2,336,000 rubles [19]. According to A.Ya. Sokolov, products worth 2,336,510 rubles were imported to Bukhara from India during these years.

CONCLUSION

The Bukhara Emirate maintained active trade relations with India throughout the 19th century. The volume of English trade goods in the markets of the Bukhara Emirate increased year by year. This process caused concern for Russia, as Russia also viewed these markets as targets for its products. Subsequently, each state accelerated efforts to import trade goods into this region as quickly and in as large volumes as possible. The majority of Indian merchants trading in the Bukhara Emirate were from Multan, Kabul, and Shikarpur. Merchants from both countries brought British goods along with Indian merchandise to Bukhara's markets. As a result, the share of English goods in the emirate's markets increased, which created greater competition compared to trade goods imported from other foreign countries.

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