

Trade relations between the Khiva khanate under Shaibanid dynasty and England

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Abstract: In this article gives information about how During the Shaibanid dynasty, the Khanate of Khiva experienced a significant increase in trade relations, establishing strong partnerships with neighboring countries such as Iran, Russia, Afghanistan, and the Emirate of Bukhara. The British Empire also sought to cultivate consistent trade ties with the Khanate of Khiva during this period. In the 16th century, British records on Central Asia provided comprehensive insights into the region's geography, borders, trade commodities, and particularly focused on the transit areas of the Khanates of Bukhara and Khiva. As European merchants faced challenges trading with Eastern countries via the Mediterranean Sea due to Ottoman control, the northeastern route through Central Asia became vital for British trade connections with Eastern nations

Keywords: Khanate of Khiva, Kaspian trade, English merchants trade routes

The trade of the Khanate of Khiva increased from year to year. It had strong trade relations with neighboring countries such as Iran, Russia, Afghanistan and the Emirate of Bukhara. The British Empire also tried to have consistent trade relations with the Khanate of Khiva.

The information collected by the British about Central Asia in the 16th century is distinguished by its comprehensiveness. Although this information discusses the location of this region in relation to China, its borders, relations with China, and trade goods, the main focus is on the Khanates of Bukhara and Khiva as a transit area¹.

At the beginning of the 16th century, with the establishment of the Ottoman Turks on the shores of the Mediterranean Sea, it became difficult for European merchants to trade with Eastern countries through the Mediterranean Sea. For this reason, the northeastern road became the only way of salvation and the only way for the British to communicate with Eastern countries and countries on the eastern coast of the Mediterranean Sea through the "Russian corridor". In 1630, monk Joseph* announced that there was no safe and favorable way for European countries to trade with the East through the "Russian Corridor"².

Since the 16th century, the acceleration of the process of economic development in Europe, the increasing desire to acquire cheap raw materials by occupying new lands had an impact on Central Asia. Since this period, the trade relations of Central Asia, especially the Bukhara and Khiva khanates, with European countries have revived. These trade relations were carried out on two routes, south – through Iran and north – through Russia³.

¹ Erqo'ziyev A.A. Ўрта Осиё ва Ғарбий Европа ўртасидаги иқтисодий алоқалар (XVI – XIX асрнинг биринчи ярми). – Б. 39

² Erqo'ziyev A.A. Ўрта Осиё ва Ғарбий Европа ўртасидаги иқтисодий алоқалар (XVI – XIX асрнинг биринчи ярми). – Б. 74

³ Erqo'ziyev A.A. Ўрта Осиё ва Ғарбий Европа ўртасидаги иқтисодий алоқалар (XVI – XIX асрнинг биринчи ярми). – Б. 104

By the middle of the 16th century, when the position of the British in world trade was strengthened, the term “farang” was replaced by the term “English”. The influence of the British, who wanted to take over all the trade in the eastern countries, thus entered Central Asia as well⁴.

Silk fabrics of Bukhara and Khiva were exported to Asian and European countries through transit trade routes in many cases. For this reason, in the 16th and 17th centuries, Iran and Central Asia became the main supplier of silk to Europe. Yarn and silk goods from Bukhara and Khiva were transported through Iran to the Ottoman Empire and from there to Europe⁵.

Through carpet trade, Central Asian merchants had a large income in Western European markets. However, they did not go to European countries, but sold the carpets to Russian merchants in Orenburg and other Russian cities⁶.

Due to the strong connection of the Nizhny Novgorod Fair with the Leipzig Fair, Khiva scarves were exported to Europe⁷.

By the 18th century, the “Moscow” company devoted its activities to the creation of the English merchant fleet in the Caspian Sea. For this purpose, the British government used the territories of Iran, the Ottoman Turks, and partially Russia. The activities of the British in the Caspian basin in the second half of the 18th century were related to representatives of the “Moscow” trading company and had a colonial character⁸.

The growing importance of Shemakha, the center of the Shirvan region, in the trade between East and West made it the main destination on the transit trade route. In the 16th and 17th centuries, Shemakha traded not only with the cities of the Caucasus region, but also with the cities of Central Asia, Russia and Western Europe. There were seven caravansary around the city, where Russian, Tatar, European merchants, as well as Tajik and Uzbek merchants traded. The city is inextricably linked with the trade routes leading from the coast of the Mediterranean Sea to Europe, and the roads leading to Tabriz and Baku are distinguished by their speed. The Baku-Shemakha trade route is one of the main routes connecting Shemakha with Central Asia. Central Asian merchants who came to Baku by ship in the Caspian Sea moved along this route. In the 16th and 17th centuries, silk trade played an important role in Shemakha's internal and external trade. During this period, the city, which became a base for Russian and European trade in the East, had a permanent British merchant court⁹.

In turn, it became easier for English industrial goods to enter the markets of Bukhara and Khiva through court merchants. The appearance of English merchants in Bukhara and Khiva through the Caucasus disturbed the Russian government¹⁰.

⁴ Erqo`ziyev A.A. Ўрта Осиё ва Ғарбий Европа ўртасидаги иқтисодий алоқалар (XVI – XIX асрнинг биринчи ярми). – Б. 63-64

⁵ Erqo`ziyev A.A. Ўрта Осиё ва Ғарбий Европа ўртасидаги иқтисодий алоқалар (XVI – XIX асрнинг биринчи ярми). – Б. 59

⁶ Erqo`ziyev A.A. Ўрта Осиё ва Ғарбий Европа ўртасидаги иқтисодий алоқалар (XVI – XIX асрнинг биринчи ярми). – Б. 136

⁷ Erqo`ziyev A.A. Ўрта Осиё ва Ғарбий Европа ўртасидаги иқтисодий алоқалар (XVI – XIX асрнинг биринчи ярми). – Б. 96

⁸ Erqo`ziyev A.A. Ўрта Осиё ва Ғарбий Европа ўртасидаги иқтисодий алоқалар (XVI – XIX асрнинг биринчи ярми). – Б. 78

⁹ Erqo`ziyev A.A. Ўрта Осиё ва Ғарбий Европа ўртасидаги иқтисодий алоқалар (XVI – XIX асрнинг биринчи ярми). – Б. 110

¹⁰ Erqo`ziyev A.A. Ўрта Осиё ва Ғарбий Европа ўртасидаги иқтисодий алоқалар (XVI – XIX асрнинг биринчи ярми). – Б. 111

In 1734, an agreement was signed between England and Russia on the use of transit trade routes with eastern countries through Russia. Immediately after the signing of the agreement, the British representatives of the Russian company began to look for convenient trade routes to Iran through Russia, and for this purpose, they organized several secret expeditions to Central Asia, Azerbaijan and Iran. Since the 18th century, the English "Moscow" (Rus) trading company has firmly established itself around the Caspian Sea in order to expand its economic interests. In order to strengthen the company's trade opportunities in Central Asian khanates, merchant spies were sent to the khanate cities several times¹¹.

For this purpose, in 1739, representatives of the "Russian Company" John Elton and Mungo Graham were sent to Khiva and Bukhara. But when they heard the news about the danger of Nadirshakh's attack on Central Asia, they preferred to go directly to Iran from Astrakhan. In February 1740, the "Russian Company" organized a new expedition to Khiva and Bukhara in order to complete this work. It included spies such as George Thompson and Reginald Hogg. They had to study trade conditions in Khiva and Bukhara. This expedition will go through the south-eastern borders of Russia and the deserts of Kazakhstan. The diaries of G. Thompson and R. Hogg were published in the book of Jonas Hanway, a merchant of the "Russian Company" in Iran¹². G. Thompson and R. Hogg entered Khiva on September 9, 1740, passing through the deserts of Kazakhstan and the north-western shores of the Aral Sea through the city of Yayik. When they arrived at the caravanserai, they were immediately charged a duty of 5% of their goods¹³. The British gave the following description of the city of Khiva: "The city of Khiva is surrounded by a thick wall and has three gates. There are also deep trenches. The area is high, but the houses are low. Most buildings are made of straw. The roofs are flat and covered with mud. The dominions of Khiva are very small and can be explored in three days. The khan has absolute power and is not subject to any authority except the chief priest, who is called the mullabashi. The way of life is very similar to the Kyrgyz, the difference is that they live in cities and villages¹⁴". Analyzing the state of internal trade in Khiva, they report that they trade only with Bukhara and Iran, and buy animals, furs and skins from Kazakhs and Turkmens. Kyrgyz and Turkmen were considered dangerous neighbors for Khiva people. Khiva produced a small amount of cotton, medium quality sheepskin (probably korakol), and a small amount of raw silk and silk products¹⁵. Those who came to the opinion that it is difficult to make a lot of profit from this area, noting that clothes and other goods made in Europe are very rare in Khiva region¹⁶.

¹¹ Yaqubova G.U. Xiva xonligining Rossiya bilan diplomatik aloqalari (XVI - XX asrlar). UrDU. Magg.diss. 2015. – B. 48.

¹² Jonas Hanway. An historical account of the British trade over the Caspian sea. London. 1763. – P. 345

¹³ Jonas Hanway. An historical account of the British trade over the Caspian sea. London. 1763. – P. 350

¹⁴ Jonas Hanway. An historical account of the British trade over the Caspian sea. London. 1763. – P. 351

¹⁵ Yaqubova G.U. Xiva xonligining Rossiya bilan diplomatik aloqalari (XVI-XX asrlar). Mag.diss. Urganch. 2015. – B. 49.

¹⁶ Jonas Hanway. An historical account of the British trade over the Caspian sea. London. 1763. – P. 352

G. Thompson and R. Hogg got acquainted with the trade relations of the population of the Khanate and said that "... the Khiva trade only with Bukhara and Iran in livestock products, wool and skins. The people of Khiva grow cotton, wool, and a small amount of raw silk for the manufacturing industry¹⁷.

Thus, they note that Khiva has little source of raw materials of interest to British industry. As for Indian goods, G. Thompson and R. Hogg did not see Indian goods when they were here. They admitted that Khiva traded with Bukhara and Iran, as well as with neighboring nomads.

The British also looked for a market for their goods in Khiva, but as a result of their research, they realized that the Khiva people had little need for European goods. That's why they believed that they could not make a profitable trade here, and the amount of expenses would exceed the profit. In terms of customs duties, 5% customs duty was levied on non-Muslim goods and 2.5% on Muslim goods. So, opportunities for English goods were very limited. The spies of the "Russian Company" stayed in Khiva until Nadirshakh's troops occupied Khiva, that is, until December 15, 1740. They collected important information for the trade, such as the fact that Khiva money consisted of 3 penny coins, that their length measurement was equal to 12 inches, and that the batman weight measurement was 18 pounds.

Due to unrest in the city, the representatives of the company were forced to sell the British goods they had brought with them to Persian and local merchants. Also, with the king's permission, they sold their goods to Persian soldiers. After the situation calmed down a little, R. Hogg started to collect trade money. Having collected his money, R. Hogg was attacked by robbers in the Kazakh deserts while returning to his country through Orenburg and lost everything¹⁸. R. Hogg also observed the need for English goods in Central Asia and determined that movut is used only for making headwear. He also noted that it is difficult to deliver any European goods here, which causes their prices to increase. According to the reports presented by G. Thompson and R. Hogg to the "Moscow" trading company, it was clear that the British trade in the markets of Bukhara and Khiva did not bring them income¹⁹.

R. Hogg managed to leave Khiva only on April 6, 1741. Robbed by thieves on the way, R. Hogg arrived in Petersburg in the spring of 1742 through Orenburg²⁰.

G. Thompson paid attention to customs tax collection in Bukhara. 1% of all imported goods in Bukhara, and 1% of exported goods 10% tax is charged. In times of peace, the profit from the customs tax is per year It was 1000 ducats. Similarly, it fell into the treasury of the Khan of Khiva customs tax benefit reached 100 ducats per year. It can be seen that Compared to Bukhara, the trade turnover in Khiva was much lower. We can see such a situation in A. who came to Khiva and Bukhara in the middle of the 16th century. We also met in Jenkinson's data. A century ago Jenkinson's opinion is confirmed by G. Thomson and R. Hogg. Har both of them find a buyer for the goods they brought in the markets of Bukhara did not receive, and here the price of European goods is very low risk and said that there is no benefit in bringing and selling goods in dangerous ways came to a conclusion. It seems that G. Thompson and R. Hogg

¹⁷ Allayorova M. Xiva xonlgining savdo aloqalari. Referat. SamDU 2014. – P. 14.

¹⁸ Allayorova M. Xiva xonlgining savdo aloqalari. Referat. SamDU 2014. – P. 14.

¹⁹ Erqo'ziyev A.A. Ўрта Осиё ва Ғарбий Европа ўртасидаги иқтисодий алоқалар (XVI – XIX асрнинг биринчи ярми). – Б. 65

²⁰ Jonas Hanway. An historical account of the British trade over the Caspian sea. London. 1763. – P. 352

deliberately tried to distract the attention of the Russian government and Russian industrial circles, taking into account the passage of this information through Russia²¹. In order to establish their rule in Central Asia, the British first, on the one hand, established economic relations with these regions, and on the other hand, squeezed the Central Asian markets under the influence of the British Empire, and on the other hand, squeezed them with diplomatic relations, where they established their own they were aiming to create a kingdom. The appearance of British industrial products in Central Asia caused unrest in the ruling circles of Russia, and it was even discussed in the Asian Trade Committee²².

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²¹ Yaqubova G.U. Xiva xonligining Rossiya bilan diplomatik aloqalari (XVI-XX asrlar). Mag.diss. Urganch. 2015. – B. 49-50

²² Муҳаммаджонов А. Р., Неъматов Т. Бухоро ва Хеванинг Россия билан муносабатлари тарихига доир баъзи манбалар. – Т.: Фан, – Б. 63.