



# **SOURCE STUDIES OF TURKESTAN- AFGHANISTAN RELATIONS (BASED ON MATERIALS FROM THE TURKESTAN GOVERNOR GENERAL'S OFFICE)**

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**Annotation:** The history of Turkestan is an integral part of the history of the peoples of Central Asia. Uzbekistan, which has chosen the path of independent development, has created new opportunities for scientific research in the field of history. As a result, our historical scientists are achieving great success in their scientific research. The given article is devoted to the questions of studying the sources of the history of Turkestan in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The object of investigation is diplomatic relations with neighboring Afghanistan. The materials of Turkestan General governorship office are used as sources of investigation.

**Key words:** An integral part of the history, new opportunities for scientific research, neighboring countries, their territory, population, economic life, especially the violence, base of trade relations.

## **Introduction**

The history of the authoritarian system of the Russian Empire in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century – the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century is being analyzed scientifically. In this regard, the First President of Our Republic I.A. Karimov - "With the efforts of Uzbek scientists, many very important pages of our history, first of all, the history of the Timurids era, the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century - the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, have been rediscovered" – can be said to be an assessment of the achieved results. [1]

In the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century - the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the fate of the peoples living in the territory of present-day Uzbekistan was connected with the authoritarian system of government established by the Russian Empire in the country. The General Governorate of Turkestan, which embodies the administration of the subject peoples of the



country, has great rights, one of which is the history of mutual relations between the countries bordering Turkestan, which is one of the important areas of scientific research.

Neighboring countries, their territory, population, economic life, especially the violence after the conquest of our country by the Russian Empire violated the rights of our people, and the relations at the base of trade relations formed over a long period of time have also changed.

## **Main PART**

In the second half of the 19th century, these relations were implemented only through the General-governorship, a reliable support of the Russian Empire in Turkestan. Historical information on trade-diplomatic relations with neighboring countries can be obtained from the documents of the Turkestan General-Governorship Court (Chancellery). Among the documents of the office, K.P. Kaufman, who was the foreign ruler of the country in the second half of the 19th century during the conquest of Turkestan, received extensive rights from the Russian Tsar Alexander II on July 17, 1867, including "all political, border and trade affairs with neighboring countries". there is also information that it was given. The relations of the governor-general of Turkestan with neighboring Afghanistan Kashgar, Kulja and khanates (this also refers to the Emirate of Bukhara.

However, in the office documents, Bukhara was called khanate, not the emirate) was conducted through the diplomatic department of the office of the governor-general of Turkestan. On February 13, 1899, at the invitation of the Governor-General of Turkestan Dukhovskiy, the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs sent its representatives to Tashkent, and they carried out their duties until January 1918 as officials of diplomatic affairs under the Governor-General of Turkestan. Among the documents of this office, a lot of historical information about relations with neighboring Afghanistan is currently stored in the funds of the Central Archives of the Republic of Uzbekistan. Sources related to this issue can also be found in the annual reports of regional military governors, which must be compiled in a mandatory manner. Among the complete annual reports of the region (E.B., the reports are not always given in order) - information on the details of many specific events can be found in them. This article mainly analyzes the reports of the military governors of the Transcaspian region as the main source.

In particular, one of the information regarding the relations of Turkestan with Afghanistan, the nearest border, can be obtained from the annual report of the military governor of the Transcaspian region, Lieutenant-General Bogolyubov, for 1898.

According to the information in the report, in the reporting year of the Zakaspiyan region, on the basis of reports given by the customs officials: 4 mln. Goods in the amount of 977,000 rubles were imported. In turn, 4 million to Afghanistan. 742,000 rubles worth of products were produced, among which tea, cotton, wool, dry fruits, textile products, sugar, rice, colored dyes were considered to be the most sought-after products in the exchange of goods. [2]

Commenting on the region's trade relations with Afghanistan, the report found that trade relations with Afghanistan were weak compared to trade relations with Iran. However, it is

noted that the aspirations of bordering Afghan peoples to expand trade relations with the Transcaspian region are significant. Especially, with the opening of the Murgob branch of the Trans-Caspian railway, the opportunity for the expansion of trade relations has expanded even more. The authorities of the Russian Empire paid special attention to relations with Afghanistan. For example: cattle were brought from Afghanistan to the territory of Transcaspian region through border posts and they were exempted from customs duties. The military-governor of the region said that the unfriendly attitude of the ruling circles of Afghanistan towards Russia has a negative impact on the development of mutual trade relations.

When thinking about the relations between the Turkestan Governorate and Afghanistan, it is directly related to the internal political events of Afghanistan. For example, in 1863, the Afghan Emir Dust-Muhammad Khan died. As a result, a fierce struggle for the throne began, and Sheralikhan, the son of the former emir, won. Defeated in the fight, Abdurakhman Khan (he is Sherali Khan's nephew) began to live in Turkestan with the permission of the Russian emperor. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Empire later uses the scientist Abdurakhmon Khan. Abdurakhmon Khan and his relatives came and settled in the area of "Kavarzor" neighborhood of the present-day Samarkand city. Local residents called that place "garden of Afghanistan". Even Abdurakhmon Khan began to receive a government "pension" of 10,000 rubles a year from the Russian emperor. [3]

For the purposes of the Russian Empire, the situation was realized after 10 years. With the entry of Great Britain into Afghanistan in 1878 and the signing of the "Gandamak" treaty in 1879, which was not favorable for Afghanistan, as well as the death of Sherali Khan, the internal situation became tense again. In such a situation, the Tsar's government organized the event of Abdurakhmon Khan's escape to his homeland.

In fact, he did not flee, on the contrary, the general governorship of Turkestan was quickly transferred to northern Afghanistan, and Abdurakhman Khan became the emir of the country in a short time. [4]

When we get acquainted with the history of Afghanistan, Abdurakhman Khan, who was appointed as an emir in 1880, conducted a unique policy of "neutrality" during his more than 20-year rule. He tried to reduce the sphere of influence of England in Afghanistan as much as possible. According to information, Abdurakhman-khan was sympathetic to the uprising of local Indians against the British in the north-western border of India. He also sent one of his military forces to help the rebels. He even fired Salter Payne, the director of the military weapons factory in Kabul, and the British engineers with him. The Russian Empire was satisfied with the Afghan ruler's position in relation to Great Britain. In turn, the Russian Empire's guarantee of non-interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan during the negotiations with England in 1872-1873 created favorable opportunities for Abdurakhman Khan to create a centralized state. [5]



There is information that Abdurakhman Khan receives 1 million 800,000 rupees from Britain every year and uses it for the defense alliance against Russia. It turns out that Afghanistan began to play the role of a special separator in the relations between Russia and England, and the Amir of Afghanistan, Abdurakhman Khan, tried to increase the status of his country using it, and partially achieved this goal. [6]

Afghanistan's relations with Turkestan did not stop even during Abdurakhman Khan's reign. In 1888, the emir's relative, the ruler of 4 region Isaqkhan (4 region – Mazari Sharif, Sarikul, Shiburg'an and Andkhai districts were included) expected a rebellion against Abdurakhman Khan. After the uprising was suppressed, Isaq Khan and his son Ismail Khan retreated to the territories of the Turkestan Governorate. [7]

On September 22, 1888, the Minister of War of the Russian Empire, P. Vannovsky, sent a telegram to the Governor General of Turkestan. [8]

It stated that Isaq Khan will be given asylum. Isaq Khan again settled in Samarkand with a large number of his relatives. He lived in this city for 21 years until the end of his life. The Governor General of Turkestan appointed Isaq Khan a government "pension" in the amount of 10,000 rubles from February 21, 1889. [9] That is why, taking into account the above situations, the leaders of the Transcaspian region had an impartial attitude towards Afghanistan.

In the following years, there were almost no changes in the reports of the military governors of the region and in their mutual relations. Mainly trade relations continued. According to the report of the military governor of the Transcaspian region in 1908, Afghan merchants and hired workers entered the territory of the region without any border barriers. Because at that time the internal situation in Afghanistan changed. As a result, Russia's trade turnover with Afghanistan will decrease to 0.2%. However, despite this, Afghan farmers and merchants living on the border received 3,000,000 rubles of profit from the sale of hulk fruit alone. Analyzing this situation, the head of the department of the Council of Ministers of the Russian Empire planned to deliver Russian manufactured goods to Afghanistan through the Iranian cities of Mashhad and Turbati-Haidar.

From its foreign policy, in particular, with its accession to the Entente in 1907, Russia received guarantees from the British government to develop favorable trade relations with Afghanistan. Tsarist authorities always took into account the internal situation in Afghanistan. In particular: in 1908, 10,000 people of the "Jamshedi" tribe, dissatisfied with the political situation in Afghanistan, asked for a place in the Transcaspian region. With the help of regional authorities, 7,000 of them were settled in a place called "Chamani-Bida" and spent 15,000 rubles for this. [10]

Information about mutual relations of the following years is also kept. For example, in the message No. 96 of the "Political Agency of the Russian Empire in Bukhara" dated April 7, 1909 to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia, a description of the interview of the employees of the political agency with the Afghan herdsman is described. According to him, while the herdsmen living between Kabul and Herat in Afghanistan reported on the situation



in the country, because of the unfavorable conditions for the herdsmen to grow and sell livestock, the Transcaspian region, personally, in this case, the herdsman from Afghanistan was caught driving 4,000 head of cattle to the oasis of Marv. According to his information, 130 people from Afghan tribes complained to the Afghan emir Habibullah Khan about the obstacles of the ruling circles in the development of cattle breeding. [11]

To raise livestock in the Transcaspian region, the cattle breeders of Afghanistan and Iran paid a tax of 5 tyins for each cow and 10 tyins for large cattle. This information is given in the appeal of Colonel Fan-Faler, the head of the Marv district of the Transcaspian region, to the military governor of the region dated September 19, 1909 (registered in the regional office under the number № 14076). [12]

## Conclusion

The above two documents are the source of the Russian Empire's relations with Afghanistan. According to them, the General Governorate of Turkestan, taking into account the external political situation of the empire, does not put serious obstacles in relations with Afghanistan, on the contrary, it makes concessions as much as possible. Therefore, the given information shows that the Empire's administrators, the diplomatic relations they conducted in Turkestan, worked with the neighboring countries, especially Afghanistan, as much as possible for the benefit of the Empire, and the sources given about this are considered as evidence.

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