



## LIFE OF THE CITIES OF KASHKADARYA (1756–1920)

Abdullayeva Gulrukh

Master's student at Asian University of Technology

**Abstract:** This article analyzes the social and economic life of the historical cities of the Kashkadarya region in the second half of the 18th century and the beginning of the 20th century. It covers changes in the lifestyle of the region's population, trade, crafts, land ownership and tax systems, as well as economic reforms during the period of Russian colonialism.

**Keywords:** Kashkadarya, economy, social life, trade, crafts, tax system, agrarian relations.

**Introduction:** Since 1756, economic life in the Kashkadarya region was based on agriculture and animal husbandry. The lands around cities such as Karshi, Shahrizabz, Kitab were irrigated, and cotton, wheat, barley, and other crops were grown. Agrarian relations related to the labor of the population were formed within the framework of the feudal system, and farmers paid taxes in favor of the landowners.

Cities developed as centers of crafts. In particular, Karshi and Shahrizabz had carpet weaving, coppersmithing, pottery, and textile industries. Local craftsmen sold their products in local markets as well as in neighboring regions and large cities such as Bukhara and Samarkand. Regional trade relations developed through the activities of city markets.

**Main part:** The population of the region was socially divided into strata: landowners, farmers, artisans, merchants, religious and state officials. Representatives of the upper class (beys, emirs, rich) owned more wealth and land and lived off the labor of ordinary people. Traditional family labor played an important role in the way of life, and in many cases several generations of the population lived together.

### Economic reforms under the influence of the Russian Empire (1868–1920)

After the 1868 treaties with the Russian Empire, significant changes occurred in the economic life of the Kashkadarya region. New tax systems were introduced and customs control was strengthened. The construction of railways and the arrival of modern machinery also affected the economy. At the same time, economic independence decreased, and dependence on the Russian market increased.

By the beginning of the 20th century, the Jadid movement had also affected economic life. The opening of new-style schools, increased literacy, and women's desire for social activity led to positive changes in society. The political changes of 1917–1920 also had an impact on social life - land reform, the transition to public ownership, and a process of renewal of lifestyle under the new Soviet rule began.

The economic system of the Kashkadarya region was based on a centuries-old agrarian system. In the 18th–19th centuries, peasants were the main productive force here. Landowners (beys, emirs) owned large tracts of land, and peasants worked on their lands. Peasants transferred their land to state officials by paying taxes. Land ownership was often divided by

social strata. The highest stratum was made up of landowners, who also had great influence in local government.

In the cities of Kashkadarya, cotton, wheat, barley, corn and other crops were grown, and these products were sold not only to local markets, but also to neighboring regions. As the population grew, the size of land plots decreased, and the demand for labor by landowners also changed.

The cities of Kashkadarya developed as trading centers. By the 1860s, trade relations had expanded in Karshi and Shahrisabz. These cities mainly traded cotton, silk, carpets, and handicrafts. Local markets expanded and played an important role in trade with Tashkent, Samarkand, Bukhara, and even other regions of the Russian Empire.

**Results and Discussion.** **By the end of the 19th century, the construction of a railway in the Kashkadarya region began. This transport network had a significant impact on the economic development of cities. The railway facilitated trade relations and made it possible to deliver Kashkadarya products to a wider range of consumers.**

Religious organizations and social life played a special role in the Kashkadarya region. Local religious scholars and interest in religious enlightenment were part of social life and in many cases acted as a factor resisting socio-economic changes in society. Respect for religious practices and traditions, as well as previously existing religious laws, influenced the economic and social system.

**Moreover, in those places where the ancient tribal system was still preserved, the new economic conditions created strong contradictions between local social classes. This situation, on the one hand, intensified conflicts between landowners and other upper class representatives.**

In the 1870s, the established authorities of the Russian Empire implemented new economic reforms in the Kashkadarya region. Under the influence of the Russian government, a new tax system, customs tariffs, and methods of managing state-owned lands were introduced into the economy. Social reforms implemented by the Soviet authorities during this period, such as the redistribution of land ownership, significantly changed the attitude of the population and the land.

Economic reforms and new taxes were opposed by landowners, who wanted to preserve the old system. As a result, the economic changes and reforms implemented by the Russian Empire caused conflict with the socially higher strata of the people.

**Conclusion.** During the years 1756–1920, the Kashkadarya region underwent many social and economic changes. In place of feudal relations, elements of the capitalist system gradually emerged. Trade and crafts developed, and the differentiation of the life of the population increased. The reforms of the Russian Empire and the Soviet era brought the socio-economic life of the region to a new level.

## List of used literature

1. M. Sobirov. Qashqadaryo tarixi. – Toshkent: O‘zbekiston milliy ensiklopediyasi, 2006.
2. O. Hayitov. O‘rta Osiyo iqtisodiy tarixi. – Toshkent, 2002.
3. R. Abdullaev. Jadidchilik va iqtisodiy islohotlar. – Toshkent, 2013.
4. Buxoro amirligi arxiv materiallari. – Toshkent: O‘zR MDA, 1999.
5. V.V. Barthold. Turkiston tarixi. – Toshkent: Akademnashr, 1993.



# Western European Journal of Historical Events and Social Science

Volume 3, Issue 5, May 2025

<https://westerneuropeanstudies.com/index.php/4>

ISSN (E): 2942-1926

Open Access| Peer Reviewed

 This article/work is licensed under CC Attribution-Non-Commercial 4.0

6. Ochilova, O. R. (2024). XALQ TABOBATI VAKILLARI VA ULARNING MUOLAJA USULLARI. «Ёш олимлар ахборотномаси»—«Вестник молодых ученых», (Спецвыпуск), 71-74.

7. Esanova, M. G., & Rakhmuddinovna, O. O. (2021). Emergence and Development of Traditional Medicine in the East History. Turkish Online Journal of Qualitative Inquiry, 12(8).

8. Ochilova, O. (2022). The History of the Emergence and Development of Medicine in the East. Gospodarka i Innowacje., 29, 268-272.

9. Jomurodovich E. A., Alimovna E. Y. Possibilities of development of tourism in surkhandarya region //World Bulletin of Social Sciences. – 2022. – T. 9. – C. 54-57.

10. ERALOV A. BUXORO VILOYATIDA TURIZM SOHASINING RIVOJLANISH ISTIQBOLLARI //News of UzMU journal. – 2024. – T. 1. – №. 1.2. – C. 8-11.