



HISTORY OF THE HISSAR PROVINCE (BEKDOM)

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Abstract. This article analyzes the historical geography, socio-political life, administrative structure and economic situation of the Hissar province (bekdom), one of the important components of the Bukhara Emirate, in the 17th–19th centuries. It also covers the relations of the province (bekdom) with neighboring regions, in particular, the principalities of the Surkhan oasis, its struggles against the central government, and the changes during the occupation by the Russian Empire.

Keywords: Bukhara Emirate, Mangits, Surkhan Oasis, Hissar Beklig, Denau Beklig, duty-free trade, economic relations.

The three principalities of the Surkhan oasis, together with the six principalities in Tajikistan, were considered the Eastern territories of the Bukhara Emirate and are also known in history as the "Eastern Bukhara Lands". However, the self-government of the Eastern Bukhara lands as independent principalities continued until the invasion of the Russian Empire. In the geographical area called Eastern Bukhara, there were 9 principalities: the principalities of Baysun, Denau, Kabadian, Kurgan-tepa, Kulab, Baljuvan, Hissar, Saryjoi, and Sherabad.

The Hissar province (bekdom) was one of the largest and most influential principalities in these regions, distinguished from other principalities by its strategic location, economic potential, and political influence. The historical development of the province (bekdom) was closely connected with the internal and external political processes of the Bukhara Emirate.

During the last Ashtarkhanids, the Surkhan oasis was caught in a whirlwind of internecine wars. It became an inevitable participant in the military operations of Bukhara-Hissar on the one hand, and Bukhara-Balkh on the other. At the beginning of the 18th century, Hissar became practically independent, and local rulers did not want to submit to the central government. During the reign of Ubaydullah Khan (1702-1711), almost all the landowners revolted against him. The troops sent by the Khan to suppress the uprisings repeatedly failed.

After the campaign against Hissar ended in defeat, the main attention was focused on Termez, which was located on the border with Balkh. Ubaydullah Khan called Termez "the gate of the Movarounnahr". Termez, which was indeed one of the strategic cities of the Bukhara Khanate, had a very strong fortress called Barbar in ancient times, which was even more strongly protected by the wide banks of the Amu Darya on the one hand [1, p.34], and on the other hand by various tribes of the rebellious and rebellious Kungrat clan [2, p.70]. It was by capturing such a strong fortress that Ubaydullah Khan aimed to achieve two goals: first, to take possession of a strong fortress on the way to Balkh; second, to remove Sherali, the ruler of the rebellious and rebellious Kungrats, from power. For these reasons, the military campaign to



Termez was also carried out under the instructions of Mohammed Rakhimbiy, who removed the city governor from the Kungrats and appointed Ne'matulla biy from the Naiman clan to this position [3, p.18]. He carried out military operations to seize the strategically important lands of Surkhan and through this territory the lands of the left bank of the Amu Darya. According to the historian Mohammed Vafa Karminagiy, Mohammed Rakhimbiy made three campaigns to the territories of the Surkhan oasis [4, p.11].

The first battle took place in 1169 AH (1756 AD), and Mohammed Rakhimbiy's second campaign to the Surkhan oasis took place in 1170 AH (1757). As a ransom, 3 thousand horses, 500 camels of valuable goods, and 20 thousand gold coins were paid [5, p.95]. Even after Mohammed Rakhimbiy was declared the emir of Bukhara, the Hissar region did not recognize his authority. In 1757–1758, the next military campaigns were organized against Hissar, Denau, Dushanbe, Baysun, and Termez, which did not want to submit [6, p.46].

After the death of Mohammed Rakhimbiy, his young grandson Fazil Tora ascended the throne, and Mohammed Rakhimbiy's great-uncle Doniyalbiy (1758-1785) was appointed as his father's son. The news of Mohammed Rakhimbiy's death became a pretext for the forces opposing the central government to rise up. The entire territory of the khanate, including the Hissar lands, was plunged into internecine warfare [7, p.182]. Although Doniyalbiy, with great difficulty, managed to gain their recognition of Bukhara rule, the independence of the Eastern Bukhara principalities remained intact.

The collapse of the economy and the worsening condition of the people forced Daniyalbiy to abdicate in 1785 in favor of his son Shakhmurad. Shakhmurad (1785-1800) is considered one of the most prominent rulers in the history of the Bukhara state. He was the first of the Mangid dynasty to rule the state with the title of "emir" [6, p.52]. After that, this state began to be called the Emirate of Bukhara.

During the reign of Emir Khaydar (1800-1826), political unrest continued in the country. He was forced to withdraw troops to Hissar several times [6, p.53-54]. In 1827, Emir Nasrullah Khan (1827-1860) ascended the throne of Bukhara. During the reign of Emir Nasrullah Khan, there were 30 beyliks, and special attention was paid to the strategic location of the Eastern beylik - Hissar beylik.

In 1860, Emir Nasrullah Khan died. His son Muzaffar ascended the throne. It was during the reign of Muzaffar (1860-1885) that interest in the lands of Eastern Bukhara, especially the Surkhan oasis, intensified. In 1866-1868, the military conflict between the Russian Empire and the Emirate of Bukhara ended with the defeat of the Emirate. According to the peace treaty of June 23, 1868, the Emirate of Bukhara became a vassal of Russia. Having received a large sum of money and territory, the Emir of Bukhara began to completely subjugate the lands of Eastern Bukhara, which had long existed as independent principalities [8, p.9]. In the geographical area called Eastern Bukhara, there were 10 principalities: Boysun, Denau, Kabadian, Kurgantepa, Qorategin, Kulab, Baljuvan, Hissar, Saryjoy, and Sherabad principalities [9, p.111].

These principalities, which were semi-dependent on the Emirate of Bukhara, were gradually moving away from the emirate. The principalities had become the main center of forces dissatisfied with the agreement concluded by the Emirate of Bukhara with the Russian Empire. The military actions between Emir Muzaffar and Abdulmalik (Katta Tora) and the Russian troops aggravated the socio-political situation of the principalities of the Eastern Bukhara region. After being defeated by the tsarist troops, Abdulmalik fled first to Shakhrisabz, then to the Karshi steppes, waiting for help from the principalities of Hissar and Kulab [10, p.25-26].



In 1868, the army of the Bukhara emir defeated the Hissars and captured Denau and Hissar. The beys of eastern Bukhara were severely punished by the emir's troops [11, p.176]. After the Hissar region was completely subordinated to Bukhara, the territory was divided into seven beys: Boysun, Sherabad, Denau, Yurchi, Hissar, Kabadian and Kurgantepa [12, p.360]. Yakubbek Koshbegi was appointed as the bey of the Hissar region, which united these beys [13]. For a short time, Salim Dastyrkhanchi, and then the emir's son Said Abdul Mominkhan (1871-1886) was appointed as the bey of Hissar, and the administrative territory was determined to consist of the villages of Hissar and Karatag. Because Hissar was an important strategic area, Emir Muzaffar had complete control over its internal administration [14].

In 1885, Emir Muzaffar died. On November 14 of the same year, Abdulahad Khan ascended the throne of Bukhara and ruled the emirate for 26 years. His accession to the throne led to a conflict between the brothers. Abdulahad Khan, considering his brother Abdulmu'min's position as bek in Hissar to be dangerous, appointed him Baysun beg in July 1886 and later summoned him to Bukhara and kept him under house arrest [15].

The Hissar province (bekdom) was distinguished by its rich natural resources and favorable geographical location. Agriculture, especially irrigated agriculture, occupied a leading position in the beklik. Irrigated agriculture occupied a leading position mainly in the Hissar valley, the middle reaches of the Surkhandarya river, the Sherabad and Kabadian oases, the middle reaches of the Yakhsuv (Kulab) river, and the Vakhsh (Kurgan-tepa) valleys of the Eastern Bukhara principalities [16, p.116].

Livestock breeding, especially sheep breeding, was very developed in the Hissar province (bekdom). Hissori and Isliqi black sheep were of different weights in different principalities of the Surkhan oasis, depending on the climatic conditions and the strength or weakness of the pastures, the fertility (pleasantness) or non-fertility (unpleasantness) of the pastures, and the way they were raised. For example, Hissori rams raised in the Denau, Boysun, and Sariosi regions, on the slopes of the Hissar mountains, weighed up to 160–180 kg, while Isliqi black sheep weighed up to 90–110 kg. Therefore, our ancestors raised Hissori and Isliqi black sheep mainly for meat and fat [17, p.32].

In conclusion, the Hissar province (bekdom) had an important strategic, economic and political importance in the eastern regions of the Bukhara Emirate. From the time of the Ashtar Khans to the reign of the Mangids, the province (bekdom) was one of the main centers of struggle against the central government. Especially during the reign of Emir Muzaffar, the province (bekdom) was completely subordinated to the Bukhara Emirate due to the invasion of the Russian Empire, but the freedom struggle of the local population continued for many years.

The favorable geographical location, rich natural resources and developed economy of the Hissar province (bekdom) made it one of the most influential principalities in Eastern Bukhara. Agriculture, livestock breeding and trade were the main sectors of the economy of the province (bekdom), which served to improve the living standards of the population. Today, studying the history of the Hissar province (bekdom) is of great importance in understanding not only the history of the region, but also the development of statehood in Central Asia as a whole.

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