



From the history of the trade companies of Germany in Bukhara (1920-1924)

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ABSTRACT

In the following article the history of economic and trade relations between the Government of the People's Soviet Republic of Bukhara (PSRB) which existed in 1920-1924 and German companies is analyzed.

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Introduction

While studying the details of the events associated with the first decades of the history of Homeland in the 20th century, the state of Germany occupies a central place in the economic life and the foreign economic affairs of the People's Soviet Republic of Bukhara (PSRB) which existed in 1920-1924 and trade relations with foreign countries.

After Germany became discredited and isolated in the European political arena as a result of its defeat against its opponents during the years of the First World War In such historical conditions, the establishment of mutual relations between the RSFSR and Germany (Treaty of Rapallo in 1922) in this regard was one of the factors of the convergence of the PSRB to this European state. Historians, scientists of our republic have created a lot of works and articles about the pupils and students of

PSRB in Germany, their different historical destinies. In this article it was aimed to clarify the role of German companies in the economic relations and mutual trade relations of the PSRB and Germany.

Main part. The head of the government of the PSRB, Fayzulla Khujayev, sought to ensure the political independence of the young republic by establishing not only trade, but also political and diplomatic relations with Germany, opening the German representative office in Bukhara. Because he summarized the economic opportunities of Germany, if not, in November 1922 stood in Berlin and he would not have said to Bukhara: “by using German investment, which was excluded from the European markets and deprived of the colonies... the establishment of joint industrial and commercial companies, there is no doubt, would not have harms” [1].

While the first head of government could estimate the economic opportunities of Germany and Bukhara, the Republic of Bukhara saw the possibility of developing industry and agriculture, enhancing the production with new technology, using German capital in the work of producing new channels.

One of F. Khujayev’s comrades, Misbakh Burkhanov, was on trips to Germany and Turkey, later in one of his answers in the investigation process he said: “in 1923 just before the economic conference of the republics of Central Asia, there was a secret council in the house F. Khujayev. There were F. Khujayev, Otakhozhaev, Muinjon Aminov, Fitrat, Mazhar Burhanov, Mukhtar Saidjonov and taking part. In his speech at the council F. Khujayev mentioned: “we agreed to the disestablishment of the Afghan consulate in the People’s Soviet Republic of Bukhara and made a big mistake. It was necessary not only to maintain the Afghan representative office, but also to establish diplomatic relations with other countries” [2].

When F. Khujayev F. said that “it is necessary to establish diplomatic relations with other countries”, it is likely that he refers to the countries of world politics such as Germany, which had “its own saying and its position”.

Sources refer that the government of Bukhara supported practical measures in order to establish economic, trade and economic relations between the People’s Republic of Bukhara and Germany, used the mediation of the Imam Khatib of the mosque of Berlin, the representative of Tatar ethnicity Alimjan Idrisi, the millionaire of his epoch Amin Sulayman, Bukharian Jewish merchant Eydelman.

Mukammil Burhanov had frequently been visiting between the two countries to establish cooperation relations between Bukhara and Germany. But the economic and trade relations of the Republic of Bukhara, and even cultural cooperation, were carried out through the RSFSR. This was limiting the possibility of establishing bilateral relations on a large scale.

In the “Berlin letters” F. Khujayev wrote: “I, as is known, did not come to Germany with commercial affairs. (*Fayzulla Khujayev went to Germany mainly for medical treatment and being informed on the student's condition-K.R*). Only if our trade commission comes from Moscow, I would have done some work on this issue” [3]. So the head of the government also had a plan to negotiate with German trade representatives. However, this good wish was prevented by the “Center”.

“The German government has appealed to our representative in Moscow asking for the exchange of silk, cotton and karakul skin for red gold or factory machines and other things”, was

published in the newspaper “*Bukhara akhbori*”, which was considered as the periodical press of the PSRB. It is written that “This proposal was found corresponding by our government and they started to send the goods Germany was asking to Moscow” [4]. From the above two displacements it becomes clear that the capital of Soviet Russia Moscow not only became an intermediary, but also played the role of the center of control, instruction in establishing and conducting German-Bukhara relations. Therefore, the head of the Moscow representative office of the Bukhara People’s Republic Ato Khoja was forced to apply, asking for instructions and advice from the bolshevik leaders. The desire to establish direct economic and political relations with Germany prevailed for a while the plans of the leaders of the government of Bukhara.

When Fayzulla Khujayev was in Germany (November 1922) German periodical press has printed dozens of messages such as: “F.Khujayev came to Germany with political and commercial affairs. It is said that he is travelling from Berlin to England, Italy, France, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Turkey,” [5].

The Republic of Bukhara continued to establish commercial activities with the German state, continuing to take continuous practical steps in this cooperation. On the means of account of foreign exchange funds in Germany, a 5-storey building was purchased in Berlin’s Barbarossa Street for commercial purposes. The government of Bukhara had intended to organize an international exhibition of gold-embroidery, jewelry, sewing and other items of national art here and in this way to raise the commercial relations between the two countries to a new step[6].

The Uzbek émigré who had lived in Germany (the city of Munich) from 1922 until the last breath of his life in Vali Qayumkhan (1902-1993) provides information on the fact that entrepreneurs from Bukhara consisting of 3 people, were sent to Germany for the purpose of developing economic relations of the Republic of Bukhara, the merchants being placed in one of the private boarding houses in the suburbs of the city instead of Bukharas hotel in Berlin, and in the morning they had died of gas poisoning [7]. Although the names of these commercial representatives of Bukhara were not mentioned in the sources, the details of these events associated with their tragic fate were described by N.Naimov and Sh. Turdiyev. According to these authors, it is also suspected that Alimjan Idrisi Bukhara, who simultaneously was a Russian, German, American spy, caused the death of merchants[8] so, this information encourages us to believe that the “center” may have come up with a policy of blocking no matter how the Germany-Bukhara economic relations.

Regardless of the above mentioned contradictions, large investors and traders of Germany have entered the markets of Bukhara, the trading and industrial firms and companies operating in dozens of countries. In particular, German industrialists such as “Germany-Black Sea”, “Schröder and his partners”, “Sinkup” and “Russo-German Trade Organization” tried to establish trade relations with the Republic of Bukhara. During this period, there was a trade office in front of the Ministry of commerce and industry of Bukhara, and the supervisors themselves were directly in charge of the trade office. The expenses of trade, purchase of raw materials or expulsion abroad were covered from the account of government funds. Despite the fact that the state trade office had funds in its hands, it could not control trade relations in the whole republic, the domestic market.

After receiving proposals from countries like Germany, in September 1922, the “State trade office” was established, which began to work on the basis of independent “self-financing”. "100 thousand poods of cotton, 100 thousand poods of licorice, 50 thousand scabies of skin, about 10 thousand poods of wool collected in the former trade association hands [9] was brought to the market for advertising and sale to German trade firms. Much of these commodities were sent to fairs of Moscow, Nizhny Novgorod and Makarov both for sale and for the purpose of advertising to foreign traders. Obviously, German businessmen who had commercial and industrial company departments in different cities of Soviet Russia were interested in Bukhara goods. In 1922 year, summer fairs were also opened in the cities of Leipzig (Germany) and Lyon (France). The commodities sold at the Leipzig fair were about 14 thousand items. In the fairs in German cities Bukhara goods also gained fame.

Results. German merchants expressed their desire and desire to buy Karakul leather, cotton, silk, silk products, medicinal plant sweet brain, as well as wool from the existing goods in the People’s Republic of Bukhara. In the summer of 1922, a special proposal was received by the representative of the Republic of Bukhara in Moscow from the German government. In it, the German government appealed to our representative in Moscow, asking for Karakul leather in exchange of red gold or factory machines and other things. One of the messages was mentioning that “According to this proposal of Germany from the side of our government, Germany will be embarking on measures to send things to Moscow [10].

Conclusion.

Taking advantage of the opportunity to establish trade relations with Germany, the Government of Bukhara sent a private trade delegation headed by Mirza Abdulkadir Muhiddinov to Moscow in July 1922 to meet with German representatives. In the capital of Soviet Russia, the trilateral meeting was held between the head of “Eastern branch” of the People’s Ministry of the RSFSR Fonshtein, A. Muhiddinov and representatives of foreign trade (Germany). Apparently, the negotiations ended with the success of the representatives of Bukhara, in one of the reports: “Comrade Muhitdinov sold 40 000 pieces of karakul leather to the Latvian ambassador on condition that he exports it abroad (Germany). This sale was confirmed by the Council of Ministers of Bukhara” [11]. However, at the end of 1923- beginning of 1924 the activities of German firms in the PSRB slowed down, and the whole work began to operate by the decision of the Bukhara Economic Council which started to work under the control of “Center”, and later transferred to the jurisdiction of the Central Asian Economic Council.

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