



# **SOME DISCOURSES ON THE CRISIS OF THE KARAKUL SHEEPSKIN TRADE IN THE EMIRATE OF BUKHARA IN RUSSIAN MASS MEDIA.**

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**Annotation.** In the following article the valuable information on the issues of history of economy of the late period of the emirate of Bukhara in the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, including the crisis in the karakul sheepskin is presented. Several aspects of crisis in karakul sheepskin trade are analysed.

**Keywords.** Trade, market, karakul sheepskin, fashion, takyr, plyush merchant, price, profit, bank.

## **INTRODUCTION**

Ancient and eternal Bukhara, which celebrated its 2,500th anniversary at the end of the 20th century, is famous in the West and East as a great place that contributed to the development of world civilization. One of the most important tasks in the field of education today is to provide information about the ancient and fascinating history of the people living in the Bukhara region, which is the jewel of the maze, the science, unique culture, unique artifacts that amazed the world. Additionally, it is also important to inform the younger generation about the multifaceted crafts of Bukhara and its trade relations with the peoples of the world, to educate their thinking in the spirit of high spiritual courage.

## **DISCUSSION**

Historical data show that, like other khanates, many scholars and researchers have conducted research on the study and analysis of the history of the Bukhara Emirate. One of the main tasks in the history of Bukhara today is to create new research that will educate a harmoniously developed generation in the spirit of independence, putting into scientific use the unexplored sources and documents that illuminate the history of the emirate.

The following words of the First President Islam Karimov, the founder of the independent state of Uzbekistan, serve as an important methodological guide for historians: “Times pass, years, centuries pass. But there is no doubt that our children, grandchildren, future generations will repeatedly refer to Bukhara and its ancient history [1].

“Turkestanakaya Tuzemnaya Gazeta” (Turkistan regional newspaper), Turkestanakaya Vedomosti newspapers, published in Turkestan in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, and



Turkistanskiy Sbornik provide a wealth of valuable information on the history of the Bukhara Emirate's economy (late 19<sup>th</sup> - early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries).

In particular, Bukhara has long been a center of karakul leather trade in Central Asia and around the world. In particular, karakul leather passed through Bukhara to the Russian market and then to Western Europe and America, as well as to the highly valued Caucasus and Iran..

Usually in Bukhara people karakul is referred by different names. And the skin of the Karakul lamb is called “karakul”. The lower variety of the natural-born lamb is called “kurpeya”, while the high-grade lamb skin is called “taqyr”. The skin of a lamb slaughtered prematurely is called "harami" and is considered to be the highest variety [2].

According to historical data, the Karakul leather trade was entirely in the hands of Bukhara traders. Especially, the main businessmen were from Bukhara, and the largest traders were Latifkhoja, Ubaydullakhoja, Nasriddinboy, Yahyoboy, Abdurauf caravan leaders. Especially, the Great Karakul Haji Jurabek was known in Russia and abroad by the surname Arabov.

The emirs of Bukhara were also traders in the karakul trade. In particular, Emir Abdulahadkhan was directly involved in the sale of karakul leather. The skins purchased for the Amir were tanned on the place, sorted, and sent to the market for sale in Moscow without being brought to Bukhara. Emir Abdulahadkhan used to give money to the merchants Arabov and Latifkhoja, and the profit was divided equally. Also, the merchants had 200-300 thousand coins of the emir, and it became common for the emirs of Bukhara to work in equal partnership with the merchants [3].

Although Bukhara has long been famous for its astrakhan leather trade, the state of the leather market is changing due to certain factors. The process that changed the cultural situation of the distant European peoples was considered in this fashion, from which the traders of Bukhara suffered much damage. Indeed, Bukhara merchants were devastated by the leather trade because of fashion [4].

Initially, in the markets of Bukhara karakul was sold for 2 rubles, first grade “taqyr” and “haram” for 3-4 rubles. Realizing that the exported goods would bring a lot of benefits, some traders raised the price for it. In 1896, Nasriddinboy Yakubbayev, a merchant from Bukhara, earned 60,000 soums by transporting astrakhan skins to the Nizhny Novgorod fair. All of the karakul leather were purchased by other traders. All skins were delivered to Nizhny Novgorod by traders from Bukhara, and the price increased from year to year.

According to sources, the production of karakul leather amounted to 1.2 million pieces a year. Almost all of these goods were sold through the Nizhny Novgorod fair [5].

With the beginning of the cotton business (development of cotton growing) in 1898, many traders began to trade in cotton. As a result of the lack of attention paid to livestock, karakul leather prices have risen further. This did not interest European women, and they began to buy clothes made of traditional karakul leather.



A jacket made of “haram” cost 200-300 rubles, and a raton made of “taqyr” cost 1,000 rubles. At that time, a beautiful plush like karakul was produced in Europe, and it was ten times cheaper. As a result, the price of karakul leather has dropped significantly. Bukhara merchants used to pay 75-120 rubles for every ten skins. They were unaware that fashion had changed in Europe.

In early 1903, German traders came to Bukhara and bought very little leather. When they said that the price of karakul leather would fall further due to fashion, Bukhara traders would ask for 120 rubles for good quality leather at the fair. But no one could buy the goods at that price. As a result, the price of karakul leather has dropped.

## RESULTS

According to reports, a large trader Ubaydulla Khodjayev bought 350,000 pieces of karakul leather in Nizhny for 8 rubles. But he couldn't sell it for the money he bought here. Those who bought karakul with their own capital were waiting for the price to rise. But those who borrowed from the bank at 12% per annum have been struggling to sell for a year and a half.

At that time, profiteers in Nizhny Novgorod bought karakul because the leather became more expensive, and the price of the goods fell further, making it useless to sell it.

The devastation inflicted on the merchants of Bukhara by the merchants of Bukhara, the millions of dollars they lost, should have attracted the interest of the banking authorities and the Bukhara state. The main reasons for this were the variability of fashion, the low quality of karakul leather. According to the sources, in order to improve the situation, the Karakul sheep were not slaughtered, bank loans were extended indefinitely, interest rates on bank loans were reduced, and financial assistance was provided to traders in Bukhara [6].

## CONCLUSION

In short, some information about the tragic fate of traders engaged in the sale of Bukhara karakul leather in the Russian press was revealed in the form of the above information.

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