



FROM THE HISTORY OF ECONOMIC RELATIONS BETWEEN CENTRAL ASIA AND INDIA (XV-XVII CENTURIES)

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ABSTRACT

This article describes the interactions between the Central Asian khanates and the Babur's dynasty in India in the XV-XVII centuries. The role of economic, political and cultural ties in bilateral relations during the period under study is highlighted. Several types of trade relations are discussed and explained separately. The article also presents a number of facts based on historical sources.

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INTRODUCTION

Historically, every country has a vested interest in economic relations with any other country. First and foremost, it wants to establish trade relations. The economic ties between the people of Central Asia and India, in particular, go back centuries.

By historical data, we can know that trade relations, which have existed since ancient times, have been formal and regular since the time of the Timurids. According to historian and diplomat Abdurazzak Samarkandy (1413-1482), ambassadors from India repeatedly visited Herat, the capital of the state of Shahrukh Mirza, the fourth son of Amir Temur. These embassy visits took place in 814 (1411), 819 (1416), 824 (1421) years.[1. 600] Naturally, Shah Rukh Mirza also sent ambassadors led by Abdurazzak Samarkandy in 1442 to the Kalikut, southern Indian port city and the state of Bijanagar (Vijayanagar). The ambassadors returned to Herat two years later to carry out their duties. The main task of the Abdurazzak Samarkandy's embassy was to study the possibilities of further development of trade

between the Timurid state and India and to ensure the security of the future of these relations.

MAIN PART

During this period, the port city of Hormuz played an important role in India's trade and economic relations with Central Asia. The information given by the Arab traveler Ibn Battuta in this regard is very interesting. He said that thousands of horses were driven to Hormuz from the Dashti Kipchak, Arabian, Persian and Central Asian khanates and sold in India for a large profit. Traders bought each of these horses in Central Asia for 8-10 dinars (about 60 drams) and sold them in India for 100 dinars. According to Ibn Battuta, the best, thoroughbred horses cost 500 dinars and even more.[2.] It is obvious that trade and economic relations have been revived due to such huge profits.

Zahiriddin Muhammad Babur talks about the uniqueness and value of Central Asian fruits in India. For example, Konibodom's almonds are a very good variety, and he says, "*Xurmuz va Hindustong'a tamom muning bodomi borur...*"[3. 62] (Almonds of only that place exports to Hormuz and India).

Kabul and Kandahar also play an important role in economic relations between Central Asia and India. Zahiriddin Muhammad Babur writes in this regard: "*Hindistoniy g'ayri Hindistonni Xuroson der. Nechukkim arab g'ayri arabni Ajam der. Hindiston bilan Xuroson orasida xushki yo'ldin ikki bandardur, biri Kobul va yana biri Qandahor. Qoshg'ar va Farg'ona va Turkiston va Samarqand va Buxoro va Balx va Hisor va Badaxshondin karvon Kobulg'a kelurlar. Xurosondin karvon Qandahorga kelur. Bisyor yaxshi savdaxonadur. Savdogarlar Xitoy yo Runga borsalar, ushmuncha – o'q savdo qilg'aylar. Har yili yetti-sakkiz-o'n ming ot Kobulg'a kelur. Quyil Hindistondan o'n, o'n besh-yigirma ming uyluk karvon Kobulg'a kelur. Hindistondin oq raxt va qand va nabot va shakar va aqoqir keltirurlar... Xuroson va Iroq va Rum va Chin matoi Kobulda topilur. Hindustonning xud bandaridur*". [3. 39] ("Indians call Khurasan outside India. Just like the Arabs call a non-Arab Ajam. The land route between India and Khorasan is in two cities, Kabul and Kandahar. The caravan will arrive in Kabul from Kashgar, Fergana, Turkestan, Samarkand, Bukhara, Balkh, Hisar and Badakhshan. The caravan comes from Khurasan to Kandahar. It is very good shopping center. When traders come to China or Byzantium, they trade some ammunition. Eight to ten thousand horses are brought to Kabul every year. A caravan of fifteen to twenty thousand people from Lower India arrives in Kabul. White cloth, candy, sugar and spices are imported from India... Khorasan, Iraq, Byzantine and Chinese fabrics are found in Kabul. It is a good city in India.")

From the second half of the 16th century, the importance of Kabul in economic relations between India and Central Asia increased. This is due to the occupation of Hormuz and a number of other Indian ports by the Europeans. As a result, the Baburid Empire's ability to trade by sea was limited and economic relations with Central Asia on caravan routes increased. Still, an agent for the East India Company, found that during the 16th century, 14,000 camels were shipped annually by land caravan instead of the previous 3,000.[4. 15]

The Russian occupation of Kazan (1553) and Astrakhan (1557) also played an important role in the development of trade and economic relations between Central Asia and India. Because Central Asian traders, especially, traders from Bukhara and Khiva, acted as intermediaries in the supply of Indian goods to Russian markets and in the supply of Russian goods to Indian and Afghan traders in Central Asia. As a result, Central Asia will significantly develop economic ties with both India and Russia.

The khans themselves were undoubtedly the most influential merchants in the whole of Central Asia - the merchants of the Bukhara and Khiva khanates. Among the goods of the khans of Bukhara and Khiva, which were exported to the Russian market for sale or exchange of goods, as well as gifts sent to the kings of Russia, were goods imported from India.

For example, among the goods sent by Abdullah II to Astrakhan in 1585 for sale (the value of these goods at that time was 2-2.5 million rubles) was more than 40 pounds of paint.[4. 15] It is known that the paint was mainly imported from India to the Central Asian khanates. Also in the same year, Abdullah II sent his ambassador Muhammad Ali with gifts and presents to the Russian Tsar Fyodor Ivanovich (1584-1598). Among his gifts and presents was an expensive Indian tent brought from India by merchants from Bukhara in the same year.

In general, there are three forms of trade and economic relations between the Central Asian khanates and India in the XVI-XVII centuries:

a) private trade - is a private trade carried out by large traders of the khanates of India, Bukhara and Khiva, who paid taxes and received special certificates;

b) trade carried out through the mediation of special representatives of the rulers of both sides - these are trade goods sent by the khanates or the caravan of the ruler of India with an embassy caravan and special representatives are appointed to them;

c) the exchange of goods between rulers by sending gifts and presents to each other - such trade was carried out mainly through diplomats or influential merchants.

Evidently, those involved in the first form of trade had to pay customs duties on both sides of the border. Private traders also had to ensure the safety of their goods and lives. The rulers were not held accountable for the looting. But in the second and third forms of trade there were great privileges, and their security was also ensured by the rulers. That is why private merchants sought to elevate their position and be representative in the delivery of the gifts of the third form of ruler. There are a number of achievements in this regard. At the end of the seventeenth century, merchants, who brought and sold goods for the needs of the ruler's palace enjoyed great privileges. For example, Ahunhoja Avaz from Balkh had the right to import and sell fresh and dried fruits, horses and camels duty-free, according to a tarkhon certificate given by the Baburi ruler Avrangzeb Alamgir. According to the governor's decree, all the officials and tax inspectors of the region from Kabul to Shah Jahanabad (Delhi) hadn't to bother Ahunhoja Avaz and his associates with taxes as a chihilyak (one fortieth), zakat and rohdari (road tax). Private merchants traded mainly in goods needed by the people. In particular, in the XVI-XVII centuries from India to the Central Asian markets were imported a variety of Indian fabrics (such as jomavar, chire, gujorat fota), Kashmir carpets, sukurlat - wool, different paints as nili, varnishes, medicines, tea and gauze. In turn, merchants brought wet and dried fruits (melons, duchess pear, raisins, almonds, walnuts, etc.), horse, camel, silk fabrics, beaver and watercress skins, various porcelain, Russian fabrics from Central Asia to India.[4. 16]

There is also some evidence that the third form of trade is barter. For example, in addition to the Central Asian khans, the sheikhs of Joybar also exchanged gifts with the rulers of India. In particular, in the mutual gifts between King Jahangir and Sheikhlislam Tajiddin, it is noteworthy that the gifts and presents of both parties, although consisting of different matte items, had a common value for the same country. It can be understood that this is a form of commodity exchange defined by experienced traders. If we look at another gift exchange, Avrangzeb, the Baburi ruler, sent two precious daggers worth 20,000 rupees each for a diamond worth 40,000 rupees, sent as a gift by the khan of Bukhara Abdulazizkhan. After the conquest of Tashkent, Imam Qulikhan returned to Bukhara and sent ambassadors to the ruler of India Jahangir (1605-1627). The ambassadors arrived to India with valuable gifts and presents. Jahangirshah greeted them warmly and he also gave them precious gifts.[5. 52]

In the 16th and 17th centuries, many Indian traders began to settle in Central Asia. In some cities of Central Asia, including Bukhara, special Indian townships appeared and were ruled by the Indians themselves.

CONCLUSIONS

Trade and economic relations between India and Central Asia have significantly intensified during the period under review and have continued in recent years. The above facts show that in the XV-XVII centuries, economic relations, along with political and cultural relations, played an important role in the relations between Central Asia and India. The efforts of Central Asian and Indian traders have made a significant contribution not only to trade and embassy, but also to the development of political and cultural ties between the two sides.

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