



POLITICAL HISTORY OF THE UZBEK PRINCIPALITIES OF THE SOUTH TURKESTAN REGION IN THE FIRST HALF OF THE XIX CENTURY

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Annotation

This article analyzes the information on the socio-political and economic situation of the Uzbek principalities in the first half of the XIX century in the South Turkestan region. The analysis of foreign sources on the political situation in the region is also summarized.

Keywords: South Turkestan, Bukhara Emirate, Amir Nasrullokhan, Dostmuhammadkhan, vassal, Anglo-Afghan war, Katagans, A. Byrns, H. Vamberi

Introduction

Tensions between the Sadazay (Durraniy) and Barakzoy clans in Afghanistan in the early 19th century led to unrest in Afghanistan, which intensified the aspirations of the Uzbek principalities for independence in South Turkestan. In the 20s and 30s of the 19th century, the struggle for the throne between Barakzai and Popolzoy intensified in Afghanistan. 80]. The historical literature states that the Uzbek principalities took full advantage of the situation and gained full independence. In particular, P.P. Ivanov wrote that in the first half of the XIX century the Uzbek principalities in Afghan Turkestan were completely independent [5, 141]. Taking advantage of the current situation, the Bukhara emirs also tried to return the principalities of South Turkestan to the Bukhara emirate. During the reign of Amir Haydar (1778 -1800-1826) in 1817 a military march was organized to Balkh. According to Anke von Küggengel, Balkh became the center of Bukhara in the country and remained under the control of the Bukhara Emirate until 1850. [9,89]. and those who sent tribute [4, 31].

Main Part

Analysis of the Turkestan Collection It can be concluded that the principalities in Afghan Turkestan were independent in the early 19th century, when dynastic conflicts intensified in Afghanistan and the Durrani dynasty was replaced by Dost Mohammad





Khan (1826, fully unified in 1836). These principalities were united by Kilich Alikhan, the ruler of Hulm (Tashkurgan). Also, during the reign of Kiliç Alikhan, Afghan Turkestan prospered, and its main economic reform was to ensure the security of trade caravans passing through South Turkestan and to abolish customs duties on them. After the sword Alikhan's death in 1822, Hulm was invaded by Muradbek, the governor of Kunduz. Demand for Hulm and Balkh moved a large part of the population to Kunduz. Many of them are thought to have died of malaria in the Kunduz swamps [15, 137].

Before his death, the governor of Hulm, Kilich Aga, bequeathed his two sons to the Emir of Bukhara. a year after his death (1820), an attack by the Prince of Repression was observed. For 15 years, Kiliç Ağa ensured peace and tranquility in South Turkestan. His main ally was the ruler of Kunduz, Murodbek Qatagan, who later fought against the sons of his former ally in the struggle for leadership in the region [11, 79]. Murodbek Kunduz also failed to fully subdue the Uzbek principalities in South Turkestan. Maymana, Saripul, Andkhoy, and Shibirgan principalities were listed as principalities of Afghan Turkestan, which were vassals of the Bukhara Emirate until the middle of the 19th century [15, 137]. According to N. Khannikov, in the first years of the reign of the Emir of Bukhara Nasrullo Khan (1826-1860) he listed that the Balkh principality was not a province of Bukhara, as one of the countries sending gifts to the Balkh prince Nasrullo Khan as an equal ruler [23, 3]. It can be seen that in the early nineteenth century, almost all the principalities of South Turkestan pursued an independent policy.

In the 30s and 40s of the 19th century, the main ruler of South Turkestan was Murodbek Qatagan, the ruler of Kunduz. During this period, British spies reported that the strongest opponent of Bukhara in the South Turkestan region was not the Afghans, but the mayor of Kunduz Muradbek Qatagan [18, 490]. A. Borns Muradbek's influence extended to the villages of Seygan and Kamard near Kabul. The governor of Kunduz, Muhammad Muradbek, wrote that he was a tribute payer [15, 137]. An analysis of A. Borns' data shows that some of the Uzbek principalities in Afghan Turkestan were still part of the Bukhara Emirate. In his report on the army of the Emirate of Bukhara, he noted that the number of regular troops was 20,000, and during the war the number of people's militia, known as eljari, reached 50,000, of which 10,000 were delivered from the south of the Amu Darya [17, 483]. From this information it can be understood that some of the principalities in Afghan Turkestan were subordinated to Bukhara in the 40-50s of the XIX century.

In the first half of the 19th century, many ambassadors and spies began to arrive in the Uzbek principalities from the British. In many cases, the spies came in the guise





of a secret, Muslim pilgrim, a merchant, but were unable to establish close ties with the local rulers. The first official ambassadors to Badakhshan, Dr. Lord and Captain Woods, came to Badakhshan in 1837 for two purposes: first, to reach an agreement with Muradbek, the ruler of Kunduz, on Afghanistan, and second, to investigate the upper reaches of the Amu Darya [23, 15]. During this period, the British began to prepare for an invasion of Afghanistan. The warm welcome of Jan Vitkevich's embassy to Dost Mohammad Khan's friendly policy with the Russian Empire, who was trying to unite Afghanistan under the new Barakzai dynasty, alarmed the British. In a letter to the secret council of the East India Company on March 13, 1839, Sir Auckland, the head of the British government in India, relying on intelligence from the early days of the First Anglo-Afghan War, expressed his hope that the Duchy of Kunduz would support the revived Sadazai dynasty in Afghanistan. Halfin cited [22, 18]. We can also see that this information was later confirmed.

After the outbreak of the First Anglo-Afghan War, the Afghan army, which was technically and tactically behind the British, was quickly defeated. In August 1839, the defeated Dostmuhammadkhan fled to Muhammad Aminbek, the governor of Khulm (Tashkurgan). Here, Bukhara asked for help from Iran and personally went to the governor of Kunduz, Muradbek, for negotiations, but failed to achieve a practical result. After the Emir of Bukhara Nasrullokhan sent an envoy and informed Dostmuhammadkhan about shelter and assistance, Dostmuhammadkhan left for Bukhara [10, 198]. Dostmuhammadkhan, who arrived in Bukhara, was treated as a prisoner in the historical literature. Dostmuhammadkhan risked his life to escape from Bukhara and reached South Turkestan with great difficulty [14,136].

Arriving in Hulm (Tashkurgan), Dost Mohammad Khan, with the help of the Turkestan principalities, gathered an army of about 8,000 men to fight the British. This army was forced to make peace with the British on September 17, 1840, when they defeated the British at Bamiyan and occupied Bajgoh and Saygan. According to him, the ruler of Hulm should not have taken refuge or help Dostmuhammadkhan [10, 203]. A.X. According to Babakhodjaev, an army of 8,000 men, gathered by Muhammad Amin and Dost Mohammad Khans, engaged in a decisive battle with the British in Parvon Dara. In this battle, the British were severely defeated, and influential British officials such as Army Commander General Sel and Dr. Lord, who was a political agent in Hindukush, were killed. Although the Uzbeks also suffered heavy casualties and were forced to make peace with the British, after this battle the British made no further attempt to cross into Central Asia via the Hindu Kush [1, 12]. Dost Mohammad was denied assistance and shelter under British pressure, which meant that he could no longer resist the British. For this reason, Dost Mohammad





Khan surrendered to the British. The new struggle against the invaders is associated with the name of Muhammad Akbarkhan, the son of Dostmuhammad Khan. After Amir Nasrullokhon Dostmuhammadkhan fled Bukhara, his son Akbarkhan was imprisoned. Following the events in Afghanistan, the Bukhara clergy put pressure on the Emir, and at their request, Muhammad Akbarkhan was released. When Akbarkhan came to Balkh, he was well received by the general public and 6,000 cavalymen began to help him [3, 88]. It can be concluded that the population of the Uzbek principalities took an active part in the second stage of the struggle against the British. The national liberation struggle of the Afghan people in 1838-1842 ended with the complete expulsion of the British from the territory of Afghanistan. However, it was not possible to completely get rid of the British influence anyway. On March 30, 1855, Dost Mohammad Khan reached an agreement with the British that the British would be "friend to friend, enemy to enemy." In 1857, the terms of the truce were revised, and foreign policy, in exchange for arms and financial assistance, passed completely into the hands of the British [26, 29].

Dost Mohammad Khan, who established his rule in Afghanistan, began to fight for South Turkestan. Around 1850, Dost Mohammad Khan conquered Balkh and appointed his eldest son Afzalkhan as its ruler. Although Afzalkhan made several invasions of Kunduz and Badakhshan, he was not able to completely subdue them [24, 23]. According to some scholars, Dostmuhammadkhan sent his third son, Muhammad Akramkhan, to conquer Little Turkestan in 1850. After the occupation of the Balkh principality, the governors of the Akcha, Shibirgan, Andkhai, Khulm, Saripul and Qatagan principalities recognized vassalship. In the 50s of the XIX century, the newly conquered Afghan Turkestan (Chahorviloyat) was formed [10, 223]. In the 1950s, the Afghan Turkestan region was formed and later renamed the Charviloyat. Dostmuhammadkhan appointed his eldest son Afzalkhan to this region [6, 153] 1. However, the historical literature mentions that a number of principalities pursued independent policies. The archives of the Ottoman Turkish state list the ambassadors who came to Istanbul in 1851 from the rulers of Central Asia, including the ambassador of the Andkoy principality, which suggests that Andkoy was an independent principality during this period [7, 178]. Until the 1950s, a number of Uzbek principalities pursued a completely independent policy. Also, the principalities of Balkh, Shiberghan, Kunduz, Maymana, Mazar-i-Sharif, Andkhay, and Khulm considered themselves equal to Dost Muhammadkhan and exchanged ambassadors [13, 10]. According to his political position in the 1840s and 1850s, Muhammad Amin Mir, the ruler of the Khulm principality, held the title of wali (deputy) until 1836 and paid tribute to the Kunduz principality. After Muradbek's death, he became an





independent ruler again. Balkh, despite its small population, became independent only in the 1840s. While the ruler of Mazar-i-Sharif, Eshan Shujaidin, was also an independent ruler, there are phrases such as that the ruler of Akcha, Eshan Urak, was a vassal of the Emir of Bukhara [15, 139].

Results and Discussions

It can be seen in the historical literature that the conquest of the Uzbek principalities in South Turkestan took place in the following years. Initially, in 1849-51, the principalities of Balkh, Khulm and Akcha were subjugated. In 1858, Kunduz recognized vassality, and in 1859 he declared vassalship of Badakhshan [8, 20]. However, Badakhshan was completely subjugated in the 70s. In the historical literature, the subjugation of the Uzbek principalities is described differently, and S.A. Shumov and A.R. In contrast to the above-mentioned comments, the Andreevs state that Dostmuhammadkhan subjugated the Uzbek principalities in South Turkestan in the following chronological order. In 1856 the principalities of Balkh and Khulm, in 1858 the principalities of Akcha, Shiberghan, Andkhai, and in 1861 the principalities of Kunduz and Badakhshan were subjugated to Afghanistan as vassals [25, 47].

The occupation of the lands belonging to the Bukhara Emirate on the left bank of the Amu Darya in the middle of the 19th century led to the strained relations with the Bukhara Emirate. However, the exact facts of Nasrullokhon's active struggle against Dostmuhammadkhan are not mentioned in the historical literature. Although Mirza Abdulazim Somi said that there was a struggle between the two, without mentioning the details of the battle, a truce was made in 1859, according to which the border between the two countries was agreed to be the Amudarya. It is said that Sheralikhan was subjugated after 60-70 years of great efforts [12, 155]. During the reign of Dost Mohammad Khan, the vassalship of the Uzbek principalities in Afghanistan was limited to certain payments, and the conditions of vassalship of some of them are given in the historical literature. For example, the principality of Badakhshan used to pay a tax of 2 rupees per household to the treasury of Kabul every year. After the death of Dostmuhammadkhan, Badakhshan paid 15,000 rupees (9,000 rubles) and became a vassal of Bukhara [20, 121].

Even during the Russian and Afghan invasions of Turkestan, the reunification of the principalities was not observed. During the travels of Vamberi, the heroic struggle of the small Maymana principality against the Afghans took place alone. He wrote that he provided financial support to Hussein with 10,000 gold coins [15, 139].

According to Russian intelligence in 1873, the Afghans captured Balkh and Andkhai in 1854, and Maymana disobeyed, according to information sent to their leaders [21, 93].





Also, the information about the preservation of independence of Kunduz begi Murobdek Qatgan during the reign of Dostmuhammadkhan is given in the materials of the "Turkistan Collection" [15, 138].

Murodbek Qatagan, the prince of Kunduz, retained his independence and even claimed the lands on the right bank of the Amudarya. His army consisted of 30,000 cavalry and 6 artillery pieces, and as a result of the invasion of their lands north of the Amudarya, Roshan and Shugnan were forced to pay tribute to Muradbek. Muradbek can't just subdue Darvaz. This was due to the fact that the narrow mountain corridors did not allow the Darvaz to carry large numbers of troops [16, 139]. Murodbek Qatagan had a number of measures aimed at ensuring state independence. In particular, he made extensive use of political spies to counter unexpected attacks on his country. An article in the Nedelya newspaper, No. 48, November 26, 1878, states that A. Borns met a spy of Muradbek, the governor of Kunduz, in Kabul during his travels [19, 201a].

Conclusion

In conclusion, the beginning of the XIX century was a period of independence of the principalities of South Turkestan, which allowed them to unite and survive in the future as a single political, historical and cultural unit. However, disagreements, the tension of socio-economic relations, the narrowness of the domestic market did not allow it. From the middle of the 19th century, the threat of invasion by Afghanistan increased, and Dost Mohammad Khan's invasion of South Turkestan intensified. However, the complete conquest of South Turkestan went to his successor Sheralikhan.

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