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**Turaeva Guli Bahriddinovna**  
Teacher of the department  
"History of Bukhara",  
Bukhara State University,  
Uzbekistan

**Jumaeva Nilufar Akhmatovna**  
Senior Lecturer of the  
department "History of  
Bukhara" Bukhara State  
University, Uzbekistan

## The coverage of the history of domestic and foreign trade relations of the emirate of Bukhara in the memoirs of ambassador P.I. Demezov and I.V. Vitkevich

**Turaeva Guli Bahriddinovna and Jumaeva Nilufar Akhmatovna**

### Abstract

**Annotation:** The article analyzes the travel memories of Russian ambassadors P.I. Demezov and I.V. Vitkevich, who visited the Emirate of Bukhara during the reign of Amir Haydarkhan, as well as information in this source on domestic and foreign trade relations related to the emirate's economy. The caravan routes connecting Bukhara with India, Iran, and Russia and diplomatic relations were discussed. The inflow of British and Russian goods into the Central Asian markets and relying on Ambassador Demezov's views that the issue of economic competition was the focus of the ambassadors were explained.

**Keywords:** Diplomatic relations, domestic and foreign trade, trade route, caravan, tourist, seasonal goods, Bukhara, Iran, India, Russia.

### Introduction

The history of foreign policy and diplomacy of the Emirate of Bukhara has been studied to a certain extent by several orientalists, local historians, and historians. However, sources in the history of foreign policy and diplomacy have not been adequately analyzed in these studies. In them, partial attention was paid to the foreign policy of some rulers of the Bukhara Emirate and mainly some aspects of the administrative structure, land and water relations, the tax system, state positions, and titles have been studied <sup>[1]</sup>. For example, A. A. Semenov <sup>[2]</sup> studied the letters of Amir Haydar to Tsar Alexander II of Russia and trade relations between the Emirate of Bukhara and Russia were studied by G.A. Mikhaleva <sup>[3]</sup>. However, it should be noted that several orientalists, local historians, and historians conducted scientific researches on these issues to a certain extent. Among them, in particular, scientific researches of Y.K. Meendorf <sup>[4]</sup>, A.A. Semyonov, P. Ivanov <sup>[5]</sup>, O. D. Chekhovich, N. A. Halfin <sup>[6]</sup>, G.A. Mikhaleva, A. Vildanova, A.R. Muhammadjonov, X.N. Bobobekov, Sh. Karimov, M. Sodikov, D.Valieva <sup>[7]</sup>, I.G. Nizamuddinov, B. Kho'jaeva, B. Mannonov, R. Alimova, Z.Rakhmonqulova <sup>[8]</sup>, H. Turaev <sup>[9]</sup>, and others can be pointed out.

### Main Part

Among them is the information of P.I. Demezov, sent on the secret instructions of the Perovsky, Governor-General of Orenburg, which provides important information in the study of Bukhara's attitude to Russia and trade relations of Central Asia with other countries.

In 1833, when V.A. Perovsky was appointed governor-general of Orenburg, active military action of tsarism to Central Asia began. Perovsky was governor-general of Orenburg in 1833-1842 and 1851-1856. During his time many fortifications were built in the deserts, the Aral Sea was explored and navigation was established there, the White Mosque (Oqmasjid) fortress was occupied, and in 1854 a beneficial treaty for Russia was signed with the Khan of Khiva <sup>[10]</sup>.

Being curious to know the political situation in Bukhara, its internal and external trade, Perovsky studied the Orenburg trade. For this purpose, he sends P.I. Demezov as an ambassador with a secret instruction. The ambassador was to study Bukhara's attitude towards Russia and Central Asia's trade relations with other countries <sup>[11]</sup>.

**Corresponding Author:**  
**Turaeva Guli Bahriddinovna**  
Teacher of the department  
"History of Bukhara",  
Bukhara State University,  
Uzbekistan

P.I. Demezou, from the Kingdom of Sardinia, received his Ph.D. in Oriental Linguistics at Kazan University in 1830 and in 1831 he taught Arabic and Persian in the Neplyuev Cadet Corps in Orenburg, and in September began to work as a translator in the Orenburg Border Commission<sup>[12]</sup>.

P.I. Demezou went to Bukhara in the clothes of a mullah under the name of Mullah Jafar. His translation and teaching activities allowed him to constantly improve his Oriental languages, Oriental customs, and Oriental etiquette and helped him always to be aware of what is happening in the East. P.I. Demezou visited Bukhara in 1833-1834 and collected a lot of information about the history of Bukhara. These reports were later published by historian N.A. Khalfin.

In his memoirs, the traveler left very important information about Bukhara's trade relations with neighboring countries. According to him, "Prince Abbas Mirza's last military campaign to Khorasan suspended Bukhara's trade relations with Iran". The caravan from Bukhara to Iran was looted on the border with Khorasan. Thus, Demezou reports that the trade route connecting Bukhara with Iran was closed, which caused Bukhara traders to trade with Iran through Astrakhan. As a result of disbelief in the safety of the traditional caravan route from Iran to Bukhara, a caravan of only 63 camels arrived in Bukhara from Mashhad in 1833 after the death of Abbas Mirza.

Demezou notes the development of traditional trade relations between Bukhara and India. Demezou, however, is concerned about the influx of many British goods from India to Bukhara, along with traditional goods. According to him, the British brought to Bukhara a piece of gold cloth, a thin cloth called muslin, yarn fabric, chit, floral and striped fabrics. Most of the dice were brought to Bukhara via Kokand. Interestingly, the dice cloth came to Bukhara mostly through Kokand.

British goods also entered Bukhara through Iran. When Demezou was in Bukhara, the last caravan arrived from Mashhad, which brought 3 bales of English cloth - flowery gray, chit, muslin, and other goods.

In his report, Demezou provides a detailed analysis of Bukhara's trade relations with Iran. He said "There are very few Iranian ambassadors in Bukhara, because the road is full of dangers, and they are afraid that the Turkmen will capture them on the way and sell them to Khiva as slaves. That is why Iranians trading in Bukhara want to have their trusted people. It is more important that they are mainly from Andkhoy or Mashhad. Five or six rich Iranian merchants settle in Bukhara and live in the Kushbegi caravanserai"<sup>[13]</sup>. The researcher notes that the condition of the trade routes to Bukhara is dangerous not only because of the thieves but also because of the local governors themselves. For example, a caravan from Herat to Bukhara was looted by Bukhara deputy Baturkhan. Only as a result of the intervention of the Bukhara authorities did Baturkhan pay for the damage caused to the traders<sup>[14]</sup>.

The valuable aspect of the work is that the author mentions the names of goods that Bukhara participated in trade with Iran, India, and Afghanistan. Demezou also provides information on the main export of the Bukhara Khanate, karakul leather, its export to Afghanistan and Iran, and the price of karakul leather sold in Bukhara.

Demezou writes about the types and prices of goods imported from India to Bukhara. Nashatir, kimkhub, silk fabrics, English floral fabrics, chakan - white thread fabrics

sewn flowers with silk, pepper, cinnamon, zindjabil, sandalwood, rhino horn, sugar, navvot, henna, blue paint pencil, zarcheva, sardolik-precious Hyderabad stone, and English yarn fabrics were brought from India. Nile paint was brought from Punjab by Afghan tribes - Lugonians. Sweet and sugar were brought to Bukhara from Lahore<sup>[15]</sup>.

Precious metals, cashmere rice, and karakul were exported from Bukhara to Iran<sup>1</sup>. Thus, the work of P.I. Demezou differs from other works by the abundance and value of the information contained in it. Demezou's information was also confirmed by his contemporary Russian officer I.V. Vitkevich, who was in Bukhara in 1835-1836. The Polish revolutionary I.V. Vitkevich was sent to the Orenburg Corps in 1823 by the Tsarist government as an ordinary soldier for his anti-state activities.

Vitkevich received the rank of non-commissioned officer in 1830 and the nobility was returned to him. In April 1833, he was appointed ensign on the recommendation of V.A. Perovsky. He worked as a translator at the Orenburg Border Commission. In 1836 Vitkevich was appointed senior aide to Perovsky. He was in Bukhara in 1835-1836 on behalf of the Russian government.

Perovsky praised Vitkevich's travels, sending his messages to the Asian department, described him as "a man of business, resourcefulness, business acumen, a practitioner, and a man of good manners"<sup>[16]</sup>. Historians V.G. Volovnikov and N.A. Khalfin praised Vitkevich's trip to Bukhara.

In his report, the tourist highlighted the aspects of the Bukhara trade. According to him, there were 25 caravanserais in Bukhara at that time, each of which was inhabited by traders from different countries of the East. For example, Badriddin, a wealthy Afghan merchant, had his caravanserai, family, and home in Bukhara, with 40,000 gold coins or 160,000 rubles in his account. He brought hundreds of the most unique horses and many Russian goods from Bukhara to Kabul. This information of Vitkevich is very important, but it seems that he went astray at the calculation of Badriddin's wealth. If according to Demezou, 1 gold was worth 15 rubles, the capital of an Afghan trader should have been 600,000 rubles, not 160,000 rubles.

Like Demezou, Vitkevich wrote that Bukhara was home to many Indians, Afghans, and Iranians. He also notes the difficulties in the Bukhara-Iran trade due to the looting of thieves.

He notes that many Iranians were captured through piracy then sold at the slave market in Bukhara and Vitkevich observed a similar situation at the Payas-Thani caravanserai where the Kunlus were engaged in the trade of Iranian slaves<sup>[17]</sup>.

Vitkevich mentions the need for valuable minerals in Bukhara. He noted that due to the shortage of gold and silver, the Bukhara government minted silver with gold and silver with copper, Bukhara received silver from Kashgar, gold from Russia, and then the Bukhara coins were taken to Kabul by money changers<sup>[18]</sup>.

Vitkevich was critical of the British Empire's entry into the Bukhara Khanate with British goods, its subjugation of the Bukhara trade, and its attempts to squeeze Russian trade out of the market. Unlike Demezou, Vitkevich notes the low prices of British goods in Bukhara markets. He concluded that the Russian-Bukhara trade had a bright future.

## Conclusion

Thus, the reports of Demezov and Vitkevich confirm that the Bukhara Khanate established intensive trade relations with neighboring eastern states and the very similarity of the information they provided confirms its closeness to the truth. Therefore, they still retain their scientific significance.

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