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Saidov Shavkat
State institute of oriental
Studies of Uzbekistan, Doctor
of Philosophy of historical
sciences, Uzbekistan

From the history of the trade relations of Khiva Khanate with Russian empire (the first half of 19th century)

Saidov Shavkat

Abstract

This article is dedicated to the history of interrelations between the khanate of Khiva and the Russian Empire in the first half of the 19th century. On the basis of the primary sources, the author tries to highlight the geopolitical goals and objectives of the empire on the administration and economy of the Central Asian region, in particular, the khanate of Khiva.

Keywords: Khiva, trade relations, Russian Empire, Central Asia, import, export

Introduction

The primary strategic policy of Russia in the 19th century was the process of turning of Central Asia into the source of resources. However, regarding the mutual cooperation of the countries there were considered as predominant the economic interests, which dictated the conditions of becoming closer of the Russian empire with the Central Asian Khanates. The economic interests of the Russian Empire dictated the need to transform the territory of the Central Asian khanates into the empire's raw materials and finished goods market [7:35]. The eastern trade was profitable for the economy of Russian Empire [1:36]. N.A. Khalfin, who was a Russian scholar for the oriental sciences, writes “during the considered period, the development of trade relations with the khanates of Central Asia were main direction and even the most important aim of political tendency of Russia in this region” [2:330]. In this regards a huge place is given to the khanate of Khiva. From the view point of the political relations with Central Asia, Khiva was seen the main primary spot, which was the predominant chain in the strategic ideas of the Russian Empire”. The information mentioned above was stated by the senior official of the external offices of Russia.

Main Part

At the beginning of 19th century the Khiva Khanate turned into a strong, centralized state, occupying a greater part of Central Asia. The borders of Khiva were covering the lands in the north up to the Emba, and in the south up to Iran, and in the west up to the Caspian sea, and in the east up to the oasis “Merv”.

The centralization of the state serves as the main trait of development economy, handicraft and trade. Altogether with that process, it gave the opportunity for the emergence of the large state of the trade cities such as Khiva, Mangit, Khazarasp, New-Urgench, Chimbay, Takhta, Kilichnezbai and etc. As noted specialist Dono Ziyaeva: “in the major trade centers and *carvansarays*, the vibrant activity of traders from both local and far-abroad countries, trade trips of regional traders to neighboring countries played a major role in facilitating dialogue between different peoples and cultures, export and import processes” [10].

In the middle of the 19th century, in the city of Khiva there were acting 400 trade spots, and 50 caravan routes, and in Khazarasp they were estimated up to 400, and also in New-Urgench-Khodjeil in Tashauz it reached a number of 300 trade shops, Gurlen possessed with 370 shops, and Chimbai had 150 shops, it is as well to mention about Kungrad, which estimated around 120 trade shops. It is to say that there were located about 100 trade shops in Urgench and Rahkmanberde had about 50 large shops and trade shop” [6: 21].

The economy of the Khanate reached its rise and the state needed new markets.

Correspondence Author:
Saidov Shavkat
State institute of oriental
Studies of Uzbekistan, Doctor
of Philosophy of historical
sciences, Uzbekistan

In this regards the Russian market was suitable for the Central Asian merchants.

The trade relations of Russian and Khiva at the beginning of the 19th century were primarily held on the following directions:

1. The northern path, which was divided into 2 directions:
2. *The first was via New Urgench* – Ustuyurt Plateau and the cape Mangishlak up to the coast of the Caspian Sea and later of Astrakhan [6: 27]. In case of the historical data, it was more convenient for the inhabitants of Khiva to go forward to Astrakhan, due to the fact that this route is seen as the safest [9: 89]. From Khiva to Astrakhan the routes were passing within 29 days or around one month. The second path was through the Kyrgyz walls up to Orenburg, these routes were dangerous, they were moving within 33-40 days [9: 161].
3. The southern direction, it passed through the Karakum steppe, where lived Turkmen tribes, it reached up to the southern part of the Caspian sea and from here it was moving to the city of Shemah in the territory of Caucasus.
4. The merchants all over Russia came here and they purchased the goods of Khiva. Due to the complications and danger the necessity in these roads was seen as the minimum route [9: 161].
5. The western route. It was realized through the cities of Chardjui, Bukhara, Samarqand and up to Tashkent from here to Orenburg and Semipalatinsk, they were considered as large centers of commerce and economy of Russian Empire in the eastern part of the state [4: 40].

The inhabitants of Khiva were more active with Russia, regarding the trade with Russia rather than the other representatives of the khanates of Central Asia.

According to the information of the Ambassador of Russia to Khiva captain Muravyov, the inhabitants of Khiva bought the products in Bukhara, they served the role of the deliverers of goods from Bukhara and other eastern states [4: 40]. In May, 1801 the vessel with a luggage of the paper products came from Manghishlaq to Astrakhan, it belonged to the Khiva merchants, and from 6th June, 1801 there had come 7 vessels with 238 merchants, it is to note that on the 5th of July came 211 merchants, and most of them were the representatives of Khiva. On the 4th of January, 1811 from Guryev arrived the caravan of 20 Khiva merchants, which were loaded by the paper materials [3: 61]. According to Muravyov, the local inhabitants of Khiva moved with the goods to Astrakhan and Orenburg with large caravans [3: 60].

As it is clear, among the visitors of Astrakhan there were seen more Central Asian merchants rather than those of Khiva inhabitants, there were less representatives of Bukhara.

So, in April 18, 1803 49 merchants arrived in Astrakhan from Khiva. There were as well seen 4 Turkmens, and 1 merchant from Bukhara. There arrived around 30 people from Khiva, 13 people from Bukhara, and 4 people from Turkmenistan. On another vessel, which arrived in June of the same year, there 66 people from Khiva and 33 people from Bukhara [3: 61]. Another source tells that among the merchants of Central Asia, who arrived in 1807, there were seen a great number of those, who came from Khiva.

There were exported Central Asian, in particular, Khiva the gowns, hats, the silk gowns, grapes, the fox leathers, yearned cotton-based papers, various silk clothes.

The reciprocal relations of Khiva Khanate of Russia, during the 19th century always existed the intensity with such countries as in Russia such as Russia, regarding the political, military invasion, reaching to the borders of Khiva Khanate. Besides this, the matters of the influence to the world really varied, concerning the Kazakh steppes, safety of the trade caravans, which move from Bukhara to Russia. It also dealt with the problems of Russian prisoners, who were settled in Khiva, and also the detention of Khiva merchants and the confiscation of their property. It deteriorated more the relations between the states [1: 110]. In spite of the presence of these contradictions, the trade connections of Russia and Khiva were activated.

For example, between 1804-1807 years there were brought goods from Khiva and Bukhara from Russia, which was estimated by 988 000 of rubles, and between 1824 and 1827 years these indications have increased up to 4 million, 398 000 of rubles. From the khanates there were brought the goods to Russia for the amount of 2 071 000 of rubles (Between 1804-1807) and between 1824-1827 years there were brought 5 million, 752 000 rubles [9: 65].

The growth of the goods exchange is continued on the further years, and regarding the following years in case of the mutual trade exchange of the Central Asian khanates, in Russia this indication is composed of 1,180, 600 (1828), and in 1840 it was composed of 3,283,654 rubles [3: 165]. So, it was provided the trivial increase of the total increase volume in the total amount of the goods exchange.

It is known that the general-Governor V.A Perovskiy (1839-1840) undertook the attempt to invade Khiva. This military raid serves as a failure for Russia. As a result of the successful volumes of the trades were reduced in 1839-1840. Russian after an unsuccessful trip tries to normalize the diplomatic relations, Khiva also answers in the mutual process, the Russian trip made the Russian Khan to reconsider seriously the improvement of relations with Russia. In 1841 the diplomatic mission goes to Khiva in 1841 [7: 196].

Another expedition came in 1842, it was more serious and headed by the deputy colonel Danilevskiy, who reached the agreement between the countries [7:196]. As a result, the trade between the states is getting renewed, and then it increases, considering years, and the goods volume between 1841 and 1850 years increased and it was estimated to 539 thousand of rubles and 5, 5 million of ruble in gold within 10 years^[8], within this time this volume constituted 803 thousand of rubles between 1858-1867 for the overall amount of 8 million rubles^[8]. It is also significant to mention about the structure of goods, which were exported and imported between 1841-1850 years.

The products brought from Russian to Khiva [3: 166] (in Pound sterling)

Tenge, gold, silver	15210
Honey	1856
Iron and iron-made products	9331
Paper products	58915
Woolen products	25869
Silk products	4789
Leather	37921
Products made of tree	460
The paints and the painting materials	17904
Other products	27567
Overall	199830

The goods brought from Khiva and Russia ¹

Yarn and cotton	76255
Paper products	89965
The silk products	3088
The woolen products	1322
Tissue	26201
Coat and products made of coats	6297
Precious stones and jewellery	703
Dry fruits	2147
Other products	4452
Overall	249423

The researcher, A. Sadiqov says that most products, which were saved at the markets of Khiva at the beginning of the 19th century, two thirds of it was produced in Russia, especially sugar, the products made of sugar, the products made of iron, various tissues, wool, ready-made garments, they had a great demand among the local population [6: 27]. In the middle of the twenties of the 20th century, the Russian export to Central Asia was composed of 4 million, in comparison with one million, and the indicators of the Central Asian export to Russia was composed was larger than in Russia, it was estimated up to the 6 million, in comparison with 2 million of the analogous period [6: 27]. The increase of the mutual import and export between the countries was composed of 3-4 times from the starting statistics.

There were primarily exported cotton and the cotton-made materials from Khiva to Russia. From 1850 up to 1859 the total amount of the exported goods from Khiva to Russia was estimated up to 1,155,941 rubles, each year it was estimated about 215 thousand rubles [6: 32]. It is interesting to say that the merchants of Khiva moved from Russia more goods from Russia, rather than the Russian merchants. In the indicated time, the goods were exported to Russia for the amount of 1 million rubles, from Russia to Khiva there were brought the goods in the amount of 350,491 rubles [6: 33]. It is especially connected with the activeness of Turkestan merchants. It is possible to observe that the rise of goods from Khiva to Russia was clearly seen, to give an example, 253 Khiva merchants came to Russia in 1866, and from Russia to Khiva came 253 merchants of Khiva, and from Russia to Khiva came 43 merchants [3: 33]. The table below shows the authenticity of the information provided.

Years	Arrived to Russia	Moved from Russia back
1850	4	5
1851	72	42
1852	166	10
1853	189	120
1854	90	110
1855	-	-
1856	47	3
1857	78	106
1858	149	175
1859	194	180
1860	239	131
1861	179	142
1862	133	118
1863	62	65
1864	150	138
1865	206	159
1866	253	43
1867	149	64
Bcero	2360	1611

Based on the information of Orenburg General-Governor P.K. Essen, the traders of Khiva produced goods for about one million roubles in the city of Orenburg. So, the Khanate Khanate at the beginning of 19th century turned into a strong, centralized state, it occupied the larger part of Central Asia it served as a primary development of economy, handicraft, and trade, as well as the emergence of the great industrial cities [2: 135]. The economy of the Khanate was in its rise and the state needed its spots to sell the products. Therefore, the reciprocal relations between the state of Khiva and Russia were the prioritized issues, regarding the trade relations.

Conclusion

In spite of the contradictions in the relations, within the 19th century the trade was developing gradually and it was based on the mutual conditions. The eastern trade was profitable and it got stimulated its economy. The Khanate of Khiva needed its goods from Russia, and it was interested in the development of the mutual cooperation. The trade was beneficial both for Khiva and Russia.

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