



## THE CONTRIBUTION OF GERMAN SCIENTISTS TO THE SCIENTIFIC STUDY OF RUSSIAN TURKESTAN AT THE END OF THE 19TH AND BEGINNING OF THE 20TH CENTURIES

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### ABSTRACT

In the article the issue of contribution of German scientists to scientific research of Turkistan of end XIX-beginning of XX centuries is considered. They were guided in their activity by scientific investigation of history and social-economical life of the country. Their scientific works are historical sources in studying of the history of Turkistan of the period of colonization.

### KEYWORDS

Turkistan, education, scientist, history, country, Central Asia.

### INTRODUCTION

Turkestan becomes a research site for study by scientists from Western European countries as a result of the colonization of the region by the Russian Empire. As a result of the resettlement policy of the metropolis, citizens of European countries, in accordance with the regulations on the management of the Turkestan region, received the right of unhindered arrival and the unlimited right to engage in various types of activities. The beginning of the resettlement of displaced people is considered to be the 60s of the 19th century. They

were considered to be from the Baltic provinces of the Russian Empire, including the first Turkestan Governor-General K.P. von Kaufmann was a representative of ethnic Germans. [1]

Immigrants from European countries left a noticeable mark on the history of Turkestan. At first glance, it may seem that due to their small numbers, they could not have a serious influence either in the field of science and education, or in the cultural life of the region as a whole. But with a more in-depth and comprehensive



study, it becomes obvious that this is not a case where quantity is directly proportional to quality. First of all, this is due to the presence of a significant number of intelligentsia among the Europeans arriving in the region.

At the end of the 19th and beginning of the 20th centuries, the Turkestan General Government, in order to strengthen the colonial system, experienced a shortage not only of highly qualified engineers, mechanics, builders, and agricultural workers, but also of specialists in various fields of science and, especially in the educational sphere. After the conquest of Turkestan by the Russian Empire, a network of European-style educational institutions arose in the region. It was these educational institutions that began training specialists who made a great contribution to the further study of the region and the development of production areas. Specialists from European countries were valued for their professional qualities; among them, representatives of the teaching staff of educational institutions of the region stood out. They were a very noticeable stratum among the Turkestan intelligentsia. Among them, one can note the activities of the Germans: M. G. Shot - teacher of the Tashkent Commercial School, M. F. Masing, A. M. Kuhn - teachers of the Tashkent Real School, N. A. Pfeiffer - teacher of the Tashkent Women's Gymnasium:

Many of the European scientists, coming to Turkestan for their research or collecting exhibits, subsequently remained for permanent residence in order to continue their scientific activities. Some of them lived in Russia before arriving in Turkestan, although ethnically they came from Western European countries. There were especially many ethnic Germans among them. This is R.R. Schroeder, E.K. Betger, I.I. Geyer, L.S. Berg, A.F. Meddendorf, P.I. Lerch, V.V. Bartold, A. Kuhn and many others. [2]

Evgeny Karlovich Betger was born in Tashkent into the family of a German emigrant who moved from Prussia in the 70s of the 19th century. After graduating from the local gymnasium, he entered the Faculty of History and Philology of Moscow University. In 1906, classes at the university were canceled due to the events of the “first Russian revolution.” In 1909, he re-entered the Faculty of History and Philology of Kyiv University, from which he graduated in 1914. E.K. Betger returned home and got a job as a teacher of Russian language and literature at a men's gymnasium. In 1915 he joined the local branch of the Russian Geographical Society and, as a representative of this society, became a member of the Supervisory Committee at the Tashkent Central Library.

E.K. Boettger paid special attention to the search and scientific processing of rare books and manuscripts of local origin, as well as the compilation of detailed bibliographic indexes for a wide variety of collections of local sources. Thanks to this, the number of storage units in the library grew, while work was carried out with large amounts of information. In 1941, the “Institute of Trainees” opened in Tashkent, and E.K. Betger was involved in organizing educational events and teaching the Arabic language course. Two years later, at this institute, the scientist defended his dissertation: “The Diary of A.I. Butakov as material for his biography and for the history of the study of the Aral Basin.” Since the mid-30s, the scientist devoted a lot of effort and attention to the most valuable property of the Tashkent State Library - the “Turkestan Collection”. E.K. Betger sought to fill the existing gaps and supplement the Collection based on sources found later. The list of his scientific works takes several pages. In total, he published more than 150 works - monographs, articles and scientific reviews, mainly devoted to issues of library science and bibliography. [3]



Geyer, Ivan Ivanovich (1860-1908) - Russian historian and ethnographer of Central Asia. Born into a German family, his mother was German. He received his education in St. Petersburg. Since 1891, he worked in Tashkent as secretary of the Syr-Darya regional static committee. Editor of the 13-volume publication "Collection of materials for statistics of the Syr-Darya region." He published articles in the newspapers "Turkestan Vedomosti", "Okraina" and in the magazine "Severny Vestnik". In the book "Turkestan" he provided important information on the history, ethnography, and spiritual culture of the Kazakhs of the Syr-Darya region. He was engaged in collecting legends of the Muslim peoples of the Turkestan region, which were included in the first volume of the "Collection of materials for statistics of the Syr-Darya region" entitled "Materials for the study of the everyday characteristics of the Muslim population of the Turkestan region."

Regarding the scientific heritage of I.I. Geyer, it should be noted the breadth of the range of his research interests. This is clearly illustrated by the list of his main scientific works: "Up the Pyanj", "Peasant colonization of the Syr-Darya region", "Handicrafts in Tashkent", "On the Russian villages of the Syr-Darya region", "Guide to Turkestan", "Turkestan". Also, I.I. Geyer took an active part in the work of the Biological Station and Pathological Cabinet established in 1899 at the Turkestan Society of Agriculture. [4]

A significant contribution to the study of the region was made by L.S. Berg. He was born in Bendery into a German family. His father, Simon Grigorievich Berg, was a notary; mother, Klara Lvovna Bernstein-Kogan, is a housewife. He had younger sisters Maria (April 18, 1878) and Sophia (December 23, 1879). The family lived in a house on Moskovskaya Street.

Education and scientific career of L.S. Berg began in 1885. In 1885-1894 he studied at the second Chisinau

gymnasium, from which he graduated with a gold medal. In 1894 he was baptized into Lutheranism to obtain the right to higher education within the Russian Empire.

In 1894-1898 - a student in the natural sciences department of the Faculty of Physics and Mathematics of the Imperial Moscow University.

In 1899-1902 - supervisor of fisheries in the Aral Sea and Syr Darya.

In 1903 - studied for 10 months at oceanographic courses in Bergen (Norway).

In 1903-1904 - supervisor of fisheries in the middle reaches of the Volga. [5]

L.S. Berg worked in 1899-1903. in the Turkestan department of the Russian Geographical Society. He explored the largest bodies of water in Central Asia - the Aral Sea and Lake Balkhash. In 1908, L.S. Berg's monograph "The Aral Sea" was published, which presented and summarized the results of his research. The work contains rich historiographical data on the settlement of the Amu Darya and Aral Sea region in connection with changes in the water regime and fluctuations in the level of the Aral Sea. In 1909 L.S. Berg was awarded a doctorate in geography for his dissertation "The Aral Sea." [6]

The works of Pyotr Ivanovich Lerch deserve great attention. He was a Russian orientalist, archaeologist and numismatist. He graduated from St. Petersburg University (1850) with a specialization in Oriental studies, and worked in a minor technical position at the Academy of Sciences. In 1858, he participated for research purposes in the military-diplomatic mission of N.P. Ignatiev in Khiva and Bukhara. His work contains historical and geographical data about the ancient era and the Middle Ages on the territory of the Khiva Khanate.



V.V. Bartold (1869-1930) - the greatest historian of the East, the creator of the Russian orientalist historical school. V.V. Bartold, while still a student, presented his first essay on the history of Central Asia (1888); before the publication of his classic work "Turkestan in the Age of the Mongol Invasion" was completed, he laid the foundation for the scientific study of the history of Central Asia in the early Middle Ages. Subsequently, V.V. Barthold researched the history of Central Asia during the era of Timur and the Timurids. In world science it is difficult to find another scientist who would do so much to study one country.

Until the end of his life, V.V. Bartold, in his own words, remained "primarily a historian of Central Asia." An excellent expert in Arabic, Persian and Turkic languages, V.V. Bartold used in his works many new written sources, which he, like no one else, knew how to find and analyze. Over the 42 years of his scientific activity, V.V. Bartold published over 400 scientific works - monographs, articles, reviews and notes; in addition, he wrote 246 articles, as well as the "Encyclopedia of Islam," which together constitute a kind of encyclopedia of the history and historical geography of Central Asia. [7]

Thus, the Germans made a significant contribution to the study of Russian Turkestan and the formation here of such branches of science as history, ethnography, archeology, geography, economics, medicine, etc. Many fundamental scientific works were written, which even after centuries have not lost their relevance and scientific value. Many of their works were published, which was a further impetus for attracting the attention of new generations of researchers to the rich history and unique culture of Turkestan.

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