

## The Role And Status Of The Merchants Of Bukhara In The Trade Relationships Of The Central Asia (The Beginning Of The 19-20 Centuries)

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### ABSTRACT

This article is devoted to the foreign trade activities of traders of the Emirate of Bukhara in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, as well as their trade with European countries, Afghanistan, Iran, India. Over the years, it was studied that Bukhara traders have played an important role in supplying Central Asia with the necessary products.

### KEYWORDS

Bukhara, India, Iran, Central Asia, Russia, Krategin, Kulyab, the traditional trade, bekliks, timchi, merchants, goods, kosids, caravansaray.

### INTRODUCTION

It is known that the Emirate of Bukhara has a special place in the domestic and foreign trade relations of Central Asia. At the beginning of the XIX century, the traditional trade relations of the Emirate of Bukhara with Russia, Afghanistan, Iran, India and other countries

further developed, which in turn had a certain impact on the development of socio-economic life of the emirate. The development of trade, in turn, has led to the development of commodity-money relations in the region, domestic trade and increased demand for

particular products. For example, during the reigns of Amir Shah Murad (1785-1800) and Amir Haydar (1800-1825) the development of domestic and foreign trade was not based on the development of trade relations with the above-mentioned countries, but on the security of the country in trade with foreigners. The main purpose of these above mentioned Amirs was provision of the security of not only aboriginal traders and the foreign merchants along with creation of conditions to deal.

Traders were an important layer of the economy and social life in the development of trade relations. During this period, the position of traders was divided into certain stages according to the level of trade. In particular, wholesale and foreign trade was carried out jointly and mutually at the same time concentrated in the hands of large landowners. According to sources and written documents, the largest group of merchants were mainly the subjects of the emir and his relatives, representatives of the upper classes of scholars and officials. They controlled domestic and foreign trade accordingly. A largest parts of the income coming from trade processes went to the first of all to Emir, after that religious officials of the country<sup>1</sup>.

#### The Main Part

The Bukhara Emirate played an important role in Central Asian trade. The production of agricultural and industrial products in the region grew significantly. A researcher of the urban life of the Muslim countries I.P Petrushevsky classifies the city of Bukhara as “A special type of city located at the

intersection of major trade routes, which serves as an association for export and transit trade. According to him, in Bukhara the goods and commodity came from four directions of the world and spread to four directions. In addition, Bukhara remained an important transit point for the entire region, from where goods were distributed to various regions and delivered to neighboring countries. An important role in this was played by the fact that Bukhara traders carried out large-scale trade and interregional trade<sup>2</sup>.

The position of traders in trade is explained by the fact that they played a leading role in the supply of goods to Central Asia. The importance and potential of the region in the production of goods has given a strong impetus to the development of trade relations. Bukhara traders were famous in Central Asia for the production and sale of their primary products. The bekliks (principalities) of Korategin, Gissar and Kulyab produced cotton, cocoons and livestock products, which were in great demand in the world market. Apples, grapes, pistachios and similar products were the main exports in trade with other countries. It should be noted that the demand for these goods exported in the Emirate of Bukhara, in particular, cotton, wool, leather, dried fruits grew from year to year<sup>3</sup>. In particular, Bukhara has long been known as the largest center of karakul trade. Skins were brought to Bukhara by traders from all Karakul districts of Central Asia and high-quality karakul skin was delivered to the markets of Russia, Western Europe, America

<sup>1</sup> Ханыков Н. Описание Бухарского ханства. - СПб., 1843. – С. 109.

<sup>2</sup> Исроилов С.О. Социальной структуре торговцев бухарского эмирата (начало XX века). // Вестник института, Пенджикент, 2017. - С.135.

<sup>3</sup> Исроилов С.О. Социальной структуре торговцев бухарского эмирата... - С.136.

and Asia Minor Through Bukhara. The main magnates of the Karakul trade were the people of Bukhara. M. S. Yusupova mentioned the names of about 30 large astrakhan traders. The arrival of Karakul to the market was seasonal, and during this season the importance of trade negotiations between Bukhara traders was great<sup>4</sup>.

The goods brought to Bukhara were consumed in and around the city as well. The city's domestic market has had great potential since the mid-19th century. This is due to the fact that traders imported a lot of products from Central Asian countries, the city markets are crowded and Bukhara consumes more imported goods than other cities. This led to a high level of industrial development, as artisans needed a variety of raw materials, and the local population needed food and other goods. Bukhara was visited by many foreign traders. Most of them lived in caravansarays (hotels designed to traders). Most of the caravansarays were specialized in the packaging of products related to the development of trade in Bukhara<sup>5</sup>.

The houses of Bukhara merchants were located mainly in the city center and near the markets. They also lived in almost all neighborhoods of the city on the basis of voting<sup>6</sup>. According to their social status, they were divided into large merchants and shopkeepers. Among them there was a layer of merchants called "Timchi", a shopkeeper located in the most important shopping centers of the city. Bukhara merchants could

be found not only in the East, but also in Europe. This was important in the development of professional traders in the Central Asian region. They have contributed to the improvement of the economic life of the people, as well as to the solution of some cultural problems. For a long time a person called "Kosids" (Arabic mediator that went between sides) played an important role in trade with Bukhara<sup>7</sup>. He was a participant in credit agreements not only in Bukhara, but also in the whole Central Asian trade world. Trade relations on credit developed between the emirate's traders between the provinces and its capital. The largest traders of the Emirate of Bukhara established business relations with traders from other countries and supplied goods on credit.

It is important to note that traders often differed in the inherited trade specialization, in which professional ethics played an important role. By the beginning of the twentieth century, with the involvement of Bukhara trade in capitalist relations, the tradition of inheritance was disappearing. The growth of trade, the growing demand for various foreign goods led to a break of the traditional profession. The fact that the old merchants were forced to take over the lucrative trades with modern investors with new owners. This, in turn, led to the development of specific local forms of trade relations and a certain form of labor in Bukhara.

Especially, as a result of the development of commodity-money relations, a new national layer of upper social class (National bourgeoisie) was formed which later became

<sup>4</sup> Сухарева О.А. Бухара XIX- начало XX в. – Москва 1966. Наука. –С242

<sup>5</sup> Сухарева О.А. К истории городов Бухарского ханства.-Ташкент-1958.- С96

<sup>6</sup> Сухарева О.А. Бухара XIX- начало XX в. – Москва 1966. Наука. –С236

<sup>7</sup> Исроилов С.О. Социальной структуре торговцев бухарского эмирата... - С.137

the economic basis of the social structure of society. The stratum of property owners consisted of private mainly property owners of various shapes, and quantities. The development of market relations, the construction of industry and railways strengthened the position of landowners in society. Their ethnic composition consisted of mainly Uzbeks, Tadjiks, Jewish and others. The social base of the society consisted of merchants, industrialists, wealthy landowners, artisans, and others layers associated with industries such as agriculture, trade, and manufacturing (industry, handicrafts). The intensification of capitalist relations in the emirate, on the other hand, allowed the national bourgeoisie to find a small place in socio-economic life.

It should be noted that the foundation of the national bourgeoisie in the emirate was first laid among the merchants. The banking and commercial capital of Russia, which entered the Emirate of Bukhara, developed through local commercial capital and profit-seeking owners. F. Khodjaev said: "The number of large independent traders in the Emirate of Bukhara was small, and the rest of the main traders acted mainly as intermediaries and brokers (Go-betweens) of Russian companies and banks<sup>8</sup>.

Since the end of the 19th century, cocoon trade also developed in Bukhara. The growth of cocoon exports led to its entry into the international market. As a result, the great cotton-growers of Bukhara also began to grow cocoons, and it merged with the cotton trade. In the late 19th and early 20th centuries,

<sup>8</sup> Нормуродова Г. Бухоро амирлиги ижтимоий стратификацияси ва аҳоли катламларининг жамият ҳаётидаги ўрни. - Тошкент: Navro'z, 2019. – В.219-220.

cocoons were exported from Bukhara to Russia, France, Italy and other countries. One of the merchants of Bukhara managed to sell ninety wagons of cocoons to Marcel. Forty wagons of cocoon product belonged to Mirzo Muhiddin<sup>9</sup>. At that time, most of the silk was sent from Bukhara to India. They were mainly delivered to the city of Multon, from where the goods were shipped to other parts of India. The Bukhara merchants paid 250-300 rupees for the cargo of one camel and got to India through Kandahar or Ghazna<sup>10</sup>. As for trade relations between the Emirate of Bukhara and Russia, Russian traders tried to attract Central Asian traders to the fairs held in Orenburg. This is due to the fact that all the costs associated with the management of the Orenburg region were covered by taxes collected from the sale of products of Central Asian traders. In addition to various goods, Bukhara traders brought gold and silver in exchange for Russian goods<sup>11</sup>. They earned a lot of money from the sale of Astrakhan skins and cotton at the Irbit and Nizhny Novgorod fairs, and from the sale of silk, cotton and linen imported from Bukhara in Kazan and Siberia.

The emirs also played an important role in the economic relations of the Emirate of Bukhara. Because the development of trade relations of Bukhara with the world market stimulated the trade activity of the emirs. In

<sup>9</sup> Сухарева О.А. Бухара XIX- начало XX в. – Москва 1966. Наука. –С250

<sup>10</sup> Ochildiyev F. Trade relations between Bukhara and India in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century .- Actual problems of applied sciences journal world -4(14) 2019.-p14

<sup>11</sup> Хужаева Ш.Х. Особенности торговых взаимоотношений между Россией и Бухарским эмиратом ( конец XVIII- середина XIX века). – Казань-2015 .-С352

particular, Amir Abdullah Khan conducted large-scale trade in order to increase his low income. According to the Amir, he was the third largest trader in the world in the karakul trade (in the first place was his citizen J. Arabov). According to researchers, unfortunately, this information is confused with the name of Amir Alimkhan in some literatures<sup>12</sup>.

## CONCLUSION

In short, as a result of the development of capitalist relations in the emirate in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, a new national bourgeoisie, the economic backbone of society, was formed. This new class of owners consisted mainly of private property owners of various shapes and quantities. Among them were traders who were active in commodity-money relations, who acted as both the main worker and the owner of the enterprise and the people who sold their products. The fact that Bukhara traders traded not only with neighboring countries, but also with Germany, France, Italy and even the United States, is worthwhile in the foreign trade of Central Asia.

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<sup>12</sup> Нормуродова Г. Бухоро амирлиги ижтимоий стратификацияси ва аҳоли катламларининг жамият ҳаётидаги ўрни... – В. 221.