



## FROM THE HISTORY OF THE AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE RUSSIAN AND CHINESE EMPIRES ON THE ISSUE OF EAST TURKESTAN IN THE XIX CENTURY

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### ABSTRACT

In the 21st century, the scientific study of the history of colonial policy pursued by the great empires on the basis of modern approaches has not lost its relevance. Their policies in different regions have led to political, economic and cultural changes as well as conflicts of interest. In particular, in the XVIII century in Central Asia there was a sharp political process. Not only will there be military conflicts in the region, but the political interests of several major empires will clash in the region. In particular, the growing economic potential of the Russian Empire increased its aspirations for East Turkestan, and on the other hand, after the Manchu dynasty took the Chinese throne, their bold move to the region aggravated the political situation. The short-lived occupation of Mongolia, Tibet, Lobnor, and the present-day Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region by the Qing Empire resulted in the abolition of the centuries-old statehood of the peoples of Central Asia. In this sense, the occupation of East Turkestan by the Manchus was the responsibility of the Russian Empire and the Chinese administration.

**KEYWORDS:** - Central Asia, Gulja and Chuguchak, Kokand Khanate, the Fergana Valley and Kashgar, East Turkestan, Semipalatinsk, Petropavlovsk, Troitsk.

### INTRODUCTION

In the middle of the 19th century, as the territory of these empires became closer to the Central Asian region, the ruling circles of St. Petersburg intensified their efforts to ensure and strengthen Russia's trade relations with East Turkestan and Central Asia. At the same time, in the context of the growing interest of the great empires in Central Asia during this period, the existing sharp political process required that the relations have a legal basis. In this regard, the Treaty of Gulja, signed on July 25, 1850, was the first step in the legal strengthening and

development of trade relations between Russia and China in Central Asia [15. 35-44]. On February 5, 1852, Emperor Nicholas I signed the Treaty of Gulja and the rules of land trade with western China [15. 36-37]. According to him, the heads of caravans traveling from Russia to China had to obtain special tickets (permits) from customs in Semipalatinsk, Petropavlovsk, Troitsk, Ust-Kamenogorsk and Kopal. Those who did not have such a document were entitled to various fees by the local Chinese government. The text of this agreement has not been published in the press. According to the agreement, it was agreed to open Russian consulates in the cities of Gulja and Chuguchak,



and I.I. Zakharov and A.A. Tatarinov were the first consuls. Among the folders currently stored in the MDA of the Republic of Uzbekistan there is a document related to this agreement, which contains the following information: "... Traders of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd guilds of the Russian government have the right to trade in the cities of Gulja and Chuguchak. Tashkent and other Asians have had the right to trade since 1852, first of all, they must have a guild certificate and a special ticket from the Russian government. Every trader had to meet with Russian consuls when he went to China." In general, this agreement played an important role in strengthening the position of the Russian Empire in Central Asia in its political and economic relations with China.

## THE MAIN FINDINGS AND RESULTS

From 1853, the Russian Empire began its invasions of the Central Asian khanates. Huge areas will be occupied in a short time. Especially in 1860, the political situation in the south-eastern regions of Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan worsened. In October of this year, as a result of the defeat of the troops of the Kokand Khanate from the Russian army led by G.A. Kolpakovsky near Uzunyogoch, Ettisuv and Iliyorti regions were included in the empire. This aspect became the basis for concluding new agreements with the Qing state on the Central Asian issue. The Beijing Agreement was the basis for the two countries' demarcation of the Central Asian region. This agreement was signed in November 1860 by the representative of the Chinese government and the Russian government N.P. Ignatev in addition to the Aygun and Tianjin agreements. The task before the parties was to determine the further existing borders in the vast areas "... from the lighthouse of Shabin-Dabak to the property of the Kokand Khanate and from the western Sayan foothills to the

Pamirs" [16. 35]. In addition to border agreements, the Beijing Agreement also addressed the development of Russian-Chinese trade relations. At the same time, Russian traders will have the right to trade in the cities of Gulja and Chuguchak, as well as in Kashgar. In general, this agreement defines the general principles and directions of the borders between the two countries. Of course, each side wanted a border that was economically viable, along with the western-strategic interests of their state. According to a study by Russian historian Moiseev, the parties tried to work on the issue of border demarcation in terms of their own interests. In particular, the Chinese version of the agreement is not about the installation of simple barriers, but about the creation of permanent border barriers in the direction from the Shabin-Dabak border to Lake Zayson in the west. Another problem was that after the Qing dynasty occupied East Turkestan and Hungary in the 1950s, permanent and temporary checkpoints were set up near the mountainous Altai region of Kazakhstan to prevent the migration of nomads to China. In this regard, from the end of 1861, the Chinese side proposed to prepare a new agreement on this issue. However, it took exactly three years to prepare the next contract. This is because both sides were willing to work in their own interests and take advantage of the current situation. There is no doubt that the representatives of the Russian Empire were trying to further expand their territories on the border with China with Central Asia. Colonel I.F. Babkov, Russian Consul in Gulja I.I. Zakharov, astronomer K.V. Struve and Consul in Chuguchak K.A. Skachkov played an active role in this movement on behalf of the Russian government. Also, the Governor-General of Western Siberia, A.O. Dugamel's efforts in this regard are particularly noteworthy. At the same time, during this period, the Russian side intensified



its Western movements in Central Asia. In particular, by 1864, the territories from Perovsky Fort to Tokmak were occupied and a new Kokand line was formed. In turn, the situation on the Chinese side has changed for the worse. In East Turkestan, a Muslim uprising broke out and spread to the cities of Kashgar and Ili. In the center of the country, the Typhoon uprising began to pose a serious threat to the state.

In such a dire situation, Emperor Min I asked Governor A.O. Dugamel to send his representatives to negotiate the frontier. In September 1864, negotiations for a bilateral agreement began in Chuguchak. Although the Qing Empire claimed that the people of the Chu region were tied to China in relation to Russia, the Russians remained steadfast in their positions. Thus, on September 25, 1864, a treaty called the Chuguchak Protocol was signed. Undoubtedly, this agreement was a great achievement of the diplomacy of the Russian Empire. According to BP Gurevich, a well-known expert on the history of international relations, the Chuguchak Protocol has served to strengthen the current situation in Central Asia. Thus, on September 25, 1864, a treaty called the Chuguchak Protocol was signed. Undoubtedly, this agreement was a great achievement of the diplomacy of the Russian Empire. According to B.P. Gurevich, a well-known expert on the history of international relations, the "Chuguchak Protocol" has served to strengthen the current situation in Central Asia [17. 589]. Manchuria's concession to Russia in this situation can be interpreted as a hope for diplomatic and military support from the St. Petersburg authorities at a time when the aggression of Great Britain, France and other major empires against China was on the rise. This agreement is a logical continuation of the "Beijing Agreement", which defines the Russian-Chinese border in Central Asia from the Altai to Tianshan. However, the

escalation of the geopolitical situation in East Turkestan has necessitated new adjustments in border issues between the two countries. One of the staunchest supporters of the new "corrections" at the border was the western governor of Semipalatinsk, V.A. Poltoratsky. This is due to the fact that the nomadic population lived mainly around the border, and at different times of the year they moved from side to side. This caused great inconvenience to the border guards. According to the "Chuguchak Protocol", border demarcation was to begin in 1865. However, the demarcation process was postponed this year as a mass uprising of the Muslim population began in Xinjiang. On the other hand, as a result of the strong presence of Russian troops in the Ili Valley during this period, the West began to take the initiative to push the border lines further back. In particular, the Governor-General of Western Siberia AP Khrukhov was one of them. In a letter to the Russian ambassador to China, E. Byutsov, in 1869, he stressed the need to change the Russian-Chinese border in Central Asia, including the inclusion of some or all of the Black Irtysh Valley in Russia. However, in the second half of the 1860s, dramatic political changes took place.

With the re-occupation of Kashgar by the Qing state, relations between Russia and China soured. During this period, the United Kingdom also began to pursue its interests in East Turkestan. To this end, in the second half of the nineteenth century, Britain intensified its political activism in the southern regions of Central Asia. With the rise of Yaqubbek to power in Kashgar as a result of the anti-Chinese [18] and the establishment of the Yettishar Muslim state in Xinjiang in 1867, British interest in East Turkestan and the Pamirs intensified [19]. Britain understood the new commodity market in Kashgar and aimed to turn it into an outpost in pursuing its colonial policy in Central Asia. In this



strategically important region of Herat, Britain has begun to pose a clear threat to Russia's interests. In pursuing his anti-Russian policy, he tried in every way possible to take as his weapon first the Yettishar government and then China and its administration in Xinjiang.

As early as 1870, the Indian colonial administration sent a group of its representatives, led by Douglas Forsyth, to Kashgar. Officially, the visit was neither a diplomatic mission nor for any political purpose.

As a geographical result of Douglas Forsyth's first expedition to Yettishar, he gained some clear understanding of the location of this new Islamic state and its natural boundaries and neighbors.

In 1873, Lord Northbrook, Viceroy of India, organized a new mission to Kashgar under the leadership of Douglas Forsyth. But this time the essence of the event, along with a large trade caravan, reflected a thorough scientific expedition. On March 17, 1874, the mission left Kashgar. On March 21, Douglas Forsyth sent Gordon Trotter, Biddalf, Stolichk, Munshi and Kishen Singha to the Pamirs. This route provided some of the expedition's valuable geographical information.

As soon as they returned from the mission, the members of the expedition immediately began to process the seized materials. Particular attention was paid to the creation of a new map of the visited countries on the basis of existing and newly collected data.

The most important conclusion drawn from the research of the members of the Forsyth Mission is that Russia has some rights with the capture of Kokand, not to mention that the territories of Afghanistan and Kashgar are not connected to the Pamirs. He firmly established that Kokand, which lies between Kashgar and Afghanistan, could claim the lands under its control. As a

result, Russia gained possession of Tashkurgan and Yellow Lake.

As noted above, the Chinese began to demand the return of the Ili Valley. In turn, among the Russian ruling circles there were those who offered not to return the territory to the Chinese, and if they did not agree to it, to start a war. However, due to the war with Turkey at the time, many military members did not support the proposal. The talks took place at the Livadi Palace in Crimea. The Russian side was represented by Foreign Minister N.K. Girs and Russian Ambassador to China E.K. Buttsov, as well as a representative of the Qing Dynasty Chun Hou. The treaty went down in history as the Treaty of Livadia, and its summary was as follows: The western part of the Ili Valley and the Tekes Valley were to be ceded to Russia through the Muzart Pass. The Qing government is committed to the property and security of the country's population and not to resist immigrants to Russia. It was also planned to open Russian trade missions in a number of Chinese cities and pay the Qing government 5 million rubles to Russia [16. 50]. However, this agreement will not be signed by Beijing authorities. Even Chun Hou, who was involved in making the deal, is killed. In turn, there were mass migrations to the Khorgos Valley, leaving property among the locals of the Ili Valley. On the other hand, the Qing government is hesitant to return the country militarily, bringing government troops into a state of war. It should be noted that at this time of escalating geopolitical situation, it was clear that the war would not benefit both sides. Under such circumstances, the ruling circles of St. Petersburg were forced to give way in favor of China.

In June 1878, the Chinese government sent Chun Hou to Russia as a representative to resolve the Ili issue. He compromises in the conversation and signs an agreement that runs counter to the



interests of the state. In 1880, another envoy, Tszen Tsitsze, was sent to St. Petersburg, then the capital of the Russian Empire, to amend the Russia-China-Ili Treaty. On February 24, 1881, the amended Ili Treaty was signed. At the same time, another stage of the competition between the major countries on the issue of East Turkestan is coming to an end.

In 1880, another envoy, Zingjiz, was sent to St. Petersburg, the then capital of the Russian Empire, to amend the "Russia-China-Ili" Treaty. On February 24, 1881, the amended Ili Treaty was signed. The agreement states:

- 1) The territories west of the Khorgos River will be ceded to Russia. Russia will return nine cities belonging to the Ili to China. Places west of Tikasnik will also be the province,
- 2) It is allowed to open an embassy in Turfan, Sojo, Russia. The opening of embassies in five more places, such as Kumul, will be unilateral after the two sides reach an agreement,
- 3) Russian traders trade in East Turkestan and from East Turkestan to Soju (Juchuan) and in the interior of the country.
- 4) In East Turkestan, Russian traders are temporarily not taxed
- 5) China will pay Russia 9 million soums for the war.
- 6) The people of Ili are allowed to visit Russia.

Thus, in 1881, the Ili region escaped from the 10-year colonial rule of the Russian Empire and passed into the hands of the government of the Qing Empire. There were so many tears shed because of their revenge on the people. After the return of Ili, the Russian Empire was forced to plunder Ili and hand over the dry cities.

As noted above, the Chinese began to demand

the return of the Ili Valley. In turn, among the Russian ruling circles there were those who offered not to return the territory to the Chinese, and if they did not agree to it, to start a war. (Proponents of this idea were K.P. Kaufman, A.N. Kuropatkin. -D.Urakov.) However, due to the war with Turkey at that time, many servicemen did not support this proposal. The talks took place at the Livadi Palace in Crimea. The Russian side was represented by Foreign Minister N.K. Girs and Russian Ambassador to China E.K. Buttsov, as well as a representative of the Qing Dynasty Chun Hou. The treaty went down in history as the Treaty of Livadia, and its summary is as follows: The western part of the Ili Valley and the Tekes Valley should be ceded to Russia via the Muzart Pass. The Qing government is responsible for the property and security of the people of the region and not to resist those who cross into Russian territory. It was also planned to open Russian trade offices in a number of Chinese cities and the Qing government would pay Russia 5 million rubles [16. 50]. However, this agreement will not be signed by Beijing authorities. Even Chun Hou, who was involved in making the deal, is killed. In turn, there were mass migrations to the Khorgos Valley (Russian side-D.U.), Leaving their property among the natives of the Ili Valley. On the other hand, the Qing government is reluctant to return the country militarily. Government troops are brought to a state of war. It should be noted that at this time of escalating geopolitical situation, it was clear that the war would not benefit both sides. Under such circumstances, the ruling circles of St. Petersburg were forced to give way in favor of China. This agreement is known in history as the Treaty of St. Petersburg. The treaty was signed on February 12, 1881, and ratified by the Russian emperor on May 3, Baghdikhan, and on August 7, 1881. According to him, Russia will give up control of the Tekes Valley and the



Muzart Pass in exchange for the Black Irtysh and Lake Zayson areas. The borders between the Fergana Valley and Kashgar will remain the same. It was also found that the demarcation of the boundaries around the Black Irtysh Basin should be carried out by special commissioners. A small area in the western part of the Ili Valley has been set aside for the population seeking Russian citizenship in the country, and the land will remain in Russia's possession. Over the next year, the Chinese government will undertake not to bring troops into the country. The Qing Empire had to pay 9 billion rubles to Russia for expenses. The Russians agreed to open consulates in a number of cities, including Gulja, Chuguchak, Urga, Kashgar, Turfan and Suchzhou. Russian traders had the right to trade duty-free, freely throughout Hungary[16. 54-60], Major-General A.Ya. Fridt presided. On March 10, 1882, a protocol was signed between Fridt and Shentai, a Chinese official, in Gulja, and it was officially announced that Ili had been ceded to China [20. 190].

## CONCLUSION

As noted above, the borders between the Fergana Valley and Kashgar were re-signed in 1884 under an earlier agreement. And finally, the controversy, which lasted more than 30 years, ended in this way. In this process, both countries acted in their own interests. The interests of the local people were not taken into account at all. Between 1881 and 1884, 70,000 people were forced to emigrate to Russia in the wake of Russia's rage and the vengeful massacre of its occupiers. At the same time, another stage of the competition between the major countries on the issue of East Turkestan is coming to an end. Nevertheless, these agreements did not fail to have a certain impact on the further development of the states.

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