

 Research Article

## THE ROLE OF EAST TURKESTAN IN THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE RELATIONS OF THE FERGANA VALLEY IN THE XIX CENTURY

**Submission Date:** December 26, 2021, **Accepted Date:** January 06, 2022,

**Published Date:** January 16, 2022

**Crossref doi:** <https://doi.org/10.37547/history-crjh-03-01-02>

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**Journal Website:**  
<https://masterjournals.com/index.php/crjh>

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### ABSTRACT

This article analyzes the role of East Turkestan in the international trade relations of the Fergana Valley in the XIX century. The Fergana Valley has long attracted the attention of indigenous peoples with a number of characteristics such as climatic conditions, geographical location, natural resources. From ancient times, along with agriculture, livestock, fishing and handicrafts have flourished here. Therefore, trade relations with neighboring countries will be established. East Turkestan has a special place in the trade and economic relations of the Fergana Valley with neighboring nations. Especially as a result of the formation of the Great Silk Road, one after another trade caravans began to travel to this country.

### KEYWORDS

East Turkestan, Fergana Valley, trade caravans, Great Silk Road.

### INTRODUCTION

Exquisite items made by Chinese artisans played a big role in this. In turn, the trader tried to exchange these goods for horses and agricultural products of Fergana. As a result, the northern part of the Great Silk Road

passes through the Fergana Valley. These ties have been strengthened over the centuries. Especially the Uyghurs in East Turkestan have played an important role in these trade relations. They actively promoted



trade, economic and cultural ties between the regions of West and East Turkestan. In the 19th century, the Fergana Valley was the most densely populated region in Central Asia, and agriculture was the main occupation of the population.

### THE MAIN RESULTS AND FINDINGS

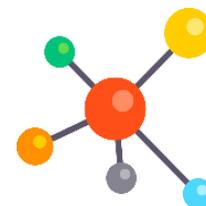
In turn, the East Turkestan region was one of the important areas of the Great Silk Road connecting East and West. The country has long had socio-cultural ties with Central Asia, as well as developed trade relations. The trade and economic relations between East Turkestan and the Kokand Khanate are also noteworthy. Because in the XVIII-XIX centuries other trade routes were important in the more limited conditions of the Kokand khanate. Trade relations between Kokand and Kashgar developed very well during the reign of Muhammad Alikhan (1822-1842) after the construction of several fortresses (Daraut-Kurgan, Kyzyl-Kurgan, Sufi-Kurgan) on the border of Kokand khanate with East Turkestan. In 1831, a peace treaty was signed between Kokand and China. Beijing's economic sanctions and trade ban against Kokand in 1828 were repealed, and a special decree of the emperor on January 13, 1832, allowed only tea and ravoch to be taken from Kashgar, even allowing Kokand traders to trade duty-free in Kashgar[1]. In six cities of Kashgar - Aksu, Kashgar, Uchturfan, Khotan, Yorkand and Yangihisar - the Kokand khan appointed special elders to collect taxes from Kokand traders. Thus, from this period, the Cossacks had a monopoly position in trade with Kashgar.

Along with traders from Kokand, Samarkand and Bukhara, traders from Tashkent also went to East Turkestan. Kashgar goods were transported to the Siberian and Irbit Fairs through Tashkent traders. All of them were subordinated to the Kokand elder, who lived in Kashgar and had the right of resident and

consul, according to the treaty signed in 1831 between the Kokand Khanate and China[2]. The information provided by Chingiz Valikhanov on the number of foreigners living and trading in East Turkestan is also noteworthy. According to him, most of the migrants live in Kashgar, where the Andijan population alone is about six thousand. The city where many foreigners live is Khotan after Kashgar and then Yorkand. In Aksu and Uchturfan, however, there were fewer foreigners. Foreigners in Kashgar make up a quarter of the local population, numbering 145,000.

Of Ch.Valikhanov[\*] Information on the main goods traded is also important in trade relations between Central Asia and Kashgar. According to these data, the bulk of the goods exported from Central Asia to East Turkestan are doroi, cloth, indigo, silk fabrics, fine linen or floral silk, a thin fabric called gulbara, podshoi and beqasam, brightly colored semi-silk and yarn fabrics, as well as yarn, leather, sheep and cattle, opium, tobacco, and other handicrafts made in Central Asia. Tea, cotton, silk, gray, carpets, crystal ware and silver were imported from East Turkestan to Central Asia. Central Asian traders also traded goods from Western Europe in East Turkestan markets. These include bright red fences made in Switzerland, France and England, British American cardboard, red British cashmere, white muslin (silk and thin fabric) and more[3].

Central Asian traders, especially from Kokand and Tashkent, also mediated in the import and sale of Russian goods from Russia to East Turkestan. Valikhanov also reported that Russian goods were brought to Kashgar and sold through Kokand and Gulja. The following Russian goods were added to Kashgar: mohair, various fabrics, silk fabrics used for turbans, silk fabrics, fabrics; Velvet made in Riga; windows, peppercorns, novshadil, mercury, red paint, various metals (iron, miss, tin) and metal objects



(samovars, teapots, plates, bowls, pots, trays, candlesticks, buttons, glasses, buckets, locks and keys), pencils) and others. In fact, trade in East Turkestan was concentrated mainly in the hands of Kokand and Bukhara traders.

According to P. Nebolsin, the Kokand khanate established close trade relations with Kashgar. For example, Kokand traders brought to Kashgar Russian iron, cast iron, steel, wool, leather, yarn fabrics: chit, kolenkor (same thick surp), vyboyka, nanka (coarse yarn fabric), floral raw velvet, wooden tea and green tea from Kashgar, occasional black tea, porcelain dishes, silk, silver ivory. The Kokand-Kashgar trade was very intense. The hardships of the caravan routes continued very successfully, despite the fact that they passed through the mountains. There was no danger to the traders on this road. That is why almost every week small trade caravans traveled from Kokand to Kashgar and vice versa from Kashgar to Kokand.

The distance between Kokand and Kashgar was a 23-day journey. Caravans with a load of 1000-1500 horsepower usually set out in early June. These caravans were loaded with tents, clothes and food. Merchants from Kabul, Iran, Bukhara and Tashkent were also in the caravan. P.I. Nebolsin reports that Kashgar teas were brought to Khiva from Kokand in the middle of the 19th century[4].

According to P. Nebolsin, firstly, trade relations between Kokand and Kashgar developed very rapidly, secondly, Kokand played a mediating role in Kashgar's trade relations with Bukhara, Iran, India and Russia, and thirdly, the Kokand-Kashgar road with respect to Bukhara-Iran or Khiva-Iran roads which is quite arduous and at the same time unsafe.

Kokand not only traded directly with Kashgar, but also acted as Kokand's mediator in Kashgar's trade

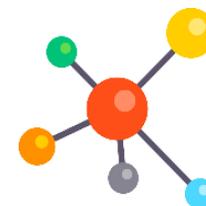
relations between Russia and China. Kashgar sent tea, porcelain, livestock and livestock products, silk fabrics and other goods to China and Russia via transit through the borders of the Kokand Khanate. In exchange for these goods, fabrics, leather, silk, lamb skin, fur, precious stones, jewelry and many Russian goods were exported from Kokand.

In the middle of the 19th century, trade between the Kokand Khanate and Kashgar reached 5 million rubles a year. Tea alone brought 30,000 pounds a year from Kashgar to Kokand [5].

According to an article published in the journal *Russkiy Vestnik* in 1875, the Central Asian khanates received more tea and Chinese porcelain from China through Gulja, Chuguchak and Kashgar. Sugar, indigo, cotton fabric, cashmere rice from India, European goods from Iran.

The author of the article notes that the low production of gold in the Bukhara and Kokand khanates, and the small amount of silver imported from Kashgar, do not meet the needs of Central Asians. With this conclusion, the author may be approving of Russia's efforts to capture Central Asian markets. It is the goods that Central Asians buy from China and India: wrote that he could not pay for tea, sugar, indigo without Russian gold and other Russian goods. At the same time, the author commented on Russia's access to the markets of East Turkestan.

Trade relations with the city of Kashgar in East Turkestan and Bukhara and Tashkent continued in the 70s of the XIX century, and information about this can be found in the work of AP Khoroshkhin. It says that cotton, fruits, wool, leather, silk, opium, silk fabrics from Kokand and Margilan factories from Kokand to Tashkent, tens of thousands of sheep from the Kyrgyz steppes to Kokand via Avliyota, Russian manufactured



goods from Tashkent, sugar, iron, etc., Indian tea from Bukhara, indigo, kolenkor, mal-mal, opium, Bukhara silk fabrics From Kashgar opium, porcelain dishes, in the form of silver yombi, Chinese silk fabric called kimhan, various felts and carpets[6].

## CONCLUSION

The above data show that economic relations between the Kokand Khanate and East Turkestan were more developed in the 19th century than in the 18th century. However, we are far from concluding that trade and economic relations between the two countries continued at a low level in the 18th century. Since ancient times, the peoples of Central Asia and the people of East Turkestan have established close neighborly relations. In conclusion, due to the proximity of the Fergana Valley to East Turkestan and the centuries-old strengthening of these ties, it is not only economically important, but also has a positive impact on the development of cultural ties, as well as bringing peoples of the two regions closer.

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