

TRADE RELATIONS OF THE BUKHARA EMIRATE WITH RUSSIA (SECOND HALF OF THE 18TH CENTURY – EARLY 19TH CENTURY)

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Abstract: This article analyzes the stages of development of the trade and economic relations between the Bukhara Emirate and the Russian Empire in the second half of the 18th century and the early 19th century. It examines the main factors that influenced these relations and their mutual significance. The study highlights the key types of goods exported from Bukhara to Russia and imported from Russia to Bukhara. The role of geographical position, political expansion, and economic needs in strengthening trade connections is discussed. Furthermore, the mutual economic and political consequences of these trade relations for both the Bukhara Emirate and the Russian Empire are evaluated. The article aims to provide a deeper understanding of the complex economic ties between Central Asia and Russia during this period.

Keywords: Bukhara Emirate, Russian Empire, trade relations, 18th century, early 19th century, Central Asia, economy, trade routes, export, import, raw materials, industrial goods, diplomatic relations, caravan trade.

Introduction

Central Asia, including the Bukhara Emirate, has historically been one of the key centers of the Great Silk Road. The region's geographical location, natural resources, and traditional craftsmanship motivated it to establish trade and economic relations with various states since ancient times. The second half of the 18th century and the early 19th century marked a distinctive period for both the Bukhara Emirate and the Russian Empire, during which trade relations between the two states steadily intensified. This article discusses the main aspects of trade relations between the Bukhara Emirate and Russia during this period, the factors that influenced their development, and the mutual significance of these interactions.

In the second half of the 18th century, the Bukhara Emirate experienced a complex period in its political and economic development. After the Mangit dynasty came to power, efforts were made to strengthen centralized governance in the country. At the same time, the Russian Empire was expanding eastward and striving to establish diplomatic and trade relations with the Central Asian khanates. Although

trade routes between Saint Petersburg and Bukhara had existed since the early 18th century, these connections became more active during this period.

Main Part

There are many primary sources dedicated to the Bukhara Emirate that help illuminate various aspects of the regional trade relations. Most of these sources come from local authors, such as Abdurahmon Mustajir, Abdurauf Fitrat, Sadri Ziyoy, Amir Olimkhan, Mirzo Sirojiddin Hakim, Ahmad Donish, Maxmadali Baljuvoni, Sadridin Aini, among others. Their works not only discuss the growth of the political and economic influence of the region but also provide concrete examples of trade relations.

Another group of sources belongs to foreign travelers and researchers, including N. Khanikov, G. Vamberi, G. A. Arendarenko, E. Ukhtomskiy, A. Gubarevich-Radobelskiy, R. Rozhevets, D. Logofet, E. Meyendorff, A. Nechayev, and others.

The study of the Bukhara Emirate's trade relations is reflected in A. Remez's work "Bukhara's Foreign Trade until the World War," which presents valuable facts based on reliable sources. However, the author did not manage to cover all diverse aspects of these relations, as his main aim was to highlight the achievements in this field.

In other sources dedicated to travels to Central Asia and neighboring countries, discussions continue specifically on these issues. Among them are the works of A. Borns, A. Vamberi, P. Pashino, D. Bukharov, A. Ber, A. Kuropatkin, A. Bykov, I. Yavorskiy, A. Rodzevich, A. Snesev, S. Konopka, I. Shavrov, V. Dukhovskaya, and others.

The third group of sources includes materials from the State Archive of the Republic of Tajikistan, in particular information about exhibitions held in the city of Petersburg from 1890 to 1903, the opening of a trade fair in the city of Tashkent in 1870, the use of the waterway from Urgench to Chardzhou for trade purposes, and other data. Additionally, we utilized materials from the Central State Archive of Uzbekistan, which holds some of the most valuable documents on the history of Central Asia. For example, this work contains valuable information such as "the letter from Finance Minister I. A. Ivanov to Nikolay Alexandrovich regarding the regulation of currency circulation in Bukhara," and "a secret telegram dated February 21, 1912, from the Minister of Foreign Affairs to the Turkestan Governor-General." To confirm the presented evidence, documents such as "the complaint of an Afghan trader in February 1916 about illegal tax collection addressed by Russia's political agent in Bukhara to Mirzo Nasrullo-biy, the Bukhara qushbegi, and the qushbegi's reply to the Russian political agent" were also used, among others.

From these valuable materials, we gained an understanding of the spirit of that time, the local merchants who made significant contributions to establishing these

relations, the process of executing trade agreements, the organization of market activities, and more.

Products and Trade Routes: From places such as Samarkand, Bukhara, Fergana, Tokharistan, Chach, Kabudiyon (Qabodiyon), Maymurug, and Khuttalon, mainly fruits—including the "golden" peaches—medicinal herbs, and horses were exported. The horses from Khuttalon were specifically used as trade livestock, a fact confirmed by the works of Ibn Khurdadhbih, Ibn Hawqal, al-Muqaddasi, and the information in *Hudud al-Alam*.

The early trade contacts of our people with the Slavs also date back to this period, as confirmed by archaeological excavations found in Slavic lands. These interactions with the Russians primarily took place via the southern and eastern trade routes along the Volga and Khazar regions.

In the 9th-10th centuries, during the rise and flourishing of the Tajik state—the Samanid Empire—trade relations developed even further. Its capital, the city of Bukhara, became a major trade center. Trade and market activities were regulated by a special office (*muhtasib*), which implemented appropriate measures to promote their further development. The coal reserves of Tosh, following significant efforts, provided an additional stimulus for the growth of the Mukhruz market, one of Bukhara's oldest and largest bazaars. The cities of Bukhara, Paykent, Varakhsha, Zayd village, and Vedar (Samarkand) became well-known centers of crafts and trade. The roads passing through Transoxiana (*Mawarannahr*) and Khorasan held great international importance.

Trade Routes and Goods Transported: "The route from the Mediterranean countries to China was relatively busy. It passed through Baghdad, Hamadan, Nishapur, Marv, Aql, Bukhara, Samarkand, Istravshan, Chach, Taraz, Balasagun, and the southern shore of Issyk-Kul. The route from Central Asia to Southeastern Europe was also significant. It went through Marv, Bukhara, Khwarezm (Kat and Urgench), Zomjon, Elba, and the Ural (Yoyiq) rivers, passing Samara, Lip (Kinel), and Saromshon, ending in the city of Bulgaria."

The city of Bulgaria at that time and in the future served as a major trade center in the northeastern part of Europe for Eastern traders (Bukhara – A.E.) and Russian merchants.

From Bukhara to Mesopotamia, Egypt, Rum (Turkey), China, and Eastern European countries, valuable goods such as precious stones, carpets, rugs, prayer mats, lamps, horse harnesses, oil, sheepskins, meat and melons were exported. From Karmina came scarves; from Dabusiya and Vedar came solid-colored Vedar fabrics; from Samarkand – gold ornaments, fabrics woven with golden threads, silk fabrics, tents, paper, glass, large copper cauldrons, horse harnesses and other horse equipment, belts, nuts. From Merv came gold ornaments, embroidery, *chakmons* (men's upper garments worn by rebels), blankets woven from silk and cotton, sesame oil, cheese,

carpets, and copper. From Khuttalon, as before, noble Khuttalon horses and khachirs (a cross between a horse and a donkey) were exported. From Badakhshan came white agate (stone), pearls, silver, gold, mountain crystal, asbestos; and from Qabadiyan, ruon fabric was transported.

Conclusion

The second half of the 18th century and the early 19th century marked an active period in trade relations between the Bukhara Emirate and Russia. During this time, trade volume between the two states increased, and trade routes became more established. Bukhara's natural resources such as cotton, fruits, and raw materials supplied the Russian market, while industrial goods imported from Russia met the economic needs of Bukhara. These trade relations not only fostered economic interaction but also strengthened political and cultural ties, paving the way for Russia's future entry into Central Asia. To study the trade relations of this period more deeply, it is necessary to thoroughly analyze archival materials, including trade documents, travel writings, and diplomatic correspondence.

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