

THE RED ARMY'S INVASION OF BUKHARA AND ITS CONSEQUENCES

Sayfullayev Abdukahhor

Master's student at Turan University

Abstract: This article analyzes the complete destruction of the city center and areas near the train station, as a result of the Red Army's invasion of the Bukhara Emirate in 1920, and the massacre of civilians. As a result, a new government was formed by September 1920 and the Sovietization of the country was described.

Keywords: Bukhara Emirate, Council of People's Commissars, Bukhara Provisional Revolutionary Committee, Bukhara Communist Party Red Army, Fayzulla Khojayev, Qori Yuldosh Pulatov, Mukhtor Saidjonov, Usmonkhodzha Pulatkhodjayev, Najib Khusainov.

On September 2, 1920, the Bukhara Emirate was overthrown as a result of the Red Army's attack. Looting began in the city. Later, according to Mashitsky, one of the Bolshevik leaders, the revolution turned into an official attack of the Red Army without any preparation. This campaign was not disguised in any way, the right of the Bukhara people to self-determination was violated, and as a result, the country turned into an occupied country. ... The artillery and infantry fire was so intense that the possibility of Bukhara soldiers going over to the side of the revolution disappeared by itself. The center of Bukhara and the areas near the station were completely destroyed. Mosques and other historical buildings were destroyed. Some of the surviving buildings were converted into barracks and stables for soldiers. The fire and looting that broke out caused discontent among the population, who said that "the Bolsheviks are looting Bukhara."¹

On September 14, 1920, a general meeting of the Council of People's Inspectors, the Bukhara Provisional Revolutionary Committee and the Central Committee of the Bukhara Communist Party was held. At it, the All-Bukhara Revolutionary Committee, chaired by Abdukadir Muhiddinov, consisting of 9 people, and the republican government, chaired by Fayzulla Khojayev, consisting of 11 people, were formed. The composition of the Bukhara Council of People's Inspectors was as follows:

Fayzulla Khojayev - chairman, inspector of foreign affairs;
Qori Yuldosh Pulatov - inspector of education;
Mukhtor Saidjonov - inspector of internal affairs;
Usmonkhodzha Pulatkhodzhayev - inspector of financial affairs;
Najib Khusainov - inspector of state control;

¹ Генис В. Разгром Бухарского эмирата в 1920 году // Вопросы истории, 1993, №7. – С. 51.

Yusuf Ibrohimov - inspector of the extraordinary commission;
Mukammil Burkhonov - inspector of justice;
Bahovuddin Shahobuddinov – Minister of Military Affairs;
Abdulkadir Muhiddinov – Minister of Land and Water Affairs;
Mirzo Muhiddin Mansurov – Minister of Trade and Industry.²

On October 6-8, 1920, the First Congress of Representatives of the All-Bukhara People was convened in the Sitorai Mohi Khosa Palace in Bukhara, where the establishment of the Bukhara People's Soviet Republic (BKSSR) was announced. The Congress approved the Bukhara Revolutionary Committee, the supreme legislative body, and the first government - the Bukhara People's Soviet of Observers.³

In October 1920, a temporary military-political agreement was concluded between the BSSR and Russia. On March 4, 1921, the Treaty of Alliance was signed between the two states. These agreements significantly limited the independent political activities of the leaders of the young Bukhara state. After all, the Treaty of Alliance made it legal to keep Red Soldiers on the lands of the independent Bukhara Republic. This led to direct armed intervention by Soviet Russia in the internal affairs of the BSSR.

Pursued by the enemy, Amir Olimkhan first fled to Karshi. At a place called Takhta Karacha, the emir's soldiers clashed with the 1st Turkestan Cavalry Regiment. The red invaders, who won this battle, occupied the cities of Kitab and Shahrisabz without encountering serious resistance. On September 10, the emir arrived in Boysun and gathered five thousand soldiers from the principalities of Guzar and Karshi. The 2nd Turkestan Cavalry Regiment occupied Guzar. On September 11, the 8th Turkestan Rifle Regiment also occupied Darband and Boysun. Amir Olimkhan was forced to leave a thousand soldiers near Darband and retreat towards Dushanbe.

On December 4, 1920, a report sent by the Red Army intelligence service stated that Amir Olimkhan had gathered 4,740 men in Denov and Sariosiyo in the northern direction, 7,000 men, 5 machine guns and 1 cannon in Baysun from October 19 to November 23, 8,000 men in Sherabad as of November 27, 5,000 men in the Turkmen villages along the left bank - Khamnab and Bosaga (of which 600 men were armed, with 2 machine guns), 5,000 men and 2 cannons in the emir's residence in Dushanbe; 5,000 men in Hisor, a total of 34,740 soldiers, 7 machine guns and 2 cannons. Of course, these numbers are slightly exaggerated, and only 4,000-5,000 of them were armed.⁴

On November 27, 1920, by order of the commander of the Turkfront, the Hissar expedition was organized. The division commander M. Marsov was appointed its

² <https://shosh.uz/buhoro-halq-sovet-respublikasi/>

³ ЎзМА, 47-фонд, 1-рўйхат, 5-иш, 65-варак.

⁴ Тимошков С.П. Борьба с интервентами, белогвардейцами и басмачеством в Средней Азии // Шумов А.С., Андреев А.Р. Басмачество. –Москва: Эксмо-Алгоритм. 2005. –С. 433-434.

commander. The expedition included: the 1st Cavalry Division, consisting of two cavalry regiments under the command of M.Ye. Roganov, the 1st Cavalry Battery of V.G. Dyakonov, the Turkestan Cavalry Division of V.M. Ionov, the 3rd Brigade of the 1st Turkestan Division, the 16th Cavalry Regiment, the 5th and 6th Cavalry Regiments of the 1st Turkestan Division, and one platoon of the artillery division. With these forces, the Red Army went on the offensive on December 17, 1920.

Despite the fact that the emir's troops offered serious resistance in the direction of Baysun, the enemy troops began to capture cities and villages one after another. The 1st Turkestan Cavalry Regiment defeated the emir's 10,000-strong army in the Buzgola Gorge. On January 4, the Red Army reached Darband. Olimbek sent three thousand soldiers from Baysun to save Darband. However, in a fierce clash, the emir's troops lost 150 men and were forced to retreat. From February 20, 1921, fierce battles began at the entrance to Hisor. According to the newspaper "Izvestia", the Emir of Bukhara had only the Hisor, Dushanbe and Fayzabad regions of Eastern Bukhara in his hands, and he had only 600 soldiers.⁵

After the capture of Hissar, on February 21, the Red Army began its march on Dushanbe. The entire population was mobilized to defend the city. After two days of fighting, Dushanbe surrendered. Amir Olimkhan left Dushanbe on February 20 and first retreated to the Kulob principality. Then, on March 5, 1921, he crossed over to the Afghan state from a place called Chubak with a load of 300 camels. Ibrahimbek and Davlanmandbiy also crossed over to Afghanistan with him¹⁹⁵. Pursued by the soldiers of the 1st brigade led by Y. Melkumov and Commissioner Loginov, Shermuhammadbek was forced to retreat to Aloy.

In conclusion, although Amir Olimkhan took all measures to strengthen the country's defense capabilities, his army was far behind the Red Army in terms of numbers and quality. Despite this, the emir's troops fought bravely against the clearly superior Red Army and achieved a number of victories. However, as a result of the Soviet command's massive deployment of forces, the emir's troops were defeated and Soviet power was established in the country.

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⁵ Турсунов С. Сурхон воҳасида совет режимининг ўрнатилиши. – Б. 17.