



GREAT BRITAIN'S POLITICAL ACTIONS IN CENTRAL ASIA IN THE 19TH CENTURY AND ITS STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE

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ABOUT ARTICLE

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Abstract: This article reflects the political actions and strategic goals of Great Britain in Central Asia in the 19th century, and the location of Central Asia, where the interests of Great Britain and the Russian Empire collide, is located in a favorable strategic area, based on the analysis of sources and literature. illuminated.

INTRODUCTION

In the 19th century, the struggle to strengthen the colonies occupied by the European industrial countries and to acquire new colonies intensified. The major colonial powers of Europe: Great Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Holland, Belgium and Russia began to protect their colonies and spheres of influence by force. The interests of these countries collided in trade routes and rich regions of the world. This political struggle was sometimes resolved diplomatically, sometimes through war. One such major conflict of interest was the struggle between the British and Russian empires to include the Central Asian khanates in their spheres of influence. This fight has caused a lot of political controversy. The goal of the Russian Empire was to make the Central Asian states: Bukharai Sharif, Khiva and Kokand Khanates its colonies, and to acquire the territory of India as well. "The Tilzat Treaty, signed by the Russian Emperor Alexander I with the French Emperor Napoleon I in 1807, agreed that Western Europe should belong to France, and India to Russia. " The British will soon find out about the secret servants of the "Tilzat" treaty. In the 1830s, Petersburg launched a military campaign to conquer the Khanate of Khiva, and it failed. These actions by the Russian Empire made the British seriously worried that if the Central Asian khanates were conquered by Russia, they would open the way for the Russians to India. Great Britain did not want to lose India, which was described as a land of legendary riches. The British were firmly established in India and were making huge profits from there. At all costs, the British began their efforts to preserve India's independence and prevent a Russian invasion. Their main goal was to hold the Russians along the northern borders of Central Asia by forming an alliance of Bukhara Sharif, Khiva and Kokan Khanates against Russia. To achieve this goal, British merchants and spies operated in the khanates to gather information about the Central Asian states, and

some even managed to meet with the rulers. Great Britain focuses on the state of Bukharai Sharif in order to create an alliance of these countries. Because Bukharai Sharif was militarily, politically superior and strategically important for the British than the Khanates of Khiva and Kokand. The British started sending their representatives to Bukhara Sharif through their government in India. Initially, in 1819-1825, William Moorcroft and George Trebek expedition was sent from India to Bukhara by the British government with special assignments. The official purpose of the expedition was to "seek thoroughbred horses" for the cavalry of the East India Company. In fact, it was an expedition sent to find out whether the British could enter the Amur Darya valley. British representatives were not interested in any "bred horses" of Central Asia, but in establishing absolute British rule in its markets. The expedition led by Murkfort left India in 1824 and arrived in Bukhara in February 1825. The expedition consisted of 70 people, and they brought more than 80 boxes of various goods. The British managed to form a pro-British group among the local rulers to thoroughly study the Bukhara Khanate. The Murkfort detachment was well prepared before arriving in Central Asia. In particular, his expedition included a well-armed army and 2 rifles. As a result of the first expedition of 1825, in addition to Bukhara, he visited such cities as Hisar, Karategin, Shahrisabz Oratepa. In 1831-1833, Alexander Burns was sent from India to Bukhara. A. Byrnes was assigned to collect military and geographical information and establish trade and diplomatic relations with the ruling circles of Kabul and Bukhara. He introduced himself as an Armenian merchant. This "entrepreneur" who has letters of recommendation from Indian and Afghan merchants in his hands, connects with Bukhara Sharif Koshbegi. Alexander Burns was also able to collect valuable intelligence information about the country. He left a work entitled "Travels into Bukhara". The British government decided in 1838 to take precautionary measures against the increasingly imminent Russian threat. British Foreign Secretary Lord Palmerston sent a letter to Sir John McNeill, British Ambassador in Tehran on May 18, 1838. The letter instructs to send a trusted person to investigate the state of Bukhara and to warn the Emir of Bukhara about their plans. Sir John McNeill sent Colonel Charles Stoddart to Bukhara. Stoddart was asked to establish good relations between Bukhara and other Turkestan khanates. Colonel Stoddart's duties in Bukhara included warning Bukhara of the Russian threat. Informing Amir Nasrullah (1827-1860) about the invasion plan and securing the release of Russian prisoners to prevent danger. He was also required to guide the emir in this matter, mediate in resolving disputes between Turkestan khanates, and provide information or training on military matters. In addition to these, the Amir was instructed that there was no British threat to Bukhara Sharif, that England was sympathetic to the Emir and his people, and that England was on the side of Bukhara against Russian aggression, but not to give any indication that it would assist the Emir of Bukhara in military operations. Kokan historian Mulla Olim Mahdum Haji says in his work "History of Turkistan" that they came to Bukhara as ambassadors and did not come with a bad purpose, but to tell about Russia's intention and aggression. "The purpose and goal of Sutud Dorat, who became the ambassador, was to convince the emir not to cause any kind of bad intentions or harm on the part of the British, and to protect and defend these countries from the aggression and aggression of another country, that is, Russia. Equally, if the emir wishes and deems it appropriate, he should arm the Bukhara soldiers with new and sharp cannons and provide them with military instructors and inform the Bukhara government of the secret activity of Russia. Amir Nasrullah received the English ambassador in the presence of two dignitaries, showed good behavior and changed his good behavior. Colonel Sutud Dorat was a correct, brave, tough and sharp person who received military training, not the soft political skills that he received from the blacksmith's and secretarial education. For this reason, he did not pay much attention to the old style of Bukhara. He always came

out of the embassy and visited the markets of Bukhara. Most of the horsemen traveled from the upper square of Arki, i.e. Registon, and the people of the city did not dismount according to their custom. However, they used to dismount before the Arki Highness, where the emir stood. The British military administrator was either ignorant of the old customs of Bukhara or did not pay due attention to these procedures. After everything happened, Amir Nasrullah got angry and ordered to put him in prison. Amir Nasrullah was so angry that no minister could come face to face and say something wrong. At that time, there was no one among the Bukhara elites who knew what was the state of Russia, England, and the world. Maybe he was happy that the English ambassador was arrested, "our emir is so proud that he put the English ambassador in prison." It is known that they did not come secretly by changing their names. But they tried to make themselves better to the emir of Bukhara, to strengthen the relations between Great Britain and Bukhara, and to worsen their relations with Russia, and to gradually turn them into British influence, i.e. a dependent state. In fact, Stoddart's main task was to conclude an agreement with the officials of the governor of Bukhara to fight against Russia together. He tried to keep his secret plans a secret. At the next meeting, he will offer military assistance to Amir. Amir considers it an insult to his personality. During the meetings, the British colonel, according to the customs of the region, conducts negotiations without kneeling. This increases the number of excuses that decide his fate. For this reason, Amir Nasrullah sentenced him to prison. Arthur Connolly and his "Diary" record that he was in various countries as a British spy. In his diary, he said that he was active near Kokan, because he was ordered not to approach Bukhara at the time of the insurgency in Afghanistan. In 1841, there was a new hope to save Stoddart. In 1841, after successfully completing his mission in Khiva, Captain Arthur Connolly went to Kokan. Meanwhile, news reached him that Colonel Stoddart had been imprisoned by Emir Nasrullah. Connolly, who somehow manages to contact Stoddart on the way, receives a message that if he comes to Bukhara, the emir will receive him. When Captain Connolly receives this news, he sets out for Bukhara to rescue Stoddart. Amir Nasrullah was aware of Connolly's activities in the Khanate from the beginning. However, some information about this officer was wrongly conveyed to the emir. According to intelligence information, Connolly came to cooperate with the Khans of Khiva and Kokhan to dethrone him. That is why Nasrullah supported his coming to Bukhara and held a meeting.

After a long journey, Arthur Connolly arrived in Bukhara on November 9, 1841. In December 1841, the prince called Stoddart and Connolly to the palace and addressed Connolly. He said he had not brought any letters from his government and therefore they were spies. In addition, the British disaster in Kabul left a bad impression on the emir. This was an important factor in the fate of the officers, Amir Nasrullah concluded that England was no longer a threat to him and arrested the two officers. The arrest of these officers by the Emir of Bukhara greatly hurt and angered the British. The British government tried to rescue their officers through the Khan of Khiva, but when this failed, they turned to the Ottoman government. The Ottoman government wrote two letters to the Emir of Bukhara, asking the British officers what they were aiming for. He also emphasized that arresting representatives of friendly countries would cause international disputes, explained that international laws would be followed, and asked for the release of the officers. Despite these letters, Nasrullah Khan refused to release the British officers. Connolly and Stoddart were executed by the emir of Bukhara, Nasrullah Khan, in June 1842. In 1843, the British sent a representative named Joseph Wolff to Central Asia to determine the fate of Stoddart and Connolly. Joseph Wolf wrote information about his activities and Central Asia in his work called "Wolf J. Narrative of a mission to Bokhara in the years 1843-1845 to ascertain the fate of Colonel

Stoddart and Captain Connolly". He is assisted by one of the powerful commanders of Bukhara in collecting information. In his letter, he singled out the commander as a sincere and excellent friend of the British people and was grateful to him on behalf of the British people for his help .

Ubu sends the letter to Captain Grover and asks for permission to go back to his country . Sir, I am writing this letter at Nayib samitchan house. I will tell you the reason why Stoddart and Connolly were killed by the emir. The reason for the murder of Stoddart was that he disrespected the emir of Bukhara, converted to Islam and converted to Christianity, and sent secret letters to England. Connolly Khiva and They were executed for inciting the Kokan khanates to attack Bukhara. The reasons identified by Wolff were all true. Until 1869, the British Cabinet did not express any concern about the development of the Russian army and influence in Central Asia. After Britain's failed attempt in 1836-1841 to make Afghanistan its vassal like the Indian mainland, London's policy was to remain non-interfering with lands outside the Indus Valley. Viceroy of India from 1864 and Sir John Lawrence, an ardent supporter of the policy of non-interference, repeatedly rejected Khudoyar Khan and Amir Muzaffar's requests for military assistance against the Russians in 1864-1867. Britain's main goal was to maintain Afghanistan as an independent border state. As a result of the Anglo-Russian negotiations of 1869-1873, an agreement was reached about the border between Bukhara and Afghanistan, and an agreement was reached that these two countries would use their influence - Russia's influence on Bukhara and England's influence on Afghanistan - to protect this border from violation by either side. Each power practically recognized each other's sphere of influence, starting from the other bank of the Amudarya. In this way, England obtained Russia's promise not to cross the Afghan border, and Russia obtained the recognition of its influence in Bukhara and the Kokand by the only imperialist country interested in Central Asia.

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