



THE SECOND HALF OF THE 19TH CENTURY AND THE BEGINNING OF THE 20TH CENTURY. THE MAIN FEATURES OF THE TRADE AND CUSTOMS POLICY OF THE RUSSIAN EMPIRE IN CENTRAL ASIA

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ABOUT ARTICLE

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Abstract: This article provides detailed information about the main features of the trade and customs policy of the Russian Empire in Central Asia in the beginning of the 19th century and the end of the 20th century.

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INTRODUCTION

By the middle of the 19th century, the world's leading countries sought to acquire new colonies, raw material bases, and new markets for selling their goods, which encouraged the Russian Empire to conquer new territories. During this period, the territory of Central Asia became the main object of the empire's conquest policy. The Russian Empire, which used factors such as the political situation in the khanates in Central Asia, internal disputes, and the desire for sole rule, began to conquer these countries one by one. The colonial policy of the empire during this period had a serious impact on trade and customs, of course.

The Kokan Khanate, which was defeated as a result of mutual wars, was forced to sign a peace treaty with the Governor-General of Turkestan on February 13, 1868. According to the agreement, Russian traders will be given huge benefits. Husuan:

- Russian merchants have caravansary for their caravans in any cities and villages of the Kokan Khanate;
 - Russian merchants establish trade agencies in the territory of the Kokan Khanate;
 - It was decided that the sales tax collected from Russian merchants should not exceed 2.5 percent.
- Also, the merchants of the Kogan Khanate received such privileges not in Russian cities, but in their own territories. Such a contract, concluded under the pressure of the Russian Empire, led to strong discontent among the merchants of the Kokan Khanate.

According to the Bukhara-Russia treaties of 1868, the Shaar and Gandamiyan treaties of 1873, Russian merchants and industrialists were freed from all duties and taxes for free trade in all parts of Bukhara and Khiva Khanate.

After the establishment of the General Governorate of Turkestan, the "Project of Regulations on the Management of Yettisuv and Syrdarya Provinces" adopted in 1867 became the main legal form of conducting customs affairs in the country. According to him, in 1868, the Department of Economy was established to manage zakat in Turkestan. This department was engaged in collecting zakat from each caravan coming through the border. Report books are organized for accurate and correct control. Merchants are also given a document confirming that they have paid zakat. If there is any doubt about the amount of goods transported across the border, the cargo was opened and its real amount was determined under the testimony of one Russian official of the department and two local merchants. Only after that, a special document is issued stating that the cargo has been controlled and legally imported into the country. If traders try to understate or understate the amount of goods they bring into the territory of the country, they will be fined twice the amount of zakat they should pay. 50% of the fine is charged to the state account, and the remaining 50% is charged to the account of the person who discovered this violation.

In April 1872, the Zakat Department was established within the Turkistan General Governorate. This department continued its activity until December 1874. One of the reasons for the establishment of the Zakat Department was the distrust of local zakat collectors. Until 1874, the board was subordinated to the Tashkent City Fair Committee. The main task of this department was to register the caravans entering or leaving the country, determining the amount of cargo in the caravans, collecting zakat for livestock and cargo. In order to control the caravans entering and leaving the country, special zakat centers operated in the border areas. All zakat collected from caravans went to the state treasury. These funds were used to repair the caravan roads and repair the interior of the caravansary.

After the establishment of the General Governorate of Turkestan, there were changes in the collection of duties from Russian merchants. Now Russian merchants are charged with customs duties on the basis of the Regulation "On Customs Duty for Trade and Professions". However, all merchants in Perovsk and Kazalinsk districts of Syrdarya region, and in all regions of Yettisuv region, regardless of whether they were Russian or local merchants, were subject to the above Regulation regarding the payment of customs fees.

In accordance with the decree of KPfon Kaufman in 1872, a special commission was established in the city of Tashkent to study trade fees in Turkestan and began its work. As a result of this commission's work, it was agreed that it is appropriate to apply the Regulation "On Trade and Professions Duties" adopted in February 1865, which is applicable throughout the empire, adapted to local conditions. The Ministry of Finance of Russia will study these proposals and make some changes and additions to it, and insist on introducing it as a test for a certain period of time. In 1874, by the decree of the Governor General of Turkestan, the Regulation "On Trade and Trade Duties" was approved and it was introduced as a test for a period of four years. With the implementation of this Regulation, collection of zakat in Turkestan will be stopped. Starting from June 1877, this Regulation will be applied in the Fergana region as well. This document was a big event in the trade sphere of Fergana cities.

In 1875, Zakat administration was abolished in Turkestan. For this reason, the country remained out of customs control until 1881. Since 1868, the Russian duty imposed on the price of tea imported from neighboring countries is not involved in any agency. This situation seriously worries the Russian government. First of all, according to the agreement signed between Central Asia and Russia, customs fees were not required for products coming from these regions. For the Russian government, which is pursuing a protectionist foreign policy, this situation was a huge blow to the economy and the state

budget. Secondly, for Russia, which intends to turn Central Asia into an internal market for its goods, the entry of foreign goods into this region would not be in the interests of the ruling circles.

For this purpose, on December 19, 1881, Kolpakovsky, acting as the temporary governor-general of Turkestan, introduced temporary customs regulations in order to put an end to the entry of Asian and Western European goods into the country. These rules include:

- It is allowed to import all kinds of products produced in Central Asian countries into the territory of the Turkestan Governorate without paying customs duties;
- It is strictly forbidden to import all foreign goods (except tea, gauze and paints), products produced in Europe, Iran and Turkey into Turkestan;
- 14 rubles 40 cents per pound of tea, 1 ruble for paint products, and 6 rubles for gauze;
- Collection of duties was carried out in Russian credit rubles;
- If it is found that the goods, which are prohibited to be imported into Turkestan or subject to payment of duty, have been secretly imported, these goods are confiscated. 25% of the proceeds from the confiscated goods were given to the employees of this institution. Later these funds were transferred to special funds.

Controlling the entry of foreign goods and collecting customs duties from them was entrusted to the military and police officials operating in the country. These officials were under the charge of the Ministry of Defense. The provision of these policemen was financed by War Ministry loans. The total revenue from customs duties was also at the disposal of this ministry until 1883. As a result of these measures, the illegal importation of goods in the country will increase and the income of customs payments will decrease sharply.

Market relations began to form in the 19th century. As a result, customs policy becomes the main means of selling goods, which helps to capture new markets. Customs offices were established on the border with Afghanistan, where most of the Emirate of Bukhara was controlled by British India.

In 1891, the Ministry of Finance of Russia carried out important work on the establishment of a strong trade and industrial monopoly in the markets of Central Asia. In 1892, the Emirate of Bukhara and Khanate of Khiva signed an agreement with Russia on the transition to a single customs system. Based on this agreement, the customs border will be transferred to the Bukhara-Afghan border. This project was reviewed and approved by Russian Emperor Alexander III on August 7, 1892.

By 1917, great work was done to annex Turkestan to Russian customs control. These measures began with the sending of special expeditions to study special customs control in the country. In the 1890s, the Turkestan customs district was an independent system of the customs department of the Russian Empire and fully supervised the customs work in the country.

In 1893, there were 11 border districts in Russia. In the same year, the border district of Turkestan was formed, and it had 16 customs offices at its disposal. Soon, independent trade and economic independence will end in Turkestan. This happens as a result of the inclusion of Central Asia in the Russian customs system. As a result of this situation, the Russian industry had the opportunity to import raw materials not only from Central Asia, but also from neighboring countries. In addition, China, Iran and Afghanistan have started selling their products in domestic markets.

The integration of the Central Asian countries into the customs system of the Russian Empire and the customs offices of the empire, which were established on this basis, served to fully support the economic interests of the ruling circles, and to receive a large amount of revenue by lowering customs duties to the treasury of the empire.

The main goals of the Russian Empire in conquering Central Asia were to create new markets for industrial raw materials and products produced in the empire. For this reason, the Russian Empire first tried to capture the country's markets and economic resources when conquering Central Asia. Also, in order to seize the markets of Central Asia and establish their trade monopolies in this area, they fundamentally changed the customs system and conducted a customs policy that served these goals.

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