



## TRADE RELATIONS OF THE EMIRATE OF BUKHARA WITH INDIA IN THE 60-80 YEARS OF XX CENTURY

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### ABOUT ARTICLE

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**Abstract:** The Emirate of Bukhara, considered one of the largest centers of the eastern trading world, had extensive trade relations with India during the second half of the XIX–early XX centuries. In the XIX century, the cities of Bukhara, Karshi, Termez, and Samarkand maintained regular trade links with such important trading centers of India as Peshawar, Shikapur, Bombay, and Molton, along the caravan routes passing through Kabul, Kyrat, and Kandahar. The demand for trade goods from India was high not only in the Emirate of Bukhara but also in the markets of Central Asia. The growing demand for Indian products in the markets has served as an important factor in the development of trade relations between the Emirate of Bukhara and India.

### INTRODUCTION

We have seen many studies of trade relations between Bukhara and India in the 1960s and 1980s. In this regard, the information provided by P. S. Savelyev is important for us when studying the history of this period. He also conducted a study of trade relations between the Emirate of Bukhara and India and gave his conclusions about trade between the two countries. He writes that Bukhara was an important trading center in Central Asia, that during this period more than 4 thousand Indian merchants lived and traded in the emirate, and that more than 300 Indian merchants constantly lived in the caravanserais in Bukhara and engaged in usury<sup>1</sup>.

P.Nebolsin also gave information about the trade that was carried out between Bukhara and India in the second half of the XIX century and reported that 10,000 camels of indigo, anil, and other trade goods were brought to Bukhara annually from the Molton district<sup>2</sup>. I. L. Yavorsky noted that 12,000 camels

of various trade goods were brought from India to Bukhara annually. goods, and among the goods sold in Bukhara, after Russian goods, English trade goods imported from India are also sold in large quantities.

### THE MAIN RESULTS AND FINDINGS

Sources indicate that back in the 1960s and 1980s, foreign merchants were granted the right to live freely in the emirate; they were guaranteed non-discrimination against persons of other religions, as well as a guaranteed return to their homeland whenever they wanted. But they paid twice as much in taxes as Muslims and Sunnis. For example, A. Burns argues that Indian merchants in Bukhara have the same privileges as Muslim merchants, and no one forced them to convert to Islam in Bukhara<sup>3</sup>. According to information, by the end of the 19th century, more than 5,000 Indian merchants were engaged in trade in the Emirate of Bukhara. They lived in the emirate for an average of 10-15 to 40-50 years and then returned to their homeland. Archival documents show that in 1894, more than 900 Indian merchants were engaged in usury in the city of Bukhara and its surroundings, and in one year, 10,000 jizya coins were received by the emir's treasury<sup>4</sup>.

It can be observed that Bukhara-Indian trade relations were carried out through several caravan routes. For example, where the caravan that started from Peshawar went for 3 days to Jalalabad and then to Kabul via Khaybar-Davan, where the Khaybar tribe of Afghans lives, and then to Kabul, paid off and continued its journey. Since the roads from Kabul to Bamyán pass through mountainous areas, the caravans traveled for 16 days. Merchants who came to Sarichashma, Hulm, and Bamyán along this road paid zakat and continued their journey. Traders spent 2 days from Bamiyan to Balkh, and 7-9 days from Balkh to Karki. <sup>5</sup>. In Balkh and Karki, merchants paid zakat for their goods and arrived in Karshi, where they distributed them to different districts of the Bukhara Emirate. Part of the trade caravan continued on its way to Kokand and Tashkent.

The Bandi-Sultan-Hirat-Kandahar trade route was important. Merchants have been using this road since ancient times. By the 1960s and 1980s, the Bukhara-Chorjoy-Marv and Bukhara-Karshi-Termiz-Sarai caravan routes served as the main trade routes between Bukhara and India. It is also reported that during emergencies, traders from the two countries partially used the road Shakupur-Lohur-Jeshmir-Pinur-Juxumpur-Djatnixor-Akbarobod-Banoras-Azimobod-Makhsudobod-Kalkutta. The intermediate distance of this road (from Bukhara to Calcutta) is 7240 kilometers, and the trade caravan reached its destination in 181 days<sup>6</sup>. Bukhara and other merchants almost did not use this road because of the distance, the difficulty of crossing valleys, and the fact that it required a lot of effort from merchants.

Bukhara-Indian and other foreign traders also conducted trade through the following two routes during emergencies, internal conflicts in the states, when the security of the caravan route was not well provided. From Calcutta or Bombay to Kabul via Peshawar, from there to Bukhara, and the second route by water to the port of Bondar-Bushehr on the Persian Gulf, from this port to Bukhara via Isfahan, Mashhad, Marv, Chorjoy. The long distance of the road in the second direction, the high trade duties, and the increased costs caused difficulties for the traders. But when the above factors occurred, he was forced to use this way even partially. The long length of the road in the second direction, high trade duties, and increased costs created difficulties for merchants. But when the above factors occur, there is no other option but to use this way even partially.

Trade routes were very important in the times of Central Asia, and in addition to Bukhara merchants, Khiva, Kokand khanates, and merchants from eastern countries also actively traded on these routes. Despite the fact that Bukhara-Indian merchants were forced to pay zakat several times on the caravan routes, trade between the two countries did not stop; on the contrary, trade relations developed from year to year.

We know that at the beginning of the XIX century, the Emirate of Bukhara conducted intensive trade with India. By the 1950s and 1960s, trade relations were developing. During this period, Indian merchants brought to Bukhara mainly silk gauzes, turbans, and lining fabrics woven from fine threads, pearls, and precious stones, as well as a large amount of indigo dye, which was in great demand in the markets of Bukhara. According to the information, 2000 camels of indigo dye made in Molton were brought to Bukhara in one year, and one pood was sold in the markets of Bukhara for 44 rubles. Kashmiri shawls, movut, embroidery, and bed linen from India were also in high demand in the markets of the Emirates<sup>7</sup>. The demand for kashmiri rice in the markets of the Emirates and neighboring khanates was high, and the price was very high. According to E. K. Meindorf, there are machines in Kashmir that weave up to 30,000 shawls per year, and up to 100,000 shawls are woven on these machines. 20,000 pieces of rice are brought from Kashmir to Kabul per year, 3,000 of them to Bukhara. It is known that Bukhara merchants made a good profit by selling 2,000 of them at high prices in the markets of Russian cities<sup>8</sup>.

Kashmiri shawl is divided into such types as Rakhdar, Bushdar, Shamli, Alwan, and Jorobi, and the prices for them depend on the type. Products such as tobacco, coconut ashtrays, cotton turbans, camel skin scales, Kashmiri pencils, muslin, banoras, and brocade were imported from Peshawar. Also, products manufactured in the British industry began to enter the Emirate markets in large quantities.. At the end of the 1860s, 78 types of yarn woven at the Manchester factory in England were imported to India, and from there they were also delivered to the markets of the Emirates. During this period, British yarn, wool, and silk worth 170,000 pounds sterling, as well as other goods, were delivered annually to Bukhara from India via Kabu<sup>9</sup>.

In the 60s and 80s of the XIX century, the Bukhara Emirate exported to India raw silk, yarn, wool, goat's wool, horses, carpets, almonds, raisins, dried fruits, Russian and Bukhara gold, silver coins, and floral velvet brought from Russia. Blue tea which imported from India and Peshawar rice were very popular in the markets of Bukhara. In the stores of Bukhara, rice from Peshawar was sold at much lower prices than rice from other regions. According to information, Peshawar rice was consumed more by the local population. In the city of Karshi, a pound of Peshawar rice was sold for 20 coin<sup>10</sup>. The share of tea in Bukhara's trade with India was also high. In 1860, 84 thousand pounds of tea were brought to Bukhara from India and placed in six caravanserais in Bukhara For example, for a year "Saroi Abdurashid" received 3,000 camels, "Saroi Mirzagul" - 1,500 camels, and "Saroi Badridin" - 1,200 camels. In the 1970s and 1980s, 112,000 pounds of green tea, 23,000 pounds of indigo, and 20,000 pounds of muslin were brought to Bukhara<sup>11</sup>.

In the 60s and 80s of the XIX century, among the trade goods brought by Indian merchants to Bukhara, the tea trade rose to prominence. During this period, Russian merchants brought blue and black tea from Kyakhta, China, to the markets of Bukhara. They are sold much cheaper compared to Indian teas.

However, despite the fact that Chinese teas are cheap in the markets, the demand for them among the population was much lower. The quality of Indian teas also easily competes with Chinese teas. For this reason, the sale of Indian tea in the markets of the Emirates is very popular.

Purpose on breaking the Russian merchants engaged in the tea trade in the bazars of Bukhara, the British gave tea imported from the Chinese provinces of Tabei, Yunnan, Anhou, and Xianheo to Indian merchants for a period of 3 years (5 percent). Merchants from Peshawar also lent tea to local merchants from Bukhara. Lending Chinese tea to Indian and local merchants seriously affected the work of Russian merchants engaged in the tea trade in Bukhara. Slowly, it began to displace Russians from the markets of the Emirates. L. F. Kostenko, dissatisfied with the abundance of Indian tea in the markets of Bukhara, writes that the Russian government could not take any measures against the large influx of Indian tea into the emirate<sup>[12]</sup>. M.A. Terentyev also mentioned the tea trade in the emirate and said: "Our positions in Bukhara are very weak, these markets are completely alien to us."<sup>[13]</sup>, in this way, they expressed their objections to the Russian government.

16 varieties of tea brought from Peshawar were sold in Bukhara caravanserais: "Abdurashid", "Badriddin", "Barran kuhna", "Domlacher" "Ismailkhoja" and "Mirzagul". N. Petrovsky collected information about the trade in Anglo-Indian goods since the early 1870s and described that "Based on my two-year observations of the trade of Central Asia, I firmly believe that Bukhara is the main center of this trade." Also, assessing the trade in tea brought to the markets of Bukhara by Anglo-Indian traders, he wrote: "Now that we have abandoned all our hopes to squeeze green tea from the markets of Bukhara and prevent these teas from entering our territory, we must get it."<sup>[14]</sup>. Having studied and analyzed the data on the Bukhara-Indian trade, it became clear to us that no matter how the Russian government tried to squeeze Indian tea from the markets of Bukhara, it was impossible to prevent this.

In 1868, a trade caravan of 4,000 camels arrived in Bukhara from India and Kabul, of which 800 were carrying green tea, and the rest of the camels were carrying English goods produced in shops and factories. In the 1860s and 1870s, the share of Indo-English trade goods in the Emirates' markets was much higher than the share of Russian goods. The documents noted that the share of trade in Central Asia was 22 times higher than that of the Russians<sup>[15]</sup>. In 1868, 6,500 camels were brought to Bukhara from India, and in 1869, 6,560 camels of various trade goods were brought<sup>[16]</sup>.

Demand for Russian products has fallen sharply as a result of the continued occupation of the Emirati markets by products imported from abroad. With intent to stop this process, since 1868, the Russian Empire has banned the import of goods brought from Europe to the territory of Turkestan province. However, this decree did not provide for a ban on the import of Anglo-Indian goods into the Emirate of Bukhara. For this reason, the importation of large quantities of Anglo-Indian goods to the markets of Bukhara did not stop. Bukhara merchants continued to export Anglo-Indian goods to Turkestan in large quantities. To solve this problem, N. Glukhovsky wrote a letter to Kaufman, the Governor-General of Turkestan, as follows: "It is necessary to draw the Central Asian khanates into the Russian customs system, and in this way, it is possible to put an end to the importation of English goods into Turkestan by Bukhara and Indian merchants<sup>[17]</sup>.

P.Rasulzoda reported that in 1860–1870, trade goods worth 6500–7000 camels were imported from India to Bukhara. If you pay attention to the trade relations between Bukhara and India in 1870–1880, you can see that there was not a crisis in trade but rather a rapid development. During these years, 70,000 pounds of tea, 18,000 pounds of Nile dye, 80,000 pounds of paint, 50 pieces of Kashmir palos, and 30 pieces of gold cloth were brought to Bukhara from India<sup>18</sup>.

The Russian agent N. Stremukhov spoke about the Bukhara-Indian trade during this period: “Indian merchants sell their goods brought to Bukhara at a very low price in the markets and distort prices in the market. After selling their goods, Afghans, Indians, and Jews buy Russian gold coins and take them to India. “I myself have repeatedly witnessed the abundance of Russian gold and antique silver coins in Bukhara,” he wrote<sup>19</sup>.

In the second half of 1880, the political agent Clem sent from India to Bukhara more than 70 thousand pounds of tea of different varieties, more than 18 thousand pounds of Nile dye, 1400 pounds of gauze and raw molasses, 800 pounds of attar goods, 250 pieces of Ambarsari shawl, and 50 pieces of Kashmiri shawl. He also reported that 300 pieces of brocade were brought. The total amount of goods imported from India to Bukhara in one year amounted to 5 million, 475 thousand rubles. N. Stremukhov wrote that trade goods worth 2,100 pounds, or 420 000 rubles, were exported from the Bukhara Emirate to India<sup>20</sup>. This information has not been verified. Because in the Bukhara-Indian trade, more than this number of products was exported to India only due to the silk trade. The trade between the two countries had a high share of the volume of trade imported from India, but the Bukhara Emirate produced in one year much more than the ruble shown by Stremukhov.

As a result of the occupation of Bukhara markets with Anglo-Indian goods, this created great competition for Russian goods. By the 80s of the XIX century, the Russian Empire had to take measures to adapt the Bukhara markets to its own and serve its interests in order to displace Anglo-Indian goods from the markets of the Emirates and Turkestan. By 1881, in order to prevent the entry of Anglo-Indian goods into the markets of the Turkestan, Bukhara, and Khiva khanates, the Russian government “imposed a heavy duty on Anglo-Indian tea and controlled the entry of Anglo-Indian goods competing with Russian goods into the markets of the Central Asian khanates and about the ban. “However, these restrictions imposed by the<sup>21</sup>. Russian Empire did not fully apply. For example, in a letter from the Russian Emperor Alexander III to Amir Muzaffar, it was noted that in June 1881, a trading caravan consisting of 3,000 camels and 2,000 camels arrived in Bukhara from India. In 1880, the trade turnover between Bukhara and India reached 4 million rubles. In 1881, more than 3,000 camels with goods arrived in the emirate from India. Among the goods, there were 600 skeins (knots) and only 1 million 440 thousand pieces of fabric<sup>22</sup>. The arrival of Anglo-Indian goods in large quantities in Bukhara led to the conclusion that they were directly supplied to the markets of the Turkestan region and the Khanate of Khiva.

In 1881, after the Russian government imposed a large duty on trade goods imported from Anglo-Indian and European countries. The Russian Empire introduced customs on the caravan routes from Bukhara to Turkestan in order to capture the markets of the Emirates faster. Also, the importation of competing goods such as Indian brocade, Kashmiri shawls, hemp, brought to Bukhara to the territory of Turkestan was banned. <sup>22</sup>.

By the end of the 19th century, Indian merchants had to pay the largest amount of taxes and duties in the region of Bukhara and Turkestan. For example, in 1860-1870, 2.5% zakat and an additional tax of 15 coins (tyiyn) were charged for each pound of tea. Starting in 1881, an additional tax of 36 coins was added to the price of a pound of zero dye. For example, in Europe, a pound of zero paint costs 3 rubles 30 coins, and in Central Asia - 6 rubles, which is twice as much [24].

Despite the introduction of large tariffs on the import of Anglo-Indian goods to Turkestan, Bukhara-Indian traders did not stop transporting such expensive goods as tea, indigo dye, and high-quality gauze to different regions of Turkestan. They were brought to the territory of Turkestan by merchants, by passing customs with the payment of a large number of duties or by secret detours, passing through mountainous and desert areas. For example, in 1888, tea imported from India was much cheaper in the Bukhara markets, and a pound of tea cost 20–28 rubles [25]. Therefore, Bukhara merchants charge 14 rubles 40 kopecks for a pound of Indian tea. They paid the duty, took a pound of tea to Turkestan, and sold it at the Tashkent market for 54 rubles. After the addition of the duty, merchants received profits from 11 rubles 60 kopecks of tea and up to 26 rubles per pound of tea when smuggling without paying duty. Indigo dye imported from India is also in high demand in the Turkestan region, and it is sold at a high price in the markets. For example, merchants paid a duty of 6 rubles for a pound of zero paint, and received a profit of 36-38 rubles per pound [26]. Due to the high demand and high prices for Indian goods in Turkestan, merchants did not stop importing their goods through customs points and secret routes in order to get more profit, despite paying high customs duties. In some cases, goods transported through roundabouts were detained and confiscated by customs officers.

By the 1980s of the XIX century, the influx of Indian goods to Bukhara through Afghanistan had slowed down significantly. For example, in 1882–1883 it decreased by 19.5% compared to previous years, and in 1883–1884 - by 14.4% [27]. One of the main reasons for this is the political situation in Afghanistan. Due to the instability of the political situation in Afghanistan, it became very difficult to move along the caravan routes that passed through some areas. For this reason, Bukhara and Indian merchants had to use the road connecting Bandar Abbas, Mashhad, and Herat for a certain period of time. Goods released from the port of Bombay were delivered to the cities of Bandar Abbas or Bandar Bushehr on the Persian Gulf coast, and from there camel caravans were transported through [28]. Yazd to Mashhad, and then through Herat to Bukhara. In spring and summer, merchants paid 12 crowns (2 rubles 40 kopecks), and in winter, 15 crowns (3 rubles) for each pound of cargo. In addition, the Iranian government levied a sales tax of 1 ruble 20 kopecks in Bandar Abbas or Bandar Bushehr, 1 ruble 20 kopecks in Yazd and 20 kopecks in Mashhad on every pound of cargo transported to Bukhara [29]. Caravans going through Iran reached Bukhara in 42-45 days and had to pay more duty. These factors also had a negative impact on a slight decline in the Bukhara-Indian trade.

## CONCLUSION

Trade relations between Bukhara and India have been going on continuously since ancient times. In the second half of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century, trade goods imported from India were in high demand not only in the Emirate of Bukhara, but also in all Central Asian khanates. Demand for tea, indigo dye, Kashmiri shawl, and other products imported from India was high. In the markets of Bukhara and Turkestan, Indian goods were sold much cheaper than Russian ones. Since the 1980s of the XIX century, the Russian Empire has strengthened measures to adapt the markets of Bukhara to its

interests and prevent the penetration of some Anglo-Indian goods into the markets of Bukhara and Turkestan. But these measures did not have a positive effect.

By the end of the XIX century, the Russian Empire had introduced various barrier and additional duties for the import of British-Indian goods to Bukhara and Turkestan. As a result, trade relations between Bukhara and India weakened somewhat at the beginning of the 20th century. During this period, the loss of the economic independence of the Bukhara Emirate, the instability of the political situation in neighboring countries, and the increase in taxes on foreign trade had a serious negative impact on the conduct of foreign trade relations in the Bukhara Emirate.

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