

History of Trade and Diplomatic Relations between Bukhara and Russia

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Abstract: During the ambassadorial and diplomatic activities of Ernazar Maksud, relations between Russia and Bukhara in terms of trade, economic and diplomatic relations are discussed.

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It is known that ambassadorial relations will contribute to the further development of trade and economic relations between these two countries. They will get acquainted with new markets and goods. But before that, they participated in international routes in the Middle Ages, overcoming various difficulties such as dehydration, hunger, scorching heat or bitter cold, pirate attacks, and taking on the hardships of long journeys was considered great heroism. Journeys lasting from several months to several years required ambassadors, in addition to a strong will, to have such qualities as knowledge of foreign languages, deep knowledge and diplomatic skills. Mullah Ernazar Maksud, one of our compatriots, who had such a strong will, deep knowledge, skillful diplomatic skills and perfectly knew several languages, who lived in the 18th century, amazed the Russian emperors with the enterprise and broad outlook of his son. Ernazar Maksud's son was a major merchant from Bukhara who lived in the second half of the 18th century. With his caravan he visited major cities in Russia, Siberia, India, Khorasan, Iran, and Turkey. The son of Mullah Ernazar Maksud repeatedly visited Russian emperors as an official ambassador, both on trade issues and as an official ambassador. In particular, in 1762, as an official ambassador for trade affairs, the Kazakh Khan Nuralikhan (1710-1790) reigned 1748-1786, on behalf of Peter III, reigned 1761-1762, on behalf of the Bukhara Khan Abdulgazi Bahadir Khan, for the first time in 1774-1776, for the first time in 1779-1780, Catherine was in the II Palace. Since 1745, he traveled to Russia for many years on trade.

He even went to Bukhara, Hind, Khorasan and other dangerous places, in the words of the ambassador, "not sparing either life or money" and brought their orders. For 35 years, that is, until the end of his life, Russian empresses communicated with him, especially Elizabeth Petrovna. As a result of this conversation, the emperor gained the trust of Ernazar Maksud's son. The emperor instructed him to deliver some medical supplies and other rare items for himself by the next winter. And he copes with this task perfectly. The first information about his ambassadorial activities can be found in historical documents of the foreign policy archive of the Russian Empire, dated 1762. Until the 1780s, his negotiations with the Russian emperors, both as a merchant and as an official ambassador, were successful on both issues: the free movement of merchants and pilgrims on the roads and their unhindered trade in Russian cities. He was the first official ambassador of Bukhara. In 1774, he and 64 companions set out to see the Russian Emperor via Astrakhan. Among them was his brother Avazberdi Maksud. According to sources, Ernazarbi actually set out with 104 companions. 44 of them stayed in Mangyshlak to look after the camels. Ernazarbi brought with him 14 Arabian horses, rare nasif fabrics, 2 tons of precious and elegant lapis lazuli stones, and Indian fabrics. He will arrive in Astrakhan on a Russian-owned vessel from Mangyshlok weighing a total of 40 tons. From there, he will set out for the capital. Ernazar Maksud's son, who had been in the capital of the empire for a year, was sent from here by the Ottoman Sultan Abdul Hamid I as an ambassador to the palace of Catherine.

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Ernazarbi won the trust not only of the emperors, but also of many prominent government officials. In 1772, he was a very close business partner of I. Reinsdorf, the Orenburg Governor-General. Upon his arrival in Orenburg, the Governor-General gave him a special order to buy Russian slaves at the slave markets of Bukhara and Khiva and bring them back to their homeland. In 1775, Mullah Ernazar managed to buy 21 Russian slaves from the cities of Bukhara and Khiva and bring them to Russia. Therefore, the ambassador was met at the imperial palace very early. Ernazar's son Maksud was also exempted from paying customs duties at the imperial customs for goods worth 9,000 rubles, which he brought to Russia with his caravan. But his request for compensation for material damage was rejected. Instead, the Russian government will allow him to buy duty-free in Bukhara 15,000 pounds of iron, 5,000 pounds of steel, and 3,000 pounds of copper. Part of this large volume of goods will have to pass through customs through Orenburg, and the rest through Astrakhan.

Catherine II, who correctly understood that Russia's foreign trade relations with Central Asia and India could develop thanks to the service of such bold and enterprising merchants of Central Asia, on December 19, 1776, Ernazar Maksud's son, across the Caspian Sea, Mangyshlak - In order to move between Astrakhan and develop trade, he allows duty-free trade in goods worth up to 10,000 rubles for a period of 5 years. The Emperor even gave him one "treasury" ship to transport his goods across the Caspian Sea. In a historical document about Ernazar Maksud's son, his brother Avazberdi Maksud, who came to Russia with his son, there is an aspect indicating that this ship was used by the ambassador of Bukhara. This document dates back to 1777, when Ernazar Maksud's son returned to Bukhara, he was given a ship as a gift, and after some time his brother Avazberdi Maksud, who remained in St. Petersburg, "went to Astrakhan to his brother" it is written that the return is allowed. Before leaving, he was given a certain amount of money and a gold watch from the capital and sent to Astrakhan accompanied by military guards.

In conclusion, I can say that trade and embassy relations and interaction with foreign countries have a positive effect on the life of the population and the economy of the state. The diplomatic and trade relations of Ernazar Maksud's son with Russia and neighboring countries are of particular importance in the Bukhara Emirate. The fact that he is a person with high knowledge and experience as an ambassador and merchant is clearly seen in the embassy relations.

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