

Political processes in the Turkestan region in the second half of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century (based on materials from the "Turkestan Collection")

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Abstract: *This article analyzes the military actions and policies of Tsarist Russia in Turkestan based on the data of the "Turkestan Collection". Starting from the middle of the 19th century, Russia launched campaigns against the Kokand, Khiva Khanate and Bukhara Emirate, established the Turkestan region and later the Governor-Generalship in the conquered lands, and the work done to govern the local population in a new order is also studied based on the data of the collection.*

Key words: *Turkestan Collection, Russia, Bukhara, Khiva, Kokand, von Kaufman, Bekovich-Cherkassky, Orenburg.*

In the second half of the 19th century, the Central Asian khanates were ruled by a feudal and slave system. Constant internecine wars weakened each other. This situation, in turn, was beneficial for the Russian Empire, which had long been trying to take control of these territories. It was in this situation that the partial establishment of British power in Afghanistan began to worry the ruling circles of Russia. The British, who had settled in southern Central Asia, sent their representatives one after another to the territory of the khanates. Moreover, the British did not hide their readiness to help the khanates fight against Russia. As a result, this region began to be a struggle between the two large colonial powers.

The first attempts of Russia to establish itself in Central Asia date back to the time of Peter I. In 1700, the ambassador of the Khan of Khiva, Shahniyaz, came to Peter and asked to be accepted as Russian citizenship. As a result, two expeditions were organized in 1713-1714. These were: to Little Bukhara - I. D. Bukhgołts and to Khiva - Bekovich-Cherkassky expeditions[1:35]. In 1718, Peter I sent Florio Benevini to Bukhara, who returned in 1725 and brought a lot of information about the region. However, Peter I's plans to conquer the region did not come true.

Russia's entry into this region began during the reign of Anna Ioannovna, when the Small and Middle Zhuz were taken under the guardianship of the "white princess". At that time, the Kazakh clans lived in a feudal system and suffered greatly from the Dzungars who invaded from the East. This was precisely the reason that forced them to come under Russian patronage. Of the Kazakh clans, only the Great Zhuz clan became part of Russia in the first half of the 19th century. Russia began to build military fortifications one after another in the Kazakh lands that were part of its territory under the guise of protecting Russian citizens. This policy of the Russians was to prepare the ground for future wars of aggression. As a result of this policy of the Russians, the Kokchetav, Akmolinsk, Novopetrovskoye, Uralskoye, Orenburgskoye, Raimskoye and Kapalskoye fortifications were built. In 1854, the Vernoye (Alma-Ata) fortification was founded.



There were several reasons for Russia to begin its actions against the Central Asian khanates. First, the territory of Central Asia was a very important raw material base for Russia. Second, Russia began to fear the growing position of Great Britain in the khanates. Because by the middle of the 19th century, the British had a sufficient position in Afghanistan. Thirdly, the defeat of Russia in the Crimean War also had a certain influence on the beginning of these invasions.

In 1850, the Russian-Kokand war began. At first, there were minor clashes between the two states. In 1850, an expedition was organized along the Ili River to destroy the Toyhubek fortress, which served as a base for the Kokand Khan, and as a result, this fortress was captured in 1851. In 1854, the Vernoye fortress was built on the Alma-Ata River (now Almatinka), and the entire Ili region was incorporated into the Russian Empire. In 1852, Colonel I.F. Blaramberg destroyed two Kokand fortresses, Kumish-Kurgan and Chimkurgan, and stormed the White Mosque, but did not succeed [1:45]. In 1853, the Perovsky detachment captured Akmasjid. As a result, the Akmasjid fortification was named Fort Perovsky. Attempts by the Kokand people to recapture the fortress were unsuccessful. The Russians built several fortifications along the lower reaches of the Syrdarya. In 1860, the West Siberian government formed a detachment under the command of Colonel Zimmerman. Russian troops destroyed the Kokand fortresses of Pishpek and Tokmok. The Kokand Khanate declared a holy war and sent a 20,000-strong army, but in October 1860 it was defeated by Colonel G.A. Kolpakovsky (3 companies, 4 centurions and 4 cannons) at the Uzunogoch fortress. Russian troops captured the Kokand fortresses of Pishpek, the Little Tokmok and Kastek. Thus, the Orenburg line was created.

In 1864, the Russian government decided to send two detachments to continue the invasion. One of these detachments moved from Orenburg, the other from Western Siberia towards the territory of the Kokand Khanate. These two detachments were to unite when they reached a certain area. In June 1864, the West Siberian detachment led by Colonel M.G. Chernyaev, who left Verny, occupied the Avliyoata fortress, and the Orenburg detachment led by Colonel N.A. Veryovkin moved from Fort Perovsky and occupied the Turkestan fortress. In July, Russian troops captured Shymkent. However, the first attempt to take Tashkent failed. In 1865, with the annexation of the former Syrdarya line from the newly conquered region, the Turkestan province was formed, and Mikhail Grigorievich Chernyaev became its military governor [2]. The next serious step was the capture of the city of Tashkent. In the spring of 1865, a detachment led by Colonel M.G. Chernyaev went on a campaign. At the first news of the approach of Russian troops, the people of Tashkent turned to Kokand for help, since the city was under the control of the Kokand khans. Auxiliary forces under the command of Mulla Alimkul Husaynboy oglu arrived from the Kokand Khanate. As a result, the Tashkent garrison increased to 50 cannons and 30 thousand people. At this time, the number of Russian troops was more than 2 thousand people [3]. However, the discipline of the Russian troops and the presence of new weapons ensured their superiority over the Kokand troops. As a result, the city of Tashkent was occupied by Russian troops in a short time. In the summer of 1866, a decree of the Russian tsar was issued on the annexation of Tashkent to the possessions of the Russian Empire. In 1867, a special Turkestan Governorate-General was created within the Syrdarya and Semirechensk regions, with Tashkent as its center. The first governor was appointed engineer-general K. P. Kaufman.

In May 1866, a 3,000-strong detachment of General D.I. Romanovsky defeated a 40,000-strong army of the Bukhara Emirate in the Battle of Erjar. Despite the large number of Bukharas, they were completely defeated, about a thousand people were killed, and only 12 Russians were wounded. The victory at Erjar opened the way for the Russians to Khujand, the Nau fortress, and Jizzakh. As a result of the campaign in May-June 1868, the resistance of the Bukhara troops was finally broken. Russian troops occupied Samarkand. A number of territories of the emirate were annexed to Russia. In June 1873, a similar fate befell the Khiva Khanate. Troops under General K. P. Kaufman occupied Khiva. As a result of



negotiations with the Khan of Khiva, the Amu Darya Department was established in the territories under Russian influence. This new administrative unit was also incorporated into the Governor-General of Turkestan.

The next Russian invasion was directed against the Kokand Khanate. The actions of the Kokand Khan Khudayor Khan aroused widespread public discontent. Following these discontents, a popular uprising broke out in the khanate in 1874. Khudayor Khan fled to Tashkent in July 1875[2:132]. His son Nasreddin was proclaimed the new ruler. Meanwhile, the rebels had already begun to move towards the former Kokand lands, which had been annexed to the Russian Empire. Khujand was surrounded by rebels. Calls for war against the "infidels" were heard in all mosques. True, Nasreddin sought to reconcile with the Russian authorities in order to strengthen his position on the throne. However, Nasreddin could not control the situation in his lands and could not stop the unrest that had begun. The rebel detachments continued to invade Russian possessions. As a result, in a short time the main cities of the Kokand Khanate were occupied by the Russians. Resistance movements continued for some time in Andijan. Here Pulat Khan led an uprising against the Russians. However, the backwardness in the military sphere led to the incorporation of the khanate into the Russian Empire. On March 2, 1876, the Kokand Khanate was officially abolished. Thus, the Fergana region was formed on the lands of the former Kokand Khanate and was included in the Turkestan Governorate-General.

Russia's subsequent aggressive actions were directed against the territory of Turkmenistan. These actions were carried out in 1880-1885. As a result, the Turkmen lands were completely incorporated into Russia. Thus, Russia's military actions in Central Asia came to an end.

After the conquest of Central Asia by the Russian Empire, the term Turkestan began to be widely used in the international arena. However, the origin of the word Turkestan dates back to the early Middle Ages. As a result of further research, it was found that the term Turkestan is also found in Sogdian documents. Turkestan designates a vast historical and geographical region of Central Asia inhabited by Turks - the "Land of the Turks". After the capture of Tashkent in 1865, the Russian government officially named this territory the Turkestan region. In 1867, Turkestan was transformed into the Governor-General, initially including two regions - Syrdarya, with its center in Tashkent, and Semirechenskaya with its center in the city of Verniy. By the end of the 1890s, Turkestan included the Fergana region, formed from the lands of the Kokand Khanate, the Samarkand region, formed on the basis of the Zarafshan district, as well as the Caspian region. The coming to power of the Bolsheviks in Russia also had a great impact on the territory of Turkestan [3:131]. The territory of the USSR was divided into national republics. Today, the term Turkestan is used more figuratively, and the region is officially called Central Asia.

The name Turkestan began to appear in many ethnographic sources, on many maps drawn by Europeans and Russian scholars, starting from the second half of the 19th century. After the Russian conquest of the city of Tashkent and the territories of South Kazakhstan, the local population preferred to use the term Turkestan, which was widely used in historiography, for this territory. That is, it conquered this very territory, which was called Turkestan in local historiography. Therefore, it was natural for them to use the local term Turkestan for the newly annexed territory. It was originally the Turkestan region.

But very soon the Russian Empire began to move south and annexed other lands. As a result of these actions, the Fergana Valley, some parts of the Khorezm oasis, and the lands of the Turkmen, which were not included in the region called Turkestan in local historiography, were also included in the Turkestan General Governorate. The Russian Empire conquered these territories, annexed them, and continued to use the term Turkestan to designate this territory. Thus, it spread over a large territory. From then on, local intellectuals and public figures began to use the term Turkestan in a broader sense.



In 1865, the Turkestan region was officially formed within the Orenburg General Governorate. Even then, the question arose of how to administer this region administratively, and a commission called the "Steppe Commission" consisting of a number of experts and officials familiar with the region worked on this issue for several years. They studied these topics, and the commission developed two Regulations.

According to the developed regulations, it was decided to divide the region into two administrative parts. According to the decision of the commission, it was necessary to separately manage the so-called Kazakh steppe, inhabited mainly by nomads, and separately manage the lands inhabited by the settled population. For this reason, the lands inhabited by the Kazakhs were divided into three governorates: Orenburg, Siberia and Turkestan.

In conclusion, as a result of the conquest of the Turkestan region by the Russian Empire, a new regulation was developed to govern the peoples of the region, to keep them under control and to use all the resources of these territories in the interests of the empire.

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