# THE ROLE OF LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS IN THE FOREIGN TRADE OF UZBEKISTAN IN 1917-1941 YEARS

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#### DISCUSSION

In 1917-1930, agricultural products played a key role in foreign trade. In particular, agricultural products accounted for 65% of total goods, while industrial products accounted for 10% of foreign trade[1,p.139]. Turkestan is a trade center not only with its natural and material resources, but also with its geographically interconnected neighbors Iran, Afghanistan and China. Livestock and their raw materials played an even more important role in foreign trade relations with them.

According to archival data, in 1914 there were 1.4 million pounds of wool, 2.5 million pieces of gut, 6.5 million pieces of , 6,000 pounds of horsehair, 2 million pieces of reindeer and lamb skins, and about 1 million pieces each. various wild animal skins were exported from Turkestan to world markets.

The above data also includes raw materials from Bukhara, Khiva, Iran (Persia), Afghanistan and China. Of these: 700,000 pounds of wool, 150,000 skins of large horned animals (cattle), 2 million. 500,000 skins of small animals (karakul and lamb skins from Bukhara) were delivered.

Trade with foreign countries was dominated by firms with large working capital, such as the gut trade, which was entirely in the hands of a German firm called Dürshmidt. Trade in raw materials and fur was in the hands of Zalm, Erman Glikin, partly in Durshmidt and Stuken, and wool in the hands of large factories Asaevs, Kuznetsov and others.

The participation of Stuken in this foreign trade was significant. Because the firm had a monopoly position in the markets of Iran and the Caspian region.

All of the above raw materials were in demand in the markets of Russia and foreign countries. The bulk of the intestines were exported to Germany and from there to markets in other countries. The market for this raw material, which is exported from Turkestan, was also active due to the large intestines of animals grazed in the desert and steppes. Wool is also exported to Russia or foreign countries, depending on its quality. Low quality wool

was grown in the Syrdarya, Semirechensk and Kulji regions and exported to Russia. Only high-quality wool from Khorasan, Kashgar, and Merinos sheep was mainly exported.

Most of the raw materials from large cattle, ie 80%, were sent to Russia, and only 20% to Germany. Raw materials for small animals, such as 50% sheep, up to 70% goats, as well as up to 70% fur and wool, were exported to Germany. America would also benefit from a portion of the sheep and goat raw materials.

However, World War II had a negative impact on Turkestan's trade in raw materials. Because the closure of the German border, as well as in 1915 the export of raw materials was prevented. At the same time, the growing demand of the army for horses has led to a sharp decline in their number in the livestock sector. The Kyrgyz uprising of 1916 led to the deportation of many cattle to China, and the famine of 1917-1918 led to the destruction of many cattle, leading to the complete disappearance of the abovementioned livestock farm in Turkestan.

Even the October coup did not allow the resumption of animal husbandry in its early years, on the contrary, the number of cattle decreased. According to archival documents, by 1920 only 43% of equestrianism, 61% and 33% of large horned animals remained. If we compare it with 1915, it seems that the number of livestock has decreased by 3 times. In 1921, this trend intensified, in other words, the country, which was extremely rich in its natural resources, fell to the level of a very poor, hungry, deprived of property due to the total destruction of farms as a result of Bolshevik rule[2,p.121]. In addition, the influx of raw materials into the Turkestan market from neighboring countries has completely stopped.

By 1918, the situation in the Turkestan raw materials market had led to the accumulation of old stocks of raw materials in warehouses, and it was self-evident that due to nationalization they were transferred to the state.

## EPRA International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research (IJMR) - Peer Reviewed Journal

Volume: 6 | Issue: 8 | August 2020 || Journal DOI: 10.36713/epra2013 || SJIF Impact Factor: 7.032 ||ISI Value: 1.188

Relevant organizations and agencies of the Soviet government on raw materials have now begun to collect raw materials using administrative rights, and they have established their monopoly in this area. However, the process of collecting new raw materials was slow. This was because the fixed price system the poor management of the Soviet administration and executive apparatus, the inability to export abroad and to Russia, transport problems and the civil war did not negatively affect the production of raw materials and did not encourage it. Only the work in the field of wool production was somewhat good. The reason for this was that the government felt a great need to produce wool for its factories. As a result, 110,000 pounds of wool were produced in 1919, 180,000 pounds in 1920, and 90,000 pounds in 1921[3,p.321].

Since 1919, Turkestan has sought to develop trade relations with Afghanistan and Iran. In particular, the Turkic Commission sent commissions to the borders to study the possibility of trade relations with Iran and Afghanistan. As a result, at the end of 1919, trade offices were established in Poltoatsk, Merv and Takhtabazar, located on the Turkestan-Iranian border, where Iranian and Afghan goods could be purchased. In December 1919, the Poltortsk and Dushaks customs offices were established to serve trade with Iran and Afghanistan, and the Gavdan, Khivaabad, and Serakhs border checkpoints were established[4,p.130].

In Turkestan, foreign trade relations were carried out by the Foreign Trade Department, which issued licenses to trade parties and supervised trade relations. On December 12, 1919, the Department of Foreign Trade issued instructions to all institutions and individuals engaged in trade to provide information on the status and conditions of crossborder trade. The department will begin accepting the first trade offers from Afghan traders in the first months of these efforts. In particular, Afghan traders are asking to send a variety of goods to Turkestan through the Takhtabazar and Kerki checkpoints. The Foreign Trade Department is working successfully in this direction, and in the first 3-4 months, contracts will be signed for the import of various goods from Afghanistan. For example, on March 23, 1920, a contract was signed between the Foreign Trade Department and an Afghan trader named Nurmuhammad for the sale of 10,500 pounds of animal skins and 150 pounds of wool worth a total of 506,800 rubles. During this period, livestock, rice, wheat and tea were purchased on the Turkestan-Afghan border to supply the Red Army units in Central Asia. Afghan traders mainly exchanged livestock and livestock products for various tableware, kerosene and metal goods in Turkestan. The Moscow-based Foreign Trade Commission allowed the Tashkent Foreign Trade Department to exchange goods with Iran and Afghanistan[5]. In the

second half of 1920, the Department of Foreign Trade entered into a contract with Afghanistan for the purchase of a total of 17,793 pounds of livestock meat and with Iran for 34,701 pounds of meat products, and offered to purchase these meats for establishments in Turkestan for their own needs[6]. Because one of the tasks of this organization is to bring the necessary goods in the country and provide institutions with these products. In the 1920s, due to the decline in the number of livestock in Turkestan, they were forced to import livestock products from neighboring areas. In late 1919 and mid-1920, a total of 5,105 head of livestock, 193,831 pounds of meat, 3,084 pieces of hides, 107,633 pieces of astrakhan skins and 2,904 pounds of wool were imported to Turkestan from Iran and Afghanistan[7]. This year, not only goods were imported to Turkestan, but also some goods were sold to neighboring countries. For example, in the first half of 1920, a total of 117,622 head of karakul sheep were exported[8].

Government organizations and agencies had focused their attention only on preserving stocks of old raw materials, and from 1920-1921, shipments of raw materials and wool were re-established. Because Russia's textile and leather processing industry could not operate without Turkestan raw materials[9].

According to the documents of the Economic Council under the Council of People's Commissars of the Turkestan ASSR, in 1920-1921 520 thousand pounds of wool, 750 thousand pieces of raw materials for small animals and 350 thousand pieces of raw materials for large animals and 5297 pounds of horse wool, of which raw raw materials and horse wool consisted of stocks produced before the October Revolution, and wool was partly made of old and new raw materials produced in 1919-1921.

The new economic policy has brought some positive changes in the Turkestan raw materials market. These were: the abolition of fixed prices, competition among buyers, changes in production systems, and, most importantly, the material security of the workers working in this system. In addition, in order to improve foreign trade relations, the opening and liberalization of borders during this period, as well as the beginning of a well-established transport system, have been set in motion.

Based on archival data, it should be noted that the changes that took place in 1922-1923 due to the new economic policy are as follows:

- 1. The emergence of unlimited demand in foreign markets for raw materials from the intestines and small animals;
- 2. Increased demand for wool and leather products by government factories and plants;
- 3. Increased supply of all types of raw materials;

ISSN (Online): 2455-3662



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4. Establishment of trade relations with neighboring countries for the supply of raw materials.

Coverage of the above changes is based on data from the Raw Materials Procurement Department (Upsyrzag). This Board was established on January 1, 1922, owned the remaining raw materials from all the old firms, and administratively acquired its own monopoly (sole authority) position over the right to sell and buy.

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