



# DIPLOMATIC AND TRADE RELATIONS OF THE KHIVA KHANATE WITH THE IRANIAN STATE (BASED ON THE EXAMPLE OF THE XVI-XVIII CENTURIES)

Matyakubov Shonazar<sup>1</sup>, Jumaniyazova Firuza<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Junior Researcher at the Khorezm Mamun Academy

<sup>2</sup>Junior Researcher at the Khorezm Mamun Academy

## ABSTRACT

*the article describes the transformation of Khiva into the capital of the Khanate in the 16th century and its reasons, the socio-political situation in the Khanate in the periods up to the end of the 18th century, as well as mutual diplomatic and trade relations between the Khiva Khanate and the Iranian state.*

**KEY WORDS:** Khanate of Khiva, Iran, Sheybani Khan, Ismail Safavi, Elbarshkhan, Dinmuhammadkhan, Asfandierkhan, Tahmosib, Shergazikhan, Shah Abbas, Nodirshah.

## INTRODUCTION

The transformation of the city of Khiva into the capital and center of the Khanate took place against the background of changes in nature, political struggle, devastating wars, conquest of territories and attempts to win the throne. Khorezm was captured by the troops of Mahmud Sultan, the younger brother of Sheybani Khan, in 1505. Sources claim, "On November 29, 1510, the Shah of Iran Ismail Safevi defeated Sheybani Khan in a battle near Marw and killed him himself" [1].

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

Another source reports, "The ruler of Iran sent three messengers to Khorezm, one to Khivak and Khazarasp, one to Urgench and Vazir" [2]. However, the rule of the Iranians in Khorezm lasted no more than one year. Led by Umar Kazi, the ministers conferred one night, killed the Iranians and made Elbars ibn Berqa Sultan their khan. About this Abulgozi Bahadirkhan wrote in his work "Shajaray -Turk" "All the Uzbeks and Sarts gathered for a magnificent wedding and made Elbarskhan khan in the year nine hundred and eleven in the year of the sheep" [3]. Bayani wrote about this: "Elbars Khan restored the old name of Khorezm, called it the State of Khorezmshahs and wore the crown of the state" [4]. Academician Y. Gulomov wrote that "Elbarskhan was appointed Shah of Khorezm after the death of Shaybani Khan, and this event should be considered to have occurred in 1511-1512" [5]. Academician V.V. Bartold also argued, "The Khorezm Khanate was founded in 1511" [6]. The rule of the Uzbek khans began to strengthen in Khorezm from the end of the 16th to the beginning of the 17th centuries. The economic, social and political life of the country shifted to the south because of the transition of the Amu Darya basin from the Caspian to the Aral Sea. Abulgazi wrote about this in his work "Shajaray Turk": "Thirty years before my birth, the Amu River changes its course over Khost, in the place of which it is called the Black Stallion tugai, and from there it flows to the Tuk castle and flows into the Sirian Sea. For this reason, Urgench turned into a desert" [7]. Starting from the 16th century, the city of Khiva was declared the capital of the Khanate several times. Although Khiva was appointed as the capital in 1556 by Dosthan, son of Bozhikhan, it was only from the time of Arab Muhammad Khan that the country began to be called the Khanate of Khiva. Academician Y. Gulomov wrote: "During the reign of Arab Muhammad Khan, the capital was moved to the city of Khiva, from this period the khanate received the name Khiva Khanate [8]." Another source reports that "at the beginning of the 17th century, during the time of Arab Muhammad Khan (1602-1623), when relative political stability was established in Khorezm, Khiva really became the capital of the state" [9]. At the end of the 16th and beginning of the 17th centuries. Turkestan was divided into the Khiva Khanate, the Bukhara Khanate, the Kokan Khanate, Ulug-juz, Middle Juz, Kichik-juz and Kashkariya (East Turkestan). Political disunity and the rerouting of the old trade route and the Silk Road to the seas and rivers were among the reasons for the economic and cultural



depression of Turkestan. Secondly, the occupation of territories between neighboring khanates, as well as internal conflicts and continuous wars between fathers and sons, brothers and relatives in order to gain the throne, position and wealth led to the decline of economic and cultural life in all khanates. All khanates on the territory of Turkestan, including Khiva, were in a state of political, economic and cultural special siege among large and rich countries. The Khanate of Khiva and other khanates were threatened by the Russian Empire in the north and the Chinese Empire in the east.

As mentioned above, the 16th-18th centuries were considered a period of complex political processes in Central Asia. The Bukhara, Khiva and Kokan khanates, which formed as independent states, played an important role in these processes. The conflictual nature of relations between them and the geopolitical position of Central Asia is also reflected in the external relations of the khanates. These countries tried to solve the difficult political situation in the region in different ways, in particular, by strengthening external relations. In particular, unlike the Bukhara Khanate, the rulers of Khiva followed the path of political cooperation with the neighboring country of Iran. In foreign policy, this direction, which began to take shape at the beginning of the 16th century, was founded by the Sheybanites or Arabshahs, i.e. as J. Bregel has shown, it was further consolidated during the dynasty that many modern scholars call the Arabshahs, which took its name from Arabshah ibn Polad, a descendant of Jochi's fifth son, Shayban.

The crisis of the Genghisid rulers was observed throughout Central Asia in the middle of the 18th century, and the deep crisis that occurred in the political, social and economic life of the Khiva Khanate laid the foundation for new dynasties to come to power.

In Iran in the 30s of the 18th century, a new dynasty came to power, first the Zandi dynasty, then the Khojar dynasty. Representatives of these new dynasties who came to power made serious efforts to end the crisis situation in the country. However, the measures taken at the end of the 18th century by representatives of the Kungrat dynasty in Khorezm and the Hadjar dynasty in Iran began to produce noticeable results and laid the foundation for the further development of relations between the two countries only in the first quarter of the 19th century.

In the political, socio-economic processes that took place in the Khiva Khanate and the Iranian state in the 16th-18th centuries, three stages can be observed, that is, the period of formation, development and the period of conflicts and crises. During this period, similar aspects of the development stages of the two countries provide insight into the overall situation in the region and its impact, as well as the essence of the relationship between the two countries. The movement of Muhammad Shaybani Khan (1451-1510), who established his rule in Movarunnahr, to include Khorezm and Khorasan under his rule was one of the important factors that required the establishment of relations between Khiva and Iran. In 1510, Shah Ismail I, who besieged Muhammad Shaybani Khan near Marw, and Elbars Khan, the ruler of Urgench, had interesting information about their secret negotiations against Shaybani Khan and their military alliance, not found in other sources, and only presented in the work unknown author of "Alamoro-yi Safavi" [10]. According to the work, Elbars Khan, who sought an alliance with the Shah of Iran, delivered a khutbah in honor of Ismail I in Khiva and Urgench. There were two important reasons why Elbars Khan, despite coming from the same dynasty as Muhammad Shaybani Khan, led the movement against him: the first was the hostility of the representatives of the two houses towards each other due to the murder of Elbars' father. Khan Muhammad Sheybani Khan, and the second was the need to liberate the country from the Sheybanids of Movarunnahr, who took control of Khorezm in 1505. Of course, after the victory over Muhammad Sheybani Khan, the Shah of Iran managed to include Khorezm into his state. The uprising that soon began in the city of Wazir against the Khorezm governors of the ruler and the expulsion of the red-headed army from the country shows the main goal of Elbar Khan's tactics.

Relations between the Khanate of Khiva, which arose as an independent state, and Iran continued in a later period. After the death of Shah Ismail I in 1524, the weakening of central power in Iran, internecine wars and popular uprisings prompted Shah Tahmasib I to establish relations with the Khiva khan Bochga Khan (1522-1526). Moreover, these ties were strengthened by marital relations between the two families [11].

The strengthened movement of the Shaybanids of Bukhara demanded the strengthening of political relations between Khiva and Iran. Of course, the frequently changing political situation in the Middle Ages did not allow the establishment of regular, equal relations between Khiva and Iran.

Such unevenness is clearly visible in the relations between the Khorezm khan Din Muhammad and Shah Tahmasib I.

Relations between the Khanate of Khiva and Iran especially strengthened during the reign of Shah Abbas I and Haji Muhammad Khan (Khajim Khan) and took the form of relatively regular relations.

At the beginning of the 17th century, the rulers of Khorezm relied on the help of the Iranian shahs in the struggle for power in the Khanate of Khiva. In particular, the support of Shah Abbas I and the leaders of the Turkmen tribes was great when Isfandierkhan inherited the Khiva throne, for which he fought against his brothers.

Friendly relations between the two countries continued during the reign of Abulgazi Khan, who sought to develop the political, economic and cultural life of the khanate by centralizing the country, protecting it from



external attacks and establishing trade relations with neighboring countries. In particular, in 1648, the khan-entrepreneur sent an ambassador to the Iranian Shah Abbas II (1642-1666) and through this embassy managed to strengthen trade and friendly relations between the two countries, and he also ensured the neutrality of Iran in the fight against the Turkmen leaders [12].

Although not detailed, the source contains some information about the embassy sent from Khorezm to Iran at the end of the 17th century, in particular, about the embassy of Jiyambi, one of the influential officials of the Yuz tribe [13].

In the 20s and 30s of the 18th century, there were frequent clashes in the border areas of the two countries, but information presented in Persian sources gives an idea of the diplomatic relations between Nadir Shah and the Khiva khan Shergazi Khan (1715-1728) [14].

Nadir Shah's large-scale campaigns of conquest led to a breakdown in relations between Khiva and Iran. The Khanate of Khiva was a state that resolutely opposed Nadir Shah in Central Asia, and after the execution of Elbarskhan II (1728-1740), local Mangit leaders who aspired to power tried to cooperate with the Iranian Shah. In turn, the internal struggle and popular unrest in Iran forced Nadir Shah to pursue a policy in agreement with the Khiva Khan and local rulers. In particular, Munis's work "Firdavs ul-Iqbal" provides information about the Khiva khan Abulgazi Khan II (1742-1746), who received help from Nadir Shah in suppressing the uprising of the Yovmut and Chowdur tribes (1745) through the embassy of Muhammad Amin, a descendant of Yorim Divan [15].

## CONCLUSIONS

In conclusion, it can be noted that the formation, strengthening and development of the Khiva Khanate, which arose at the beginning of the 16th century, and the Iranian state, as well as their internal political, socio-economic situation, occurred in connection with the relationship between the two countries. In particular, one of the important factors is the need to have a solid base in eliminating inter-dynastic struggle and internal conflicts, the need to strengthen central power, protect the independence of the country, gain influence in the international arena, ensure the neutrality of a third state, and the country in the event of war with other countries needed to establish and strengthening Khiva - Iran relations. Also, the need to have a reliable ally to control the international situation in the Central Asian region, the need to have a reliable ally in managing a large centralized state and the goal of expanding economic ties were in the interests of the Iranian state intends to strengthen relations with the Khanate of Khiva as an important economic and geographical-strategic region. Political relations between the Khanate of Khiva and Iran were carried out through diplomatic, military alliances, mutual marriage relations, personal visits of rulers and, finally, it can be concluded that there was a great influence of the mutual political and economic relations of the Khanate of Khiva with Iran in the XVI - XVII century x in the diplomatic, trade and ethnocultural life of the two countries.

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