



THE ROLE OF THE GREAT SILK ROAD IN THE HISTORY OF THE KHIVA KHANATE

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ABSTRACT

In ancient times, there were many land routes in Eurasia, but only one of them turned into a main caravan, joining the East Asia and the Mediterranean. The article presents that in Khiva, which is on the Great Silk Road, was developed a number of spheres of science, culture, trade, architecture and crafts. In this article, the real importance of the great Silk Road and which role it played in all sphere in the life of Khiva also observed. There is also mentioned that although travel, commerce, and mutual exchange rates are intense, this historic path has not lost its uniqueness but preserves its openness and tolerance to other cultures, religions and nations.

KEYWORDS: *Silk Road, khanate, century, caravan, archeological, cultural, camel*

INTRODUCTION

Economic and cultural ties among Central Asian countries, including Khorezm, with neighboring countries, date back to long past. Written sources and archaeological findings confirm that the Great Silk Road passed through the Khorezm region and has long been established diplomatic relations with China, India, Iran, Iraq, the Caucasus and neighboring northern countries. Due to the great geographical discoveries of the 16th and 17th centuries, the importance of the ancient trade routes on the land, including the Great Silk Road, which connected Europe and Asia, has dropped. In addition, political developments and conflicts in the international arena have also had an impact on Khorezm's international transit position.

Particularly in the XV-XVIII centuries, political events in the khanates, feudal dissension and intercommunal conflicts have led to a slowing down of international relations. Despite the dramatic changes in the interior and international relations, the economic and cultural relations between the Uzbek khanates and neighboring countries have not ceased.

At that times, commercial caravans from Khiva, Bukhara and Balkh could be found in India, Iran, Kashgar, Kazakhstan, Volga and Siberia.

According to H.Ziyoev, trade was one of the most important factors of survival for the population of Khiva. Almost all of the wealthy people were engaged in trade. Camel caravans were shipped from Khiva to Russia and Iran. Except camels, goods were also shipped to Bukhara through boats. Goods were shipped on interior commercial land routes through camels, two-wheeled cars, while along the Amudarya and the canals shipped through the water. There were markets in every village and town where the population lived, such as cattle, camels, horses and sheep, grain, clothing, silk and cotton, gunpowder, weaponry, shovel, carts with twin wheels, saddle and other harnesses, wood, coal, alkaline, salt and many others were sold in these markets. These goods were bartered and sold for money. [1]

LITERATURE REVIEW

From the 18th century to the 19th century, besides the trade between them, Russian Empire



gradually turned the Khivakhands to bow to himself in politics and began to invade into the Khivakhands in military and the Khivakhands became at last the dependency of Russian Empire in the later half of the 19th century[2]. There are also many scientific works of researchers about The Great Silk Road's importance

in the social economic life of states, countries, khanates, kingdoms, empires etc. For instance, Hopkirk (1994) "The great game: The struggle for empire in Central Asia" [3], T. Jonathan (2003) "The Silk Road: art and history" [4] researched about The Great Silk Road and analyzed its strength, weakness and opportunities to the states which is located in this road. One of the ancient source for studying this historic case is a book named "A ride to Khiva: travels and adventures in Central Asia" [5] written by Fred Burnaby and "A Narrative of the Russian Military Expedition to Khiva, Under General Perofskiy" by Perovskiy and Graf Vasiliy Aleksieievich[6] presented in their books with the real facts and cases social life in the Silk Road city Khiva. Wood (2002) in his book of "The Silk Road: two thousand years in the heart of Asia" mentioned Khiva as a one of the famous Silk Road cites.[7] Although it was not always safe to go to other countries from Khiva, various caravans with different goods still traveled on different sides. Munis mentioned one of the caravans: "Two hundred traders from Khorezm set out with a large caravan, which was rich in precious goods in 1219 AH (1804-1805). The caravan, which made the road from Marh to Mashhad and took steps in the province of Serah, was subjected to the aggression of Turkmen tribes living in the sandy lands." [8]

At the beginning of the XIX century as a result of the centralization of power in the Khiva khanate, created conditions for the development of interior and foreign trade. The Khanate of Khiva was very successful in its trade. That is why Khan Muhammad allowed Turkmen to buy grain from Khiva, and the Turkmen pledged to ensure that the Khiva caravans passed through Turkmen territory safely and soundly. During this period, we can observe revitalizing in the direction of the Great Silk Road through Khorezm region. Merchants from the far and near abroad could place their goods in Khiva Inn on the caravan route. They brought various goods and sold some of them in Khiva markets. Traders came from Khiva, Iran, Arabia, India, Turkey, Iraq and Russia, and the trade grew considerably. Silk, tobacco, carpet from Bukhara khanate; copper, kerosene, amirkant's boots, locks

from Russia; carpets and carpets thick felts from Turkmen and Kazan were sold while brass

knives, copper jugs, embroidery columns and doors from Khiva khanate were put up for sale [9]. In addition, wolf and fox fur, cattle skin were imported to Khiva's markets from the Kazakh khanate, including wolves and fox fur, animal skins, and carpets and pedigreed horses from Turkmen. From the nearby districts, harsh skins, cotton yarn, and leather were brought.

In the economic life of the Khiva khanate, the market played an important role. let's talk about the markets during the khanate period. Khiva market was overlaid

and there were two streets filled with a series of workshops and shops. As a result of centralization of the Khiva khanate, conditions had been created for the development of interior and foreign trade. The previous small market was no longer able to satisfy the needs and demand of the population, so in the 1930s, the market area was expanded considerably. The lake on the east side of the city was dried up. The population of Khiva had been working for fortyfive days to fill the lake with the earth, and finally, a new commercial counter was built here. Because of the location of the marketplace, it was levied a special tax called "tagjoy", which was also found in the nineteenth century.

Caravan palace, one of the main markets of the Khiva khanate, was built by Alloqulihan in 1835. This caravan palace was designed to receive caravans from

outside. Both its gates: the western and eastern gates, allowed the carriage to be freely enter to and exit the caravan palace. The caravanpalace was entered through the gate through the south towards the trade house. The commercial house has two floors and consists of 105 rooms. The lower floor was a trading bloc for merchants, and the upper floor was a hotel.

Foreign merchants leased a room for a few years, based on the requirements of that time. Caravans who were in constant motion supplied these merchants with products. The caravan palace has a special booth, and merchants were taxed. Also, there was a special currency exchange office "Sarraf" where a merchant cabinet was set up to assess imported product by merchants. Some of the funds from the caravan palace and the palace markets were spent on providing the Olloklikhan madrassah library. [10]

We can also find information about caravan palace and Khiva markets in the works of A.Sadikov. The author wrote about Khiva markets: "Trade and handicrafts were specialized. Including, pilla market, cotton and cotton seed market, and tobacco market, sesame market, grain market, rice market, grocery



market, bread market, candlestick market, barber market and so on[11]. Most markets were located in a large area and in the central streets, which were always crowded with customers.

In addition, in the first half of the XIX century, there was a slavery market in Khiva. Witnesses said that it was possible to see men, women, and children who

were sold at the end of the Caravan palace. [12] We can find out about this in the book *Safornomay Khorezm*, by Rizoqlihan Hidayat, who was sent to Khorezm by Iranian ruler Muhammadshah Kogor in 1851. The author wrote: "...The Shia women in the grip of captivity were shown to customers as their face open in the slave market. [13] At that time, along the caravan routes thousands of captives from neighboring countries were sold in slave markets. Historical evidence suggests that slave labor was used as an assistant in household and fieldwork.

Many slaves later married local girls and lived there. Various goods were brought to Khiva market. Goods of the craftsmen, including the small producers of the

surrounding villages, as well as the farmers and cattlebreeders had a great place in the market. The goods sold in the Khiva market were primarily intended for most urban and nearby villages. Some goods were tailored to the taste of wealthy people, including the products of leading masters of production, including yarn and silk fabrics, cotton and silk, which were brought to outside of the khanate and sold out.

Merchants from Khiva transported goods through the Great Silk Road to Iran, Afghanistan, India and other countries. Wholesale sales had played a major role in

trade with foreign countries, where retail trade played a major role in domestic markets. Wholesale sales were mainly concentrated in NewUrgench, Khiva,

Khojaeli and other cities, where traders came from other cities to purchase Russian and other foreign goods.

In the 80s of the 19th century, there were 35 major markets in Khiva Khanate, where traders and sellers from other khanates came. There are about 400 shops in Khiva, 400 in Khazar, 300 in Khiva, 300 in Urgench, 330 in Dashoguz, 315 in Kungrad, 100 in Kunya Urgench, 34 in Shovot and Shahramaz. More than 2,000 shops had sold farming and livestock products, as well as handicraft products, foreign factories and industries. [14]

The largest commercial center in the khanate was the new Urgench city. There were rich Khiva

merchants here. They traded with neighboring countries: Russia,

Bukhara, Afghanistan and Iran. Khiva and Kungrad merchants also played a significant role in interior and foreign trade.

From the 16th century trade between Khiva khanate and Russia developed, and we can see significant growth in tradeeconomic relations in the XIX century. Most Khiva merchants have sold their goods through Russia to the Nizhny Novgorod fair and to other places. For example, in 1880, 7 of the Khiva's biggest traders went to Russia with a total of 9900 poods of cotton, 1210 poods of cattle and 240 poods

of crafts. [15]

In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the Khiva Khanate, along with Russia, through trade routes of Kazakhs and Karakalpakstan, Turkestan and Bukhara

in Petro Alexandrovsk which was on the right bank of the Amu Darya River, carried out trade activities with Iran, Turkey, the Caucasus, and even Germany,

the United States, England. Intestine of sheep and goats were sold for surgical procedures to Germany and the United States. Cow fat, butter were sold to the countries of the Caucasus; animal skin, carpets and other goods were sold to Turkey, China and other countries, and important goods and other things

which were needed were imported to khanate. Black and green tea, nylon dyes, England and Bukhara kerchief, UK and Kashgar scarves, precious horns, silk fabrics, velvet, fragments, silk, waistcoats, belts, cotton, silk rugs, carpets, cotton wool, ticket, mattress, mirrors, Karshi and Shakhrisabz tobacco, saddles, paper, porcelain, tea, cereals, nuts, herbs, almonds, pistachios and other goods were brought to Khiva khanate from the neighboring Bukhara khanate and sold.

By the end of the XIX century, sales of the Amu Darya were much cheaper than the caravan routes at the Khiva khanate, so waterways were developed. At the beginning of the XIX century, 90% of export and imported goods were made through the Amu Darya fleet. Only 10 percent of the goods were made by caravan routes. This was one of the factors that led to the decline of the Great Silk Road, which crosses the territory of Khiva Khanate in Central Asia.

CONCLUSION

The Khiva khanate made a free trade with all of its neighbors until the period of Russian occupation, and after the Gandimian agreement with



Russia its foreign trade rights were restricted. From January 1, 1895, traders from Khiva and other merchants traded on the Russian customs only, and traders had to pay customs duties to their customs officers. Traders who crossed the customs road illegally were declared smugglers and their property was confiscated. Since 1895, the borders of Iran and Afghanistan had been guarded by military guards confirmed by the Russian Foreign Ministry. Russia strengthened customs routes, limiting access of foreign goods entered to Khiva markets, and having an influence on Khiva's markets. Based on the above, we can determine the impact of the Great Silk Road on the socioeconomic development of the Khiva Khanate:

- a) Great Silk Road is a means of establishing important diplomatic relations between states;
- b) the proceeds from customs and market taxes will lead to an increase in economic performance in the khanate;
- c) the ability of local craftsmen, farmers and livestock suppliers to enter the world market;
- d) strengthening of migration and urbanization through the Great Silk Road;
- e) the exchange, improvement and coordination of cultures in the lifestyle and living conditions of the local population.

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