



# THE QUESTION OF KHIVA, THE ENGLISH-RUSSIAN RIVALRY

## (ON BASE OF STUDIES OF RUSSIAN AND FOREIGN SOURCES)

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### ABSTRACT

*This article deals with the problem of conquest in Khiva. It focuses on the invasion of the Khiva khanate by Russia and different attitudes and descriptions of the same event by local and Russian Orientalists, as well as British and American researchers due to the Anglo-Russian rivalry on the conquest issue of Central Asia.*

**KEYWORDS:** Khan (the state ruler in ancient Turkic countries, means king), Archive, colony (country or territory under the rule of a foreign state), colonization, Mission (a group of delegates sent to another country on a specific mission, permanent diplomatic representation of one state in a different country), zu-l-qada-(the old name of the lunar calendar; the Muslim calendar).

### DISCUSSION

The works of local historians on the history of the Khiva Khanate are based on the regularities of writing the history and provide an opportunity to read the true history. It is also known that the history of this state has been studied for many purposes by many Russian orientalists and foreign researchers. The writings of tourists, scholars, military and other representatives of Central Asia, including the Khiva khanate during the Qungurot Dynasty era, serve as the main source for studying the history, economy, socio-political and cultural life of the country at that time.

It is possible to mention the works of scientists and tourists such as N. Muravyov, M. Ivanov, L. Sobolev, L. Kostenko, A. Kun, N. Veselovsky, G. Danilevsky, D. Gladyshev, H. Vamberi, V. Velyaminov-Zernov, A. Kaulbars, A. Shile, E. Jelyabujsky, A. Samoylovich, Grishfeld among them.

The study of the political history, socio-economic relations, administrative and state structure of the Khiva khanate requires a comparative and analytical study of the work of the Russian Orientalists. The study of khanate history according

to Russian sources results in controversial thoughts. However, local sources say the opposite.

Especially, in the works of G. Danilevskiy, N. Muravyov, A. Sobolev, N. Veselovskiy, Khiva's khan was described as under the influence of court officials, who had no independent opinion, had no administrative division in the khanate, and being busy with light-minded deeds. They said that the military-feudal system in the khanate was established.

The history of Khiva in the archives of historians Munis, Agahiy and Bayoniy's and in the archives of Khiva khanates witness that during the reign of Khiva khan Muhammad Rahimkhan I (1806-1825) administrative-territorial, financial, military and religious-enlightenment bases of public administration was created, which in its turn it was an important stage for the development of statehood in Khorezm.

Information about Khiva khanate, its ethnic composition, main occupations, peoples living in khanates and socio-political and cultural environment in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries can be found in the works of such authors as L. Kostenko, A. Kaulbars, A. Shile, E. Jelyabujsky, Grishfeld.



The researcher M. Matyakubova also mentioned it in her research. According to N. Zalesov and N.I.Veselowski, until the issue of captives from the Khiva khanate was resolved which was in the territory of Russia in 1836, there was an order to detain them there. On behalf of the Russian government, Perovsky sent a letter to the Khan of Khiva requesting the return of Russian prisoners to their lands, and stop plundering of Russian lands, and the creation of the equal conditions for Russian merchants in the khanate as local. But this request was not fulfilled. Khiva khanate's relations with Russia began to deteriorate. The main task of those who came to Khiva after Nikiforov, under the leadership of G.I. Danilevskiy was to improve relations between Khiva and Russia and to enter the internal policy of the khanate.

Britain has also not been overseas with regard to Central Asia as Russia it sent its spies to Central Asia. As H. Ravlinson, D.Ch. Boulger, C. Marvin, LN Courson mentioned in their works, England's policy towards Central Asian khanates, including the Khiva khanate, was not about to invade the khanate, but rather to fight for the protection of British colonies, India and Afghanistan, from Russian. But these words were conceived to convince the khanate. Because the British government, like the Russian Empire, was interested in the Khiva khanate and Central Asian khanates in general, and sent ambassadors, researchers and spies to explore the area.

It is known that the British colonial company "East India" sent spies to Central Asia. The first of these was A. A. Burns offered Allakulikhan an alliance against Russia, who visited him as an Armenian merchant in 1831-1832. He first tried to explore the Russian-Khiva border. But it was there that he was captured by the Russians and sent back to London. Thus his purpose was not fulfilled. In 1842, the second mission was sent to Khiva led by Abbot. He offered an alliance against Russia and promised to send troops to fight Russian troops. There is a great deal of information in the works of Khiva historians, Ogahiy and Bayoniy., Ogahi wrote the followings about Abbott's arrival in Khiva in his work of Riyazud-Davla: "On the fifteenth day of Zu'l-Qada, in the year 1255/1839-1840, the English ambassador Abbot from India came to the door of khanate."

Regarding this, according to Bayoniy, Abbot told to the khan Allaqulikhan almighty of Khiva that : "The Russians... will conquer your province fifty years later. If you want, keep your region in hand and let no one be the owner of it, give it to us in written form. The word that 'Khorezm is an English land 'will be a threat for enemies, and then you will be saved. Our words to you are not in vain, but in

friendship, because our fury is blocking the Indian route to Russia. It will be of benefit to you, and it will not harm you, we are ready to accept all of your conditions." But these attempts by Abbot failed. The khan of Khiva Allaqulikhan strongly rejected his offer and replied: "Alas, it has not come to us. No one knows what will or not happen after fifty years. Today, we are not going to give our country as a gift for you for the thought of uncertain fate that will be on for fifty years, we will never leave our country for you. Let those who are next to us do it if they want to."

It is worth noting that at the time of the Russian invasion of Central Asian khanates, Britain was busy with the strike of the Afghan people and, as a result, failed to focus on Khiva.

The invasion of the Khiva khanate by Russia is not only discussed in the works of Russian Orientalists, but also in the data of many British and American researchers due to the Anglo-Russian rivalry on the issue of Central Asia. In particular, the data by historians and military officials who lived in the late nineteenth century A.Y. Mac. Gahan and L.Crader, S.Bekker, R.Pirs in the 60<sup>th</sup> of XX century.

The works and memoirs of A. Kun and A. Samoilovich are of particular importance. After the Gandemian truce was established between the Khiva khanate and the Russian Empire in 1873, it was commissioned by Alexander Kun, senior adviser to the governor of Turkestan, to preserve material and cultural values in the Khiva Khanate Library, including rare historical, artistic, ethical, and scientific works. It is said that the heritage was taken to Russia, specifically to St. Petersburg. In his "Walking to the Khiva Khan", A. Kun gives a list of rare items taken from Khiva and shows that Oriental manuscripts and documents were sent to the Petersburg museums.

From the scientific activity of M. Yuldashev and P. Ivanov, it was found out that, a piece of archives of the Central Asian khanates were found, they were part of the archive documents of the khan taken to Russia, and the cultural development of the khanate was continued. A. Kun wrote that there were 300 books of eastern manuscripts and documents, including 129 books consisting of 140 volumes of historical works, including 30 volumes of 20 authors' handwritings by Nizami Ganjavi, "History of Vassifi", "Iskandarnoma" and "Masnavi manaviy" by Jaloliddin Rumi., "Hamsa" by Navoi, "Qisas ul-anbiya" by Rabghuzi, "Commentaries to Karan", "Ravzat us-safo", "Dastaan about Qosim and Gorgo'ghli", "Shajarai Turk"(Turkic Chronology) by Abulgazikhan and other works in Arabic, Persian and Uzbek. The heritage consisting of 40 literary works in



50 volumes on jurisprudence and theology, 18 copies of holy Karan, and 90 course books, was sent to the Royal Library of Emperor.

For this reason, the works of P. Ivanov and M. Yuldashev are valuable because they contain information on the history and fate of rare archives and manuscripts in the Khiva khanate. The archives of the Khiva khanate stopped studying the history of the khanate's Qunghurot dynasty's based solely on the memories and other information of the ambassadors and tourists, and helped researchers understand the historical process by comparing and contrastive study of historical processes. This archival information indicates that the calculations were made exactly true with the socioeconomic status of the khanate, state structure, military potential, traditions, palace costs, and minor expenses.

Along with the English, American journalist Arthur Yanuarius Mac Gahan focuses on Khiva-Russia relations. He was a member of the Russian army to take part in the Russian military campaign against the Khanate and detailed in his diary of the Khiva mission. It is also known that Mac Gahan, who arrived in Khiva, toured the city and admired its architecture.

By referring to the 18 article treaty between Khiva and Russia in Gandemian village, Mukhammad Rakhimkhan was deprived of the right of direct contact and military action with foreign countries, even though becoming the colony of it and performer of each order of Russian Empire. Land on the right bank of the Amu Darya river was for Russia. The facts on how to pay the compensation worth two million and two hundred thousand sums were clearly provided.

According to the archive data by A.N.Samoylovich, there were libraries in Khanate and other libraries in Khiva, their composition, structure, and since 1873, the libraries were enriched by manuscripts of the most valuable works, published abroad, the scientist wrote that he was in Prince Isfandiyar and Islamkhoja libraries during his visit to the khanate, and Mukhammad Rahimkhan II Feruz sponsored printing and early publications by creative people in Khiva. Indeed, before the Russian invasion, the khan ate had a large palace library with several rare books and a. This was also mentioned by A.A. Mac Gahan.

American journalist Mac Gahan, a historic witness who witnessed the plundering of Khiva treasure, described the treasure trove of the Khiva Khan's Palace, giving information about the unique items and their desolation. He also reported the scattered manuscripts and their removal, including military items: "Most of the books were marvelous and expensive, all of them are

handwritings, some of them were inscripted very skillfully, with leather covers. One of them is world history and another is from the ancient history of Khiva [a book that tells the story]. They were all sent to the Imperial Public Library in St. Petersburg."

The English government continued its activity even after the Khiva Khanate was transformed into a protectorate of the Russian Empire. The mission, led by Colonel V. Becker, arrived in Turkestan and collected military-political material along the way. The main objective was to gather military force against Russia of the Turkmen who had suffered from Russian troops, and make them join the British army against Russia. However, making this alliance was not easy. According to the English historians H. Marvin and D.H. Bowger, the task of uniting the Turkmen tribes against Russia was to organize the war against the Khiva khan, and the British captain Nepir was responsible to it. However, these plans also failed. It is clear that the British government attempted to colonize Central Asia and the Khiva Khanate and continued it until the end of the 19th century.

In addition to the aforementioned scholars on the history of Central Asia, including the Khiva Khanate, several works by foreign scholars can be mentioned. The thematic works of such scholars as Max McGahan, Yu.Bregel, M. Alworth, S. Becker and J. Wheeler are among them. The works of foreign researchers contain excerpts of the history of the Khiva khanate, the cultural background of this period, the history of books and libraries in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

It is well known that libraries in Central Asia existed from ancient times. Libraries existed in palaces of kings, sultans and caliphs, in major scientific and cultural centers and educational institutions. We know libraries of the Samanids in Samarkand and Bukhara, the Ghaznians in Urgench, the Temurids and Shaibani, and the rulers of Central Asia in the XVII-XX centuries. Usually, libraries are part of the wealth and treasure of the state. However, there is not enough information about the formation, organization, management, operation and financing of books in the science.

Today, we know that the researchers are studying the libraries of Muhammad-Porso, Sheikhs of Djujbor, Dukchi ishan, General Jurabek, Muhammad Sharifjon Sadri Ziyo, Judge Inoyatullah, Judge Burhonuddin, V. Vyatkin, Abdurauf Fitrat, Behbudi, and A.Semenov.

Although the content of the works of the 19<sup>th</sup> century European researchers was largely in colonialistic nature, they covered the political, socio-economic, administrative and cultural life in the khanate. At the beginning of the XX-XXI century in



Europe and the USA there was a large number of research institutes and societies specialized in research of Central Asia. As a result, new publications covering the history of the khanate, culture, architectural monuments, people's living conditions here, government documents in the khanate, including khan's labels, court documents.

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