



THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COTTON MONOPOLY OF THE RUSSIAN EMPIRE IN TURKESTAN AND ITS CONSEQUENCES (ON THE EXAMPLE OF FERGHANA REGION)

Erkaev Ergashali Maxsudovich

Candidate of Historical Sciences (PhD), Senior Lecturer at the Department of "History of Uzbekistan" of Andizhan State University, Andizhan, Republic of Uzbekistan

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ABSTRACT

The article shows on the basis of archive and other documentary materials, actions of Russian empire on providing central textile factories by cheap cotton and raw materials at the beginning of XX century that negatively reflected in social-economic life of people in Turkestan.

KEY WORDS: *Establishment, Russian empire, Turkestan, Ferghana region, cotton monopoly, raw materials, social-economic life.*

INTRODUCTION

As the Russian Empire strengthened its position in Turkestan, the nature of economic relations between the metropolis and the colony also began to change. The supply of raw cotton to the growing Russian textile industry was especially important. In addition, the civil war that began in North America in the early 1960s reduced the import of American cotton to Russia, the number of existing weaving mills in the metropolis fell from 659 to 338, increased unemployment, increased social tensions - all this required a faster increase in raw cotton in Turkestan. However, before the Russian invasion, several local varieties of cotton were grown here, such as mala cotton, red cotton, jaydari, and sozana, while in Tashkent and Fergana more local textile and handicraft cotton was grown collected by cotton bowls and separated by hand [1, p.17].

METHODS OF RESEARCH

Most of the local cotton varieties could not meet the requirements of the textile industry in terms of their low yield, fiber shortness, quality, and could not compete with the "American" variety of cotton fiber. Therefore, the Russian government and investors interested in buying cotton have begun work in Turkestan to create varieties that can

compete with imported cotton. The service of the breeder N.N. Raevsky in this area is great. In 1878, "American" cotton was planted in Andizhan, Namangan, Kokand and Margilan, and the harvest was sent to the owners of the Moscow textile industry for evaluation. However, this variety has a low yield, although the fiber is long.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

In 1875-1890, "Sea-Island" and "Upland" cotton varieties were imported from America and seeds were distributed free of charge to farmers. In addition, tax exemptions have been granted for land planted with American cotton. The price of this variety of cotton is also high, in the market in the Ferghana region 1 pud* cotton in 1898 - 1 soum 50 tiyin - 1 soum 80 tiyin, in 1905 - 3 soums 33 tiyin, in 1910 - 4 soums 45 tiyin, in 1916 - 8 soums 50 tiyin and in 1917 - bought for 33 soums [2, p.120]. As a result of the increase in income from cotton, special attention has been paid to the improvement of cotton varieties. B.Shokhnazarov, G.Dinin, G.Mikhaylovsky, R.R.Shreder, A.Ya. Mukhina, B.A.Navrotsky worked effectively in it on selection of cotton and development and introduction of new varieties of cotton, introduction of use of mineral



fertilizers. In particular, the varieties “Navrotsky”, “Triumph Navrotskogo” gave great results [3, p.162].

The development of cotton growing and the income from it hastened the industrial owners, traders, and officials. Everyone who had money sought to establish cotton plantations and increase their wealth. As a result, several Russian plantations began to appear. In Fergana region, Russian cotton plantations grew cotton on 500 desyatinas* of land, of which 100 desiatinas were in Namangan, 280 desyatinas in Andizhan, 40 desyatinas in Kokand, and 80 desyatinas in Margilan. “American” varieties

of cotton gave good results in Turkestan. Therefore, these high-yielding and fast-ripening varieties began to squeeze out local cotton varieties. In Fergana region, 31% of the total irrigated land is planted with American cotton [4, p.54].

In the Ferghana region for 12 years the area under cotton increased from 34,669 desyatinas in 1888 to 186,326 desyatinas in 1900. In turn, due to the increase in the amount of cotton, in 1896 in the Ferghana region, which became a major cotton deposit, more than 8.5 million pounds of “American” and local cotton varieties were harvested [1, p.24].

Counties	Lands planted with American cotton	Lands planted with local cotton	Yield from “American” cotton	Yield from local cotton variety
	(At the expense of Desyatinas)	(At the expense of Desyatinas)	(At the expense of Pud)	(At the expense of Pud))
Margilan	70180	5753	3509200	64475
Kokand	13090	6520	846950	252160
Andizhan	47130	870	2121720	33060
Osh	2448	355	103974	6922
Namangan	22790	1348	1414171	48900

In 1906, in connection with the launch of the Tashkent-Orenburg railway, grain began to be imported from Russia to Turkestan. The expansion of the railway network made it cheaper and easier to transport cotton to the central regions of Russia. There were two different views across the government on the development of cotton growing. Proponents of the first view suggested that the increase in cotton production on irrigated lands should be at the expense of reducing the area under wheat and other crops. Doing so would benefit not only Turkestan cotton but also Russian grain from the country, freeing it from dependence on imported cotton (mainly from the United States) and saving large sums of money.

“Every pound of Turkestan grain” the government document stated, “is a rival to grain grown in Russia, and every pound of surplus cotton is a rival to American cotton” [5, p. 88]. The goal is that if more grain is grown in the country, the amount of cotton will decrease, and the amount of grain will increase, leaving no need for Russian grain. As a result, Russia will suffer double damage.

Proponents of the second view suggested that cotton should be grown at the expense of new

lands. But this proposal was almost ignored as it required a lot of money.

In the 90s of the XIX century in the Fergana region “Iran and Central Asia trade and industry”, L. Knop, Alekseev, Poznansky, Yaroslav I manufactory, Panfin, Arens and Comp, Saliev, Shvetsov, Schmidt and Comp, Sobin, N. Konshin, T.S. Morozov and other firms were engaged in the sale of cotton.

Turkestan cotton accounted for 8% of the cotton used in the Russian textile industry in 1890, 33% in 1900, 43% in 1910, 58% in 1914, and 72% in 1916. More than half of the cotton exported to Russia is grown in the Ferghana region. For example, out of 14.6 million pounds of cotton in 1915, 9.5 million pounds, or 65%, were provided by this province [2, p. 134]. The textile industry accounted for 27.3% of the total industrial output in Russia. The textile industry produced goods worth 350 million soums in 1900, 610 million soums in 1903 and 900 million soums in 1913. Due to cotton fiber grown in Turkestan [8, p. 220].

The table below shows that the area under cotton in Ferghana has changed over 30 years (as a percentage) [4, p.54].

Plants	1886	1905	1915
Cotton	14	17	44
Wheat	26	47	27
Corn	22	16	11
The clover	15	8	8
Rice	16	8	7
Other plants	7	4	3



It can be seen from the data that the area of cotton in the region has expanded due to the area of other crops.

Specialization in cotton products, in turn, had a negative impact on the development of grain and livestock. According to a 1908 report on the Fergana region, local livestock began to suffer as a result of the desire to develop cotton growing. Livestock in the region began to be squeezed to such an extent (by cotton) that, as a result, the issue of self-sufficiency of the local population in meat and other livestock products remained unresolved. As a result, the Fergana region alone would have to move 150,000 head of livestock annually from neighboring Semireche.

All the hardships of growing cotton in the country were the responsibility of ordinary farmers. Usually in the early spring, a farmer who spent all his money on food and clothing would sign a contract to borrow money from a company that bought cotton for plowing, buying seeds, and planting. The obligation of indebtedness is certified by the seal of the judge of each place. In most cases, 50 percent of the money is paid in early spring, and the rest in mid-summer or after the cotton harvest. According to the loan document, each farm was required to hand over its produce only to the person who lent the money. In the early twentieth century, flour, grain, tea, cloth, and other things began to be given instead of money. This made the cotton growers even more homeless. Because in the early spring the price of the goods shown would increase 3-4 times, and the lenders would sell the industrial and food goods at the same market price to the cotton farmers [6, p. 111].

Typically, banks gave money to firms with a profit of 8-9%, while firms transferred this money to the "cleaner" at a rate of 12-16%. The Chistachi, on the other hand, transferred a portion of the money to the cotton-growers in favor of 40-50%, and the rest to the charioteers on the condition of giving 25-40% profit [7, p.4]. If he could not pay the debt that year, the debt was transferred to the next year at a higher interest rate.

In Turkestan, especially in the Fergana Valley, where 80-85% of arable land is specialized in cotton, there is a shortage of food and fodder. This had a negative impact on the lifestyle of the cotton growers. Poor peasants began to sell their land cheaply. For example, in Margilan district, farmers were forced to sell their land for 300-500 soums to get out of debt, with an average of 950-990 soums per tenth of land [1, p. 36].

The masses of cotton-growers and peasants also suffered from the weight of various taxes and duties. There are reports that the debt of cotton growers has increased in the early twentieth century. According to them, in 1912 cotton growers owed a total of 156,712 thousand soums from public and

private banks. Of this, 80,979 thousand soums (51%) belonged to the Fergana region. Between 1901 and 1912, farmers in the Fergana region were issued 43,656 writs of execution to repay their debts [2, p.130]. In 1900-1905, land was sold in the Fergana Valley for 19,067 soums, in 1905-1908 for 90, 585 soums and in 1909-1912 for 372,616 soums, and the number of landless and poor peasants increased year by year [8, p. 229].

The poor grain harvest in Turkestan in 1916 and the drought in the spring of 1917 caused great difficulties for the peasants, who were suffering during the war. By 1917, the price of 1 pound of grain had risen from 25 soums to 81 soums [7, p.41-42].

On October 15, 1914, the emperor issued a decree imposing a "military tax" of 2 soums 50 tiyin on each pound of cotton. The "military tax" has reduced 30-40 million soums to the government's treasury, making the situation of cotton growers unbearable. Peasants, deprived of their husbands and property in order to pay off their debts, worked on the lands of the rich.

CONCLUSION

Chorikor was forced to pay three-fifths of the harvest if he borrowed money for work animals, seeds, farm implements, along with land. The daily wage of a quartermaster did not exceed 9 shillings. This income was obtained only when 9 quintals of crops were grown from one tenth of the land. However, the cotton yield was often below the indicated amount. As a result, the chorikors became more indebted and their farms became poorer. At that time, landless farms accounted for 40 percent in some parts of the country and homeless farms for 25 percent [1, p. 37]. The Russian government has made Turkestan not only a source of raw cotton, but also a market for finished products. The development of cotton growing in the colonial environment did more harm than good to the Uzbek people.

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1 pud = weight measurement equal to 16.32 kg
1 desyatina = unit of measurement equal to 1.09