
ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION OF TASHKENT IN THE LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURIES: A TALE OF TRANSITION AND INTEGRATION

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ABSTRACT: This article provides a comprehensive analysis of the economic relations of the city of Tashkent in Turkistan during the second half of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century. It examines the multifaceted processes that shaped Tashkent's economic landscape during this transformative period, including Russian imperial expansion, industrialization, global trade, and cultural exchange. The research reveals how the Russian conquest of Tashkent facilitated the city's integration into the wider imperial economy, leading to the export of Central Asian commodities and the establishment of transportation and trade networks. Furthermore, the emergence of industrial enterprises and urbanization transformed Tashkent into a dynamic urban center, while its historical role as a hub of trade and cultural exchange along the Silk Road continued to influence its economic relations. The study underscores the enduring significance of this period in shaping Tashkent's economic trajectory and its enduring ties to regional and global markets.

KEYWORDS: Tashkent, Turkistan, Russian Empire, Economic transformation, Industrialization, Global trade, Silk Road.

INTRODUCTION

The second half of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century marked a period of profound economic transformation for the city of Tashkent in Turkistan. Situated at the crossroads of Central Asia, Tashkent experienced significant changes in its economic relations, driven by the forces of colonialism, industrialization, and global trade. This article aims to explore the economic dynamics of Tashkent during this pivotal period, shedding light on the city's integration into global networks, the impact of Russian imperial rule, and the evolving patterns of trade and commerce.

Historical Context

Tashkent, the capital of present-day Uzbekistan, has a rich history as a center of trade and cultural exchange along the ancient Silk Road. However, the late 19th century witnessed a seismic shift in the city's economic landscape, as it came under the control of the Russian Empire following the

Great Game, a geopolitical struggle between the Russian and British empires for influence in Central Asia. The Russian conquest of Tashkent in 1865 marked the beginning of a new era in the city's economic development, as it became a pivotal hub in Russia's imperial ambitions to access the markets of Central and South Asia.

Colonial Economic Integration

The Russian conquest of Tashkent brought about significant changes in the city's economy. The construction of the Trans-Caspian Railway in the 1880s connected Tashkent to the Russian heartland, facilitating the movement of goods and people and integrating the city into the wider imperial economy. This infrastructure investment transformed Tashkent into a key node in Russia's transportation network, enabling the export of raw materials such as cotton, silk, and wool from Central Asia to the industrial centers of the Russian Empire.

Moreover, the imposition of Russian administrative structures and legal systems had a profound impact on Tashkent's economic relations. The introduction of new taxes, land reforms, and the establishment of state-controlled financial institutions reshaped the city's economic landscape, creating new opportunities for Russian and European merchants and industrialists to invest in Tashkent's burgeoning markets. The city's traditional bazaars and trade networks became increasingly integrated into the wider imperial economy, leading to the commodification of local goods and the emergence of new patterns of consumption.

Industrialization and Urbanization

The late 19th and early 20th centuries also witnessed the beginnings of industrialization and urbanization in Tashkent. The establishment of textile mills, breweries, and other manufacturing enterprises led to the growth of an urban proletariat, as rural migrants flocked to the city in search of employment opportunities. This influx of labor transformed Tashkent into a dynamic urban center, characterized by a diverse population and a rapidly expanding built environment.

The rise of industrial capitalism in Tashkent brought about significant social and economic changes. The city's traditional craft industries, such as carpet weaving and pottery making, faced competition from mechanized factories, leading to the decline of artisanal production and the proletarianization of labor. At the same time, the urban landscape of Tashkent underwent radical transformation, as new residential neighborhoods, commercial districts, and public infrastructure emerged to accommodate the needs of a growing population.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

To investigate the economic relations of the city of Tashkent in Turkistan during the second half of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century, a multi-faceted research methodology is proposed, comprising historical analysis, archival research, and interdisciplinary approaches.

1. Historical Analysis: A comprehensive review of existing historical literature on Tashkent's economic history will form the foundation of the research. This will involve examining scholarly works, primary sources, and secondary accounts to gain a nuanced understanding of the economic dynamics, trade patterns, and urban development of Tashkent during the specified period.

2. Archival Research: Accessing archival materials from repositories such as the State Archive of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Russian State Archive of the Economy, and other relevant archives will be crucial for gathering primary sources, including official documents, statistical records, correspondence, and economic reports. These archival sources will provide firsthand insights into the policies, trade networks, and economic activities that shaped Tashkent's economic relations.

3. Interdisciplinary Approaches: Given the interdisciplinary nature of the research topic, interdisciplinary approaches will be employed, drawing on insights from economic history, urban studies, cultural anthropology, and political economy. This will facilitate a comprehensive analysis of Tashkent's economic relations within the broader contexts of colonialism, industrialization, global trade, and cultural exchange.

4. Comparative Analysis: A comparative analysis of Tashkent's economic development with other contemporary urban centers in Central Asia and neighboring regions will be conducted to contextualize the city's economic relations within a broader geopolitical and economic framework.

5. Interviews and Oral Histories: Where possible, interviews with local historians, scholars, and community members with knowledge of Tashkent's economic history will be conducted to gain firsthand perspectives and insights that may not be captured in written records.

By employing a combination of these research methodologies, this study aims to offer a comprehensive and nuanced analysis of the economic relations of Tashkent during the late 19th and early 20th centuries, shedding light on the city's economic transformation within the broader context of global historical developments.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The economic relations of the city of Tashkent in Turkistan during the second half of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century were profoundly shaped by a confluence of factors, including Russian imperial expansion, industrialization, global trade, and cultural exchange. The research findings reveal the multifaceted nature of Tashkent's economic transformation during this period, shedding light on the city's integration into broader geopolitical and economic networks.

Russian Imperial Influence: The Russian conquest of Tashkent and subsequent imposition of administrative and legal structures had a significant impact on the city's economic relations. Russian control facilitated the integration of Tashkent into the wider imperial economy, enabling the export of Central Asian raw materials to the industrial centers of the Russian Empire. The construction of the Trans-Caspian Railway and the establishment of state-controlled financial institutions further facilitated this integration, transforming Tashkent into a pivotal hub in Russia's transportation and trade networks.

Industrialization and Urbanization: The rise of industrial capitalism in Tashkent led to the emergence of manufacturing enterprises, urban labor markets, and a diverse population. The city's traditional craft industries faced competition from mechanized factories, leading to the

proletarianization of labor and the transformation of Tashkent into a dynamic urban center. The influx of rural migrants fueled urbanization, leading to the expansion of residential neighborhoods, commercial districts, and public infrastructure.

Global Trade and Cultural Exchange: Tashkent's economic relations were also shaped by its historical role as a center of trade and cultural exchange along the Silk Road. The city's traditional bazaars and trade networks became increasingly integrated into global trade routes, leading to the commodification of local goods and the emergence of new patterns of consumption. Furthermore, Tashkent's economic transformation was accompanied by the assimilation of Russian and European commercial practices, contributing to the cosmopolitan character of the city's economic landscape.

Overall, the economic relations of Tashkent in the late 19th and early 20th centuries reflect a complex interplay of colonial, industrial, and global forces, underscoring the city's role as a key node in the economic and cultural networks of Central Asia. This period of economic transformation laid the foundation for Tashkent's continued evolution as a vibrant economic center with enduring ties to regional and global markets.

In conclusion, the economic relations of the city of Tashkent in Turkistan during the second half of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century were marked by a series of transformative processes that reshaped the city's economic landscape. The integration of Tashkent into the Russian Empire's imperial economy, the rise of industrial capitalism, and the city's historical position as a center of trade and cultural exchange collectively contributed to the dynamic economic environment of Tashkent during this period.

The Russian conquest of Tashkent led to the city's incorporation into the wider imperial economic system, enabling the export of Central Asian raw materials and agricultural products to the industrial centers of the Russian Empire. The construction of the Trans-Caspian Railway and the establishment of financial institutions facilitated the flow of goods and capital, positioning Tashkent as a crucial hub in the region's transportation and trade networks.

The emergence of industrial enterprises and the influx of rural migrants fueled urbanization and the growth of a diverse urban proletariat, transforming Tashkent into a bustling urban center. This period also witnessed the commodification of local goods, the assimilation of Russian and European commercial practices, and the cosmopolitanization of the city's economic landscape.

Tashkent's historical role as a center of trade and cultural exchange along the Silk Road continued to influence its economic relations, as the city's traditional bazaars and trade networks became increasingly integrated into global trade routes, fostering new patterns of consumption and economic exchange.

The economic transformation of Tashkent during this period laid the foundation for its continued evolution as a vibrant economic center with enduring ties to regional and global markets, shaping the city's trajectory into the modern era. The historical dynamics of this period continue to resonate in the economic, social, and cultural fabric of Tashkent today, underscoring the enduring significance of its economic relations during the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

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