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**CONFERENCE ARTICLE**

## **From The History Of Bukhara-Iran Trade And Economic Relations**

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### **ABSTRACT**

Trade and economic relations between Bukhara Emirate and Iran have deep historical roots. Iran's favorable geographical location and natural conditions have contributed to the rapid development of trade and economic relations. Bukharans also contributed to the development of trade and economic relations and bilateral relations. In some cases, the unstable internal and external political situation affected the development of trade and economic relations between the two countries.

### **KEYWORDS**

Emirate of Bukhara, Iran, Marv, Khurasan, Mashhad, Herat, trade and economy.

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### **INTRODUCTION**

The trade and economic relations of the Bukhara Emirate with Iran have deep historical roots. The favorable geographical location and natural conditions of Iran contributed to the rapid development of trade and economic relations. However, after the great geographical discoveries and the emergence of sea trade routes, Iran and Central Asia remained isolated from world trade. Nevertheless, trade relations between Iran and the Central Asian khanates developed, but not as before.

During the period under review between the Emirate of Bukhara and Iran, "The trade of this city (Bukhara) with Iran was very small, the dangerous state of the roads, and the existing hostility between the two countries due to religious conflicts," writes A. Burns [1].

Central Asian trade caravans, including Khiva merchants who traveled long distances, brought cotton fabrics to the Caspian trade centers of Iran, including the markets of Shamakhi.[2] The merchant F. Kotov, who traveled to Iranian cities, also mentioned merchants from various countries who traded in Shamakhi, and even reported that there were caravanserais of Bukhara people there.[3]

The city of Astrabad was extremely important in trade and economic relations in the south and southeast of the Caspian Sea, including with the Khanate of Khiva. In this regard, this region has always been in the center of attention of the Russian government. In particular, the Russian government, which planned to build a road through the Gulf of Astrabad and the city not only to all the internal provinces of Iran, but also to Turkmenistan, Khiva, Bukhara, Afghanistan and India, and to turn Astrabad and Mashhad into a center of trade for the entire East, built a port, a market, a bakery, shops, warehouses for goods, residential buildings and other structures on the outskirts of the city in November 1781, with the consent of the Iranian Shah Agha Muhammad Khan[4]. In January 1783, local merchants, who had started a brisk trade, bought Russian goods and took them to Isfahan, Shiraz, Mashhad, Kandahar, Khiva and Bukhara for sale [5]. However, due to the subsequent policies of Agha Muhammad Khan, this trade did not last long. In the 1890s, the main flow of trade again shifted to the southwestern part of

the Caspian Sea. However, due to the subsequent policies of Agha Muhammad Khan, this trade did not last long. In the 1890s, the main flow of trade again shifted to the southwestern part of the Caspian Sea[6].

The city of Merv was a major center of trade between Central Asia and Iran, mediating economic relations between them. The author notes that "Indians, Persians, Bukharas, and Khivas came to Merv for trade," and emphasizes that this information is also typical of the trade of the city of Herat.[7]

The wheat grown in the Khanate (Emirate) of Bukhara differs from that grown in Europe and Iran. Its grains are smaller and not so white. As for the method of its cultivation, here, as in other places, first of all good land is required, and secondly, strong irrigation. Therefore, in the Khanate (Emirate) of Bukhara, according to my information, it is grown mainly in Miyankal. Because the proximity of the Zarafshan River and the lowlands and relatively fertile soils there make it possible. Everyone easily understands the importance of this part of the Khanate (Emirate). It not only provides the population of the Khanate (Emirate) with this product, but it also yields such a large crop that it is exported to Russia, especially to Mashhad [8].

The government levies no duties on goods exported from the country, but very small duties on goods imported into the country. Trade is almost completely free everywhere... [ 9 ].

Sheep breeding is mainly carried out by the Arabs in the Bukhara Khanate (Emirate), their sheep are of the same breed, and they are very fat, and their care must be connected with the means of their delivery and sale, and the owner of the sheep does not lose anything, the meat is sold for consumption, wool and skin, for the manufacture of products from the skin, and so on. In particular, if the lamb is young, its skin is skinned, and the gray skins are sent to Russia and especially to Iran as an important product. Sheep are sold in the market for 10 to 12 tanga, and one batman of mutton costs about 8 tanga, one batman of white sheep wool costs 12 gold, one black sheep wool costs 10 gold, a chakman made of sheepskin costs from 12 to 15 tanga, one fur coat costs 3 gold, an untanned gray sheepskin costs 4 and a half tanga, and a black one costs 3 tanga. It should be noted that we have listed

prices for the spring months. However, in summer and winter, prices double [10].

Three caravans a year come from Mashhad, sometimes four; the arrival of the caravans coincides with the winter season, because at the beginning of spring in Bukhara all the furs are sold at low prices, and the Iranian merchants, not wanting to miss this opportunity, buy them up quickly, since there is a constant demand for this raw material everywhere in Iran, and the goods imported consist of Iranian silk and paper products, for example, scarves, warm clothes, etc. The English goods consist of the following; silk, calico, and fine silk; original Iranian carpets, which they call Mashhad and Turkmen or Khorasan; turquoise, the best of which is sent to Russia. It is secretly imported into Bukhara: in this way, very small quantities of scarves are made, and in small quantities, belts are made for men and women throughout Iran, and instead of belts, they use scarves. The main exports from the emirate were small quantities of processed leather products, cotton paper, and milled rice, as these were difficult to sell in Iran [11].

Arabs own most of the land, have livestock grazing on the steppes, and are the main suppliers of the famous Karakol hides [12].

Among the animals of Bukhara, sheep and goats are the most important, because they are famous for their skins and wool, second only to the wool used in Kashmir. These animals feed on flowering thorny plants and dry grasses, and their meat is sweet and delicious [13]. The curly, dark black wool produced by this breed of sheep is used for making hats in Iran and is very expensive in other countries. These sheep are raised in the small district of Karakul, located between Bukhara and the Amu Darya [14].

Several Bukhara craftsmen perfectly prepare steel from iron and make wonderful knives without hooks. From broken thin swords brought from India, large knives of the best quality are made and cost from 1 to 3 gold. A Bukhara sword can be bought for 1 gold, while good Iranian swords are sold for ten times more [15].

My aim is not to give a complete picture of Iranian trade, but to focus mainly on its northern routes. However, it is also appropriate to briefly mention the main trade routes of the state. Trade relations between Russia and Iran were mainly carried out through the ports of the Caspian Sea. Russian goods were also delivered to Iran via routes east of this sea. For example, the city of Mashhad in Khorasan was supplied with many Russian products via Bukhara. Tabriz and Tehran received Russian goods via the Caucasus and Tbilisi [16].

Trade in precious stones is small with India and Iran. Turquoise is imported from Badakhshan. Aluminum and sulfur are mined near Samarkand, with the best aluminum being imported from Mashhad [17].

Russia mainly imported its goods to the northern regions of Iran. Among them was fine silk fabrics produced in Poland, which were in demand both in Bukhara and among Iranians. In this area, Russia could not fully compete, as it could not produce products of comparable quality [18].

Bukhara supplies cotton and silk fabrics, cloth, cloves, and rosary beads, as well as Russian goods to Iran, mainly to Mashhad and Herat. Bukhara imports powdered sugar through Iran, Afghanistan, and mainly through Peshawar. Turban fabrics, yellow belts, wooden combs, carpets, and turquoise are imported from these countries. This trade, which requires about 600 camels annually, is the most important for the Bukharas after trade with Russia and Kashgar [19].

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