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**CONFERENCE ARTICLE**

**RUSSIAN-BUKHARA TRADE RELATIONS**

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**ABSTRACT**

From the second half of the 19th century, Russia's role in the Bukhara Emirate's trade relations with foreign countries increased even more. In the markets of Russia and the Bukhara Emirate, demand for the products of the two countries was quite high, and trade and economic relations between the two countries grew several times. The cities of Bukhara, Samarkand, and Karshi were the main commercial centers of the Emirate's foreign trade relations. In the bazaars and caravanserais of these cities, it was possible to buy goods imported from Russia in large quantities. Russian products were also purchased at various prices in the markets of such cities as Hissar, Denau, Termez, Sherabad, Gijduvan, Shakhrisabz, Kitab, Guzar, Kattakurgan, Chardzhou, and Karki.

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**INTRODUCTION**

After ensuring the safety of caravan routes, trade relations between Bukhara and Russia developed significantly. As a result, 25-30 thousand camels carrying various trade goods were brought from Russia to Bukhara annually[1]. Additionally, French goods were considered the finest merchandise sold in the markets of Bukhara, with Russian and English products ranking in subsequent positions[2].

Yu Skyler, who visited the Bukhara Emirate in the second half of the 19th century, notes that Russian merchants sold various goods in the Bukhara markets. They also noted that they sold clothes made of calico, velvet, and brocade from Russian factories, as well as silk and cotton fabrics of various colors from Bukhara[3].

In the 19th century, the bazaars of Bukhara served as a kind of exchange for all trade centers of Central Asia. In Bukhara, considered the main trading city of the Bukhara Emirate, by the 1880s, active trade was carried out in about 60 caravanserais and more than 50 large and small markets. Most of these markets are located in the area from Labihovuz Square to Registan Square. The most famous covered markets were Toqi Sarrofon, Toqi Telpakfurushon, Toqi Zargaron, Toqi Allofon, and Toqi Tiringaron. These structures did not lose their significance in conducting active trade even in the 19th century[4]. For example, "In Toqi Zargaron alone, there were more than 30 jewelry shops and workshops, where various expensive jewelry items were made and sold"[5].

Bukharan merchants conducted independent active trade in the markets of such Russian cities as Orenburg, Moscow, Orsk, Troysk, Petropavlovsk, Astrakhan, Tyumen, Petersburg, and at the Ibrat and Nizhny Novgorod fairs. The Nizhny Novgorod Fair at the confluence of the Oka and Volga rivers served as a trading warehouse for goods imported from the Bukhara Emirate and Eastern countries. The fair was held annually in mid-July and lasted until August 20. At this fair, hundreds of types of products were brought from Bukhara, including yarn, silk, cotton, textiles, silk fabrics, clothing, precious stones, karakul pelts, various dyes, hand-printed fabrics, belts, rowan root (marina), wolf and fox skins, dried fruits, tea, carpets, and Kashmir porridge[6].

In the 1850s, the total volume of trade between Bukhara and Russia was estimated at 4 million rubles[7]. According to

sources, the prices of some goods transported from Bukhara to Russia were quite high. For example, in the 1850-60s, the price of a pood of cotton fabric in the local market was 1 ruble 25 kopecks, in Russian markets - 6 rubles, a pood of cotton yarn - 12 rubles, in the local market - 7 rubles 50 kopecks, in the local market - 48 kopecks, in Russian markets - 60 kopecks. Bukhara silk (pud) was sold at 120 rubles in the local market and 175 rubles in Russia. Bukhara silk was popular because its quality was much higher than silks grown in other regions. In Russia, there was a strong demand for Bukhara turquoise and lapis lazuli. While lapis lazuli was valued at 5 rubles in the local market, it was valued at 100 rubles in Russia, turquoise at 25 rubles in the local market, and 100 rubles in Russia[8].

P. Nebolsin, in his diaries, touching upon trade relations between the two countries, wrote that a caravan arriving in Bukhara from Russia first stopped at the "Nazarbay Gumbaz" caravanserai. After this, the head of the caravanserai informed the emir about which Russian city the caravan was coming from, the amount of customs duties collected on the roads, and how the tax collectors treated him, and asked him to send a zakat collector to the caravanserai. The tax collector sent by the Emir, taking into account the type of products brought in the caravan and their total quantity, recommended the caravan to enter the city of Bukhara. Upon entering the city, customs officers were permitted to register the number of camels in the caravan and the goods belonging to each merchant in the caravan, and to deliver the goods to the designated locations. Depending on the type and quantity of products, merchants rented shops in the caravanserai and paid rent of 5-6 tangas per month[9].

In 1868, an article about Bukharan merchants was published in the Russian press, in which it was noted that Bukharan merchants were reliable traders. The article describes Bukharan merchants as "open-hearted, cautious in their actions, conducting trade in accordance with the requirements of the established law, and honest people." It is also highlighted that in Russia no Bukharan merchant deceived anyone, but cases of mutual deception were frequent among Russian merchants, Bukharan merchants also lent large quantities of goods in Moscow, Nizhny Novgorod, and Ibrat, therefore they enjoyed great trust before Russian merchants and the Russian government[10].

According to the report of the head of the Orenburg border department, G.F. Gaines, the main part of Bukharan merchants engaged in trade in Russia consisted of clerks. (An orderly is a person acting on behalf of a Russian or Bukharan merchant.) They borrowed products from local merchants living in Bukhara and other neighboring khanates and conducted trade in Russian cities. Clerks gave 30% of the profits to local merchants. In foreign countries, they united into small teams of 5-10 people to support each other[11].

It can be seen that among the trade goods exported from the Bukhara Emirate to Russia, the share of silk and silk products was also high. N.F. Petrovsky writes that during 1862-1866, silk raw materials worth 393,479 rubles were exported from Bukhara through the Orenburg customs department, and from September 9, 1868, to June 1, 1869, 5,038 poods of silk and silk products were exported to Russia through the Kazalinsky district, totaling 1,072,819 rubles[12]. From September 1868 to September 1869, trade goods worth 4 million 193 thousand rubles were exported from Bukhara to Russia through the Kazal customs department. In 1869, the total trade turnover between Bukhara and Russia reached 11 million rubles[13].

The conquests carried out by the Russian Empire in Central Asia had a negative impact on the trade between Bukhara and Russia. This led to a sharp decrease in trade volumes. For example, in 1864, trade goods worth 6 million 868 thousand 343 rubles were exported from Bukhara to Russia, and in 1865 the trade turnover between the two countries fell to 3 million 454 thousand 319 rubles. In 1866, the total value of Russian trade goods exported from Bukhara amounted to 3 million 454 thousand rubles, and the value of goods imported from Russia to Bukhara amounted to 877 thousand rubles. From 1867, the volume of trade between the two countries gradually increased. In the same year, trade goods worth 6 million 215 thousand rubles were exported from the emirate to Russia, and goods worth 4 million 310 thousand rubles were imported from Russia[14].

From 1886, the Russian government entrusted control of trade between Bukhara and Russia to the Ministry of Finance. The Ministry will also be tasked with studying trade needs in Turkestan and Bukhara, improving and controlling customs activities. The Russian political agent in Bukhara, N.V. Charikov, noted that, thanks to the government's active trade policy in the emirate, since 1887, Bukhara has completely transformed into a Russian market, and also noted that trade goods from foreign countries practically ceased to enter here[15].

In the second half of the 19th century, the Bukhara Emirate continued intensive trade relations with Russia. During this period, the volume of trade expanded and increased several times. The Russian Empire also made efforts to turn the Bukhara Emirate into its raw materials market. The fact that Bukharan merchants were open-hearted, cautious in their actions, and conducted their trade in accordance with the requirements of the established law, and that they enjoyed great trust from Russian merchants and the Russian government, is highlighted in the Russian press, testifies to the rapid development of trade relations between the two countries.

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