

## **Establishment of Foreign Political Relations of the Bukhara Khanty during the Ashtarkhanis and Mangit Dynasties**

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**Abstract:** Historical studies testify that the development of Uzbek statehood was not smooth and that there were periods of triumph and crisis in its development. It is known to the world that the kingdom founded by the master Amir Temur was the largest and most powerful country. He left to his successors not only a powerful state but also the famous constitutions, which set out the rules for building a kingdom and governing the state. In particular, it states that "... let each of my children and descendants act according to it. ... They will use these rules as a guide in managing the affairs of their kingdom so that the state and the kingdom will be saved from the damage and decline that will reach them from me" [1:9]. However, his programs and wills were not fully followed. The political processes of the next period are clear proof of this.

**Keywords:** development, Khanate, kingdom, the Great Silk Road, military capabilities, trading company.

Unfortunately, until now, little attention has been paid to the study of the history of statehood in the past of our country and to the scientific generalization of its experiences. In the conditions of independence, great opportunities were created in this regard.

In particular, the Bukhara Khanate, which was established in the second half of the 16th century and occupied a special place in Central Asia until the beginning of the 20th century, has a special place in the development of its foreign relations with other countries. Abdulla Khan II, who founded a large centralized state, tried to develop relations with other khanates and countries to ensure the security of the country and develop trade. He paid particular attention to relations with countries that are geographically neighboring and located along the Great Silk Road [12:184].

Such countries include India, Iran, Russia, Astrakhan, Khajitarkhan, Kazan Khanates, Yorkand and Kashgar Khanates, Kazakh khanate, Khiva khanate, Ottoman Empire and many other countries. The relations of the Bukhara Khanate with Russia have been developing since the second half of the 16th century. While Abdulla Khan II was trying to improve trade relations with Russia, he also wanted to strengthen the political situation of his country. During the reign of Tsar Ivan the Terrible, the status of Russia rose, and the Khanate of Kazan, Khanate of Khajitarkhan, the Volga region and Western Siberia were occupied by Russia. This allowed Russia to control trade routes.

In their place, the above countries also tried to maintain friendly relations with the Khanate of Bukhara, which had a powerful military and political power in Central Asia from the second half of the 16th century. In addition, they were interested in the development of foreign relations through mutual trade.

Ambassador Antony Jenkinson, who visited Bukhara in the middle of the 16th century, testified that Bukhara was not only the political center of the country at that time but also the place where traders from different countries such as India, Iran, Balkh and China, who had large caravans,

came and went between them every year. it was also a trading city where mutual product exchange took place [12:184]. Because Bukhara is located at the crossroads of the Great Silk Road, where trade routes to Western countries such as the Kazakh Khanate, the Yorkand Khanate, China, India, Afghanistan and Russia intersected. Bukhara was considered another port city where the merchants of the Shaibani state, in addition to selling their products, met with merchants from other countries and exchanged products.

The 18th-20th century was a unique period in the system of foreign relations of the Bukhara Khanate, which is explained by the formation and development of the foreign relations of the Khanate in a unique way. During this period, the gradual development of foreign relations of the khanate continued in various forms. The representatives of various social classes living in the khanate played a major role in the establishment of diplomatic relations and trade and economic relations of Bukhara with neighboring and other foreign countries, as well as in their further development. In particular, it is possible to mention merchants, religious scholars and some representatives of the administrative management system.

Religious scholars, including representatives of the Naqshbandi Sufi order, took an active part in the political, economic, and cultural processes of the country, as it was during the Shaybani period and the Ashtarkhani rule. Their wide-scale activities within the country had an impact on the foreign relations of the khanate. This can be seen in the example of Khojabor Khojas and other religious scholars who worked in the khanate in the position of Shaykhul Islam. By the time of Abdullah Khan II, a prominent representative of the Shaibani dynasty, the role of other representatives of the Naqshbandi order in the khanate, the Khojas of Joybor, significantly increased. Now they have become important not only in the domestic political life of the country but also in foreign political relations. These representatives of religious scholars took an active part in foreign political relations carried out through letters. In particular, there is information that many letters were received from Khoja Islam, Khoja Saad, Khoja Tajiddin and others from different countries, including India, Khorasan, Iran, Turkey, Yorkand, Kashgar, Kazakh khanates [13:25].

Information about the participation of religious scholars in foreign relations is rare in the sources of the 18th and 19th centuries. This is characterized by the decline of the influence of religious scholars not only in foreign political relations but also in internal socio-political life. In addition, by this time, the Khanate of Bukhara was on the verge of political decline due to internecine wars and struggles for the throne. In this situation, the regions within the khanate claimed independence one after another and began to separate from the khanate. In particular, the Balkh region is one of them, and historian Muhammad Yusuf Munshi's work entitled "History of Muqimkhani" reflects on the activities of Ashtarkhani Muhammad Muqimkhan (1702 - 1707), who became the independent ruler of Balkh. The work details the political processes of the Bukhara Khanate and Balkh at the beginning of the 18th century [15:207]. In particular, the fact that a group of Khorasan Shiites ("redheads") sent letters and letters to Balkh and tried to mislead the Movarounnahr and Balkh Sunnis and convince them of the truth of their religion by using false information and fabrications taken from various religious books, Maulana Mulla It is stated that Umar Akhund, a religious scholar, wrote a reply on behalf of all Balkh Sunni religious scholars and gave worthy response to this action of Khorasan Shiites [14:221].

Another source belonging to the 19th century - "Tarihi Salatini Mangitiya" - writes that the author of the work, Najmuddin Khoja Mir Asad, was a trusted ambassador of Bukhara emir Muzaffar. From the information in the work, it can be known that Najmuddin Khoja performed an ambassadorial mission between the emir Muzaffar and the Russian governors Kaufman and Chernyaev [15:67-73].

Since the establishment of the Bukhara Khanate, it has had diplomatic and trade relations with Eastern countries, especially Iran, China, India, and the Ottoman Turkish Empire. In particular, during the reign of the Babur rulers Shah Jahan and Aurangzeb Alamgir, trade relations with the Ashtarkhanids continued, and during the reign of Amir Shahmurad, unique diplomatic and trade

relations were established with the countries of the East. Trade relations mainly with India and Afghanistan have developed rapidly. As a result, Bukhara received a large income from foreign trade [16:54]. There was no need for trade relations with China. Since Bukhara and Iran are in a state of war, trade relations between the two countries have become dangerous. In addition, Amir Shahmurad's foreign policy towards Iran and his negative attitude towards the Shiite sect did not allow trade between these two countries. Bukhara tried to establish diplomatic relations with Turkey on the issue of Iran, but it did not give the expected result.

Diplomatic and trade relations between the states of Bukhara and Afghanistan changed during the reign of Amir Shahmurad. There was a conflict between these two countries, which began with the founding of the Afghan kingdom by the Durranids. Taking advantage of the fact that Muhammad Rahimbi was busy with the policy of centralization in Bukhara, the Afghans organized many raids on the borders of the Bukhara state. Amir Shahmurad waged successful wars against the Afghan kingdom in 1787-1788. At that time, Temurshah Durrani (1772-1793) ruled Afghanistan. The struggle for the territory between them began in 1752 for the possession of Andkhoi, Shibirgan, Saripul and Akhcha regions on the right bank of the Amudarya, belonging to the state of Bukhara, conquered by Ahmadshah Durrani [17:35].

Amir Shahmurad won this battle and defeated the Afghans. Temurshah was forced to make peace with Amir Shahmurad in 1788. According to this truce, Afghanistan return the Andkhoi, Shibirgan, Saripul and Akhcha regions to Bukhara, and Amudarya will remain the border between the two countries. But in 1793, Amir Shahmurad, who took advantage of Temurshah Durrani's death, occupied the city of Balkh. The trade between Bukhara and Afghanistan developed significantly only because of Amir Shahmurad's monetary reform and his great attention to foreign trade. The journey of Bukhara merchants to Afghanistan included Kabul, Kandahar, Kashmir and Punjab, which belonged to Afghanistan at that time, and the border areas with India.

The services of the ambassadors in the organization of foreign trade in the Khanate were great. Because the proximity of diplomatic relations had a positive effect on the development of trade and commerce. Several positions were established in the khanate, and they were simultaneously engaged in the mission of ambassadors and reception of ambassadors. In particular, one of them was a naqib, an important state official after the khan in the dargah. The fact that he takes first place on the left side of the Supreme Ruler in official reception ceremonies indicates the high status of the Naqib in the dargah. Naqib was entrusted with the responsibility of ambassador. At the same time, he also performed tasks such as organizing and continuing military operations and studying the enemy's military capabilities. One of the important aspects of Naqibs is that people who belong to the family of sayyids, who are considered descendants of the Prophet, were appointed to this position" [2:244]. Khan gave such responsible tasks and jobs to his most trusted people.

It is known that, no matter how necessary and important the trade and economic relations of Central Asian khanates with neighboring countries are, these relations could not open good opportunities for transit trade due to the lack of stability in internal socio-economic and political relations. After all, transit trade played an important role in Central Asia. Along with this, the change of world trade routes in the Middle Ages, great geographical discoveries, Iran's constant military conflicts with Turkey and Central Asian khanates, political instability in Central Asia from the 16th century to the previous era of Mavarunnahr, in particular, it damaged its status as a world transit trade center.

There is information that Amir Shahmurad sent ambassadors to the Ottoman Turkish state several times. Sultan Selim III of Turkey (1789-1807) ruled during his reign. Sultan Selim III, like Amir Shahmurad, carried out serious reforms in his country and was a patron of art and culture. The main reason why Amir Shahmurad sent ambassadors to the Ottoman Turkish Empire was not only to establish trade relations between these two countries but also to persuade them to conduct a joint "holy war" against Iran. However, Selim III did not have the opportunity to fight

with Iran, because of the defeat in the Russian-Turkish war in 1791, the chaos in the country, and the economic crisis. The ambassadors of Bukhara, who were in the presence of Selim III, received a positive response at first, and during their subsequent visits, the sultan announced that he could not participate in this war, but was ready to strengthen diplomatic and trade relations between the two countries.

Therefore, from the 16th century onwards, Central Asia began to be more and more reliably interested in trade relations with Russia. Gradually, Russia began to play an important role in the foreign trade of Central Asia.

On the other hand, the emergence and development of capitalist relations in the West caused European countries to approach Eastern countries. In particular, the sending of the representative of the English trading company A. Jenkinson to Central Asia (as early as the 16th century) was a clear proof of this movement [3].

There are tense political relations between Bukhara and Iran, and the area where the interests of both countries clashed was Khurasan. The main reason for this was Khorasan's military-political and trade-economic importance. The conflict between the Shaybanites and the Safavids over the control of Khurasan continued, and this situation remained tense even during the Ashtarkhanid period. Even in 1740, Iran turned the Khanate of Bukhara into a dependent state for a certain period. However, despite the difficult political situation, trade relations between the two countries have not stopped. It can be seen that, despite the state of war, there were Bukhara merchants in Iran. This indicates that no difficulties could allow the continuation of trade relations between the two countries.

In particular, in December 1647, Bukhara ambassadors led by Hasan Koshbegi visited Iran [5]. Russian ambassador A. Gribov studied the reason for the visit of Bukhara ambassadors to Iran. According to him, the ambassadors came with a secret mission, that is, the Khan of Bukhara, Abdulaziz, thanked the Shah of Iran Abbas for helping Nadir Muhammad, and expressed his readiness to establish friendly relations with Iran and help the Shah of Iran to capture Kandahar [5:79].

It can be concluded that Bukhara acted as an intermediary in the trade between Russia, India and Iran.

In the 17th century, the economic and political interest of the Russian Empire was the basis for the development of its relations with the countries of Central Asia. To develop trade and emancipate Russian slaves, to establish trade relations between Russia and India, and to find the closest and most convenient trade routes for trade with Central Asia, Russia from the 17th century. begins to send ambassadors to the khanates of Central Asia. The tasks given to the ambassadors and the messages they brought were important for the study of trade relations between Central Asia and India.

In 1619, Imam Quli Khan from the Ashtar Khans sent his ambassador Odambii to Moscow to establish mutually beneficial relations. He was received by Tsar Mikhail Romanov and won his trust. At the end of the trip, the Russian tsar sent the ambassadors led by Ivan Khokhlov to Bukhara together with Odambii. Ivan Khokhlov will be at the reception of Imamkuli Khan, the khan frees 23 Russian prisoners in his palace at the request of the Russian tsar. In 1620-622, I. Khokhlov collected valuable information about the internal and external policy of the Bukhara Khanate and travelled to Moscow with valuable gifts. According to written sources, in the 16th and 17th centuries, ambassadors from Russia came to the khanates of Bukhara and Khiva 12 times. In the years 1583-1600, ambassadors from Bukhara were in Moscow 5 times, ambassadors from Khiva twice. These examples testify to the fact that trade and diplomatic relations between Central Asia and Russia have become more active [6:32-33].

Khan of Bukhara, Subhankuli Khan, also wanted to establish mutual benefits in foreign policy with the Russian Empire. In particular, at a time when Ambassador Semen Ivanovich Pazukhin

withdrew from his intention to go to Balkh due to mutual disagreements between Bukhara and Balkh (according to Pazukhin, due to the conflict between Bukhara and Balkh, trade between them In the letter of Subhonkulikhon to Alexei Mikhailovich sent through Medvedev, he stated that if Alexei Mikhailovich sends ambassadors to Balkh, India and other countries, then he will protect these ambassadors and send them through Central Asia [7:169].

At the moment, in the relations between Russia and Bukhara, the issue of the citizens of the Bukhara khanate going on Hajj to Mecca through Ashtarkhan (Astrakhan) has taken an important place. Because the most convenient way to go on a pilgrimage through Khorasan was under the control of Iran. The Khanate of Bukhara decided to work together with the Ottoman state to resolve the issue of going to Haj via Ashtar Khan. It's not for nothing, of course. Because the state of the Ottoman Turks was considered the caliph of the Muslim world.

Mulla Farrukh, Subhanquli Khan's ambassador, played an important role in the foreign policy of the khanate. Mullah Farrukh not only played an important role in the foreign policy of the Bukhara Khanate, but also provided important information to the Russian administration in establishing Russia's relations with Iran and India. In particular, he visited Tobolsk with 16 people in 1670 [7:170]. During the visit, he gives brief information about Bukhara's trade with Iran the goods brought from there and their prices. Then they were sent to Moscow, where the king received them very solemnly. In 1671, Mulla Farrukh was questioned at the embassy court. The survey indicates that "they have kindyaki, zandanochi and kitayki gazlams, but there are few gazlamas called kamok and atlas (silk gazlams with flowers on the right surface), and those that exist are simpler.

Mullah Farrukh considers the distance between Bukhara and Khiva to be 17-day' journey. India has a lot of different floral fabrics and stones. The next time, the head of the embassy court A.S. Matveyev asked the Bukhara ambassador Mulla Farrukh for information about Bukhara's trade relations with India and Indian products that are in demand in Bukhara. Also, in his speech, the ambassador of Bukhara mentioned Russian products in Bukhara, for example; also mentioned that there is a strong demand for swords, black foxes, movut, and fish teeth [7:71].

I.G. Nizamutdinov highly appreciated the importance of Mullah Farrukh's ambassadorship. In particular, the information provided by the ambassador is important in determining the level of trade between Bukhara and India and the demands of the population of Bukhara for Indian products [8:48-c].

By the 19th century, the Mangits did not have the same influence as Shaybani Abdullah II or some of the Ashtarkhanids. Towards the middle of the 18th century, during the reign of Shahmurad, Haydar or Nasrullah, the influence of Bukhara in the Central Asian region began to be felt, but still, Bukhara could not rise to its previous political position.

In general, the main principles of the Mangit emirs' foreign policy were, firstly, to have a leading position among the three Uzbek states in Central Asia and to subjugate them when a favorable opportunity arose, and secondly, to establish a strong base in Khorasan. thirdly, to develop trade relations with Russia and other countries, and fourthly, as the emir of all Muslims in the Central Asian region, to ensure that they would go on pilgrimage to Mecca through Astrakhan.

Some information about the foreign policy of the khanate is provided by the Russian orientalist P.S. Also found in Saveliev's works [9:460-c]. In particular, in the information contained in it, tourists who visited the Bukhara Khanate compare the situation in Bukhara with the Samanid period and indicate that "Bukhara still ranks first among the cities of the East." He also touched upon the role of Bukhara in the foreign policy of the khanate, especially in the trade relations of the Eastern countries, and described it as "an important trade warehouse of Central Asia" and noted that 4000 Indians lived there [9:14].

Mangit emirs have always attached great importance to relations with Russia. In particular, Ambassador Ernazarbi's two visits to Russia in the last quarter of the 18th century were of great

importance. He tried hard to establish a relationship based on mutual trust between the two countries. He even earned the respect of Ekaterina II and built a madrasa named Ernazarbi in Bukhara at the emperor's expense. Danyolbi also realizes his political goals from Ernazarbi's embassy connections. In particular, to find out what the Russian government thinks about the relations between Bukhara and the Ottoman Turkish state, the ambassador would inform the Russian government that Bukhara tried to strengthen friendly relations with the Ottoman Turkish state. He also asks for permission to go to Istanbul through Russia.

The ambassadors sent during the reign of Amir Nasrullah put before the Russian government issues such as reducing customs duties on Bukhara products, sending experts to carry out mining operations, and selling cannons from military weapons to the emirate.

Since the first half of the 19th century, the competition between the two major colonial powers, England and Russia, for the territories of the Bukhara, Khiva, and Kokand Khanates has intensified and intensified. The factors that caused the increase in competition include, firstly, the attempts of England and Russia to acquire new colonies at the expense of Central Asia; secondly, it was the desire to occupy the Central Asian markets to sell their goods and get a good profit from it, and thirdly, they wanted to have the rich raw materials of Central Asia. To achieve these goals, the British colonists, who were firmly established in India, tried to move towards Central Asia through the East India (East India) Company they created [10:79]. Their goal was to destroy the influence of Russia in the Uzbek Khanates and to bring the Khanates under their sphere of influence. The British ruling circles started sending special expeditions to determine the internal and external conditions of the khanates, and the roads connecting them, and to establish contact with the khanates. At the same time, expeditions were entrusted with the task of establishing contacts with local influential forces.

The first British expedition was led by W. Murkford. He arrived in Bukhara in February 1825. According to the sources, there were 70 people in the expedition, and 80 boxes of various weapons were shown to the Bukhara region. The British managed to study the Bukhara Khanate in every way and to form a pro-British group among the local rulers. The Russian ruling circles, who learned about Murkford's expedition, informed Haidar, the emir of Bukhara, that they were dissatisfied with the behavior of the British in Bukhara.

In short, in the 16th century, three political forces came to the battlefield in the adjacent part of Asia. These were the Shaybanites in Movarounnahr, the Safavids in Iran, and the Baburis in India. In international and mutual relations, the interests of these three dynasties collided and competition intensified.

Khurasan was the point where their interests collided. Because Khurasan has an important place in both military-political and trade-economic terms. In addition, Khurasan served as a kind of gate in the direction of Movarounnahr, Iran and India. There was a fierce struggle between the Shaybanites and the Safavids over the control of Khurasan.

In this matter, the Shaibanihs prevailed during the time of Muhammad Shaybani Khan, Ubaydullah Khan and Abdullah Khan, but almost no results were achieved during the time of the Ashtarkhanis and the Mangits. Later, the Safavids gained the upper hand and eventually managed to separate Khurasan from Movarounnahr.

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