

## **Customs System in the History of Uzbekistan: From Origins to the Colonial Period**

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**Abstract:** The article explores the history of the development of the customs system in Uzbekistan from ancient times to the colonial period. The article examines the role of the customs system in the development of trade, ensuring the security and well-being of the people. Particular attention is paid to the influence of colonial oppression on the customs system of the khanates of Central Asia.

**Keywords:** customs system, Uzbekistan, the Great Silk Road, trade, colonialism, khanates of Central Asia.

### **I. Introduction**

In history, trade relations are one of the most important indicators. The city-states that existed in ancient times on the territory of Uzbekistan were known as trade and economic bridges between the countries of the East and West. The expansion of international trade through new states as a result of the emergence of the Great Silk Road places the task of developing new trade routes on the countries existing in our country.

While studying the history of customs in Uzbekistan, we noticed one thing. If in the countries of the world customs began its history with caravans moving across borders, collecting a certain amount and in certain types of payments from property and, as a result, replenishing their treasuries, then in the history of Central Asia the customs system was created in order to provide ample opportunities for trade, establish greater privileges for traders, ensure security during the passage of caravans and fully reflect the interests of the people. the result of this activity was the takeover [1].

### **II. LITERATURE REVIEW**

The emergence of powerful kingdoms in the history of our country and the achievement of political unity by most of the region created a single economic space. The emergence of a single economic space, in turn, gave a great impetus to the further rapid growth of trade [2]; the penetration of states into foreign trade relations, the implementation of measures in their own interests gradually began to give rise to customs relations.

The colonial oppression of tsarism and tyranny in the khanates, which intensified every year, caused the Russians to seize the Central Asian market and oust merchants from other states.

On February 13, 1868, an agreement was signed between the Turkestan General Government and the Kokand Khanate. This agreement in its essence was extremely difficult, shameful for the Kokand Khanate. According to the agreement, Russian merchants received the right to have any caravanserai in all cities and villages of the Kokand Khanate and to create trading agencies. The

merchants of the Kokand Khanate received such a privilege not on the territory of Russia, but only in cities and villages on the territory of the Turkestan Governor-General, that is, on their lands. Zakat for Russian merchants was set at 2.5%. This agreement, concluded under pressure from the Russian government, caused strong discontent among the entire people of the Khanate, especially the trading population [3].

On June 11, 1868 in Samarkand, on September 23, 1873 in Shakhrisabz, agreements were signed between the Bukhara emir Muzaffar and the Turkestan Governor-General Kaufman. In accordance with Article 6 of the Treaty of 1873, the levy of zakat was established at the rate of 2.5% on all goods belonging to Russian merchants arriving from Russia to Bukhara or departing from Russia to Bukhara. Based on these treaties, the Sharia norms in force in the khanates were seriously violated, and the Russians received rights that were enjoyed only by Muslim merchants. Russian merchants were not allowed to levy any additional taxes or fees other than zakat. Article 7 of the agreement gave Russian merchants the right to transport goods duty-free from the territory of Bukhara to neighboring countries [4].

On August 12, 1873, the Khan of Khiva unconditionally accepted the terms of the truce concluded by Kaufman with Russia and was deprived of the right to independent relations with other countries. Russian merchants and industrialists were given the right to freely conduct trade in all places belonging to the Khanate, they were exempt from duties and other obligations [5].

### **III. METHODOLOGY & EMPIRICAL ANALYSIS**

Developed in 1867 for the management of the Turkestan region, the “draft regulations on the management of the Semirechensk and Syrdarya provinces” served as the first legal source of customs affairs in the region after the formation of the Turkestan Governor-General. In accordance with it, in 1868, an “economic administration” was created in the Turkestan General Government to conduct, among other things, Trans-Caspian affairs.

The economic administration was responsible for collecting zakat from each caravan arriving abroad in the amount established by Sharia. For correct and accurate control, the maintenance of accounting books was introduced, and from these books documents were issued confirming payment of the order. If doubts arose regarding the indicated value of the imported cargo, the economic department had the right to open the cargo and determine its value on local terms according to the testimony of one Russian official and two local merchants. After this, a receipt is issued confirming that the cargo has been taken under control and has legally arrived in the country. The merchant who imported the cargo was fined in the amount of double zakat, which was subject to recovery if he hid the cargo from the zakatnik or underestimated its value. Half of the fine was transferred to the state treasury, and the other half to the person who discovered this violation [6].

On April 1, 1872, the Trans-Caspian Administration was created as part of the Turkestan General Government [7]. this zakat administration actually arose as a result of distrust of local zakat takers [8]. Until November 10, 1874, the Zakat administration was subordinate to the Tashkent city fair committee. Its main tasks were to record caravans arriving or leaving the Turkestan region, determining the value of cargo, and collecting zakat from cargo and livestock. To control incoming or outgoing caravans, special zakat points operated at the borders [9].

The zakat administration was in effect until December 10, 1874. With the establishment of the Turkestan Governor-General in 1868, customs duties began to be levied on Russian merchants in the region on the basis of the “Regulations on Duties on Trade and Crafts,” which was in effect throughout the empire. However, in the Kazalinsky and Perovsky districts of the Syrdarya province, in all territories of the Semirechensk province, all merchants, regardless of whether they were Russian or local, were subject to the above provisions on the payment of customs duties [10].

#### IV. RESULTS

In accordance with the order of Adjutant General Kaufman in 1872, a special commission began its work in Tashkent to study trade fees in the Turkestan region. As a result of the work of the commission, it was announced that it was advisable to apply the Regulations on duties on trade and crafts of February 9, 1865, which was in force throughout the entire empire, as adjusted for local conditions. The Minister of Finance of Russia, having considered this proposal, will make some changes and additions to it, and will also emphasize the need for testing for some time as an experiment. On May 3, 1874, by decree of the Turkestan Governor-General, the Regulations on Trade and Duties in force in the Turkestan Territory were approved, and it initially came into force as a temporary measure for a period of 4 years [11] with the entry into force of this statute, the collection of zakat in the Turkestan Territory was discontinued [12].

Since 1875, due to the liquidation of the Turkestan Transcaspian Administration, the region remained outside customs control until 1881.

On December 19, 1881, the acting Governor-General of Turkestan, Kolpakovsky, approved temporary customs rules to limit the import of Western European and Asian goods into the country [13].

According to the law of May 2, 1886, the conduct of customs control in Turkestan was transferred from the War Ministry to the Ministry of Finance [14]. On this basis, the Ministry of Finance agreed with the Turkestan General Government to establish rates of customs duties on goods imported into the country, to publish a list of goods imported into the country. prohibited (without violating the terms of agreements concluded in this regard with neighboring khanates), increasing or reducing the number of personnel of customs authorities collecting customs duties and exercising control at the border, they had the right to change the size of their monthly wages. These measures, in turn, had to comply with both Russian legislation and the basic principles of governance established in Turkestan.

On a general basis, the customs line along the border remained established in 1881, with the exception of some changes. The changes concerned mainly only the location of customs points. In territorial terms, customs control was carried out by dividing it into 5 departments. These are the Amudarya, Jizzakh, Katta-Kurgan, Samarkand and Fergana customs departments. Part of the Jizzakh department was annexed to the Chatkal-Kurgan department in 1887, and the rest to the Samarkand department in 1889. In 1887, the Secretary of the Treasury approves the States of these departments. According to him, each unit consisted of a chief and his assistant, a customs inspector, a clerical officer, local youths and baggage inspectors. In the customs departments, cargo was simultaneously monitored and duties were collected from them. The scope of powers and rights of the official of the Minister of Finance for special assignments were determined by a separate instruction; the temporary rules of December 19, 1881 continued to be applied as the legal basis for the activities of customs departments. During this time, several amendments were made to it together with the Minister of Finance and the Turkestan Governor-General [15].

#### V. CONCLUSIONS

In accordance with the decree of the Russian Empire of June 12, 1890, the Turkestan Customs District was created and it was directly subordinate to the Turkestan General Governorate. The position of official of special assignments was renamed to the position of head of the Turkestan customs district. In the course of its activities, this district, along with other customs districts of Russia, began to obey directly the Russian customs charter.

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