



## Trade Issues In Central Asia In The Anglo-Russian Competition Of The XIX Century

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### ABSTRACT

This article discusses trade issues in Central Asia in XIX century Anglo-Russian competition. If trade through Khiva and the desert had not continued, it would have been possible to talk of this level of trade in the 1970s. From this it can be concluded that trade between Khiva and the Turkmen land has its own characteristics, which is confirmed by the list of goods sold. Some areas of Bukhara could not support the Afghan claim because Russia was under its influence. Information available at the British Foreign Office confirmed Russia's position.

### KEYWORDS

Central Asia, Anglo-Russian Competition, Khiva, Desert, Turkmen, Characteristics, Goods, Bukhara, Afghan, Russia, Influence, British Foreign Office, Russia's Position.

### INTRODUCTION

In the early 1930s, competition between British and Russian goods in Central Asian markets intensified. During this period, British goods began to enter the Central Asian khanates

through Afghanistan, and Russian goods began to enter Afghanistan through the Central Asian khanates. As a result, Afghan traders are increasingly involved in

international trade. According to A. Byrns, Afghan traders also visited Russian fairs. Bukhara traders dissatisfied with Afghan traders bringing British goods to Central Asian markets [13.11].

The governor-general of Orenburg, Perovsky, also acknowledged that Afghan traders were bringing a lot of British goods to Bukhara and Khiva, and was pleased that they were selling them at much lower prices than Russian goods. However, there are still few buyers of British goods. The reason for this was that the Afghans did not exchange British goods for Bukhara and Khiva goods, but only for cash [15.18].

### THE MAIN FINDINGS AND RESULTS

Tajik, Indian and Iranian traders, such as Afghan traders living in the country, have played a major role in Afghanistan's internal and external transit trade relations. The nomadic Afghan tribes acted as mediators in the povinda, which is considered. According to Elfinston, among the povinda were several merchants with a fortune of £ 3,000 in the early nineteenth century. They collaborated between Central Asia and India [15.18].

According to G.I. Danilevsky's "Description of the Khiva Khanate", Khiva does not have direct trade relations with Herat and Mashhad as Kokand, although trade caravans pass directly from Iran through Merv and the Bukhara khanate without stopping anywhere. He analyzed all the information about the Khiva khanate and came to the conclusion that the only and possible trade for Khiva was trade with Russia. The Khivaites believed that they could fill their caravans with Russian goods and take them to Khiva. Like other authors, G.I. Danilevsky notes that in Khiva 2% of Muslim traders and 5% of Russian traders were subject to customs duties [13.11].

It is said that the Yavmut Turkmen tribe of Khiva took an active part in Khiva's trade relations with Astrobod, while the Tekke Turkmen tribes took part in the trade of Mashhad Bukhara through the desert. If trade through Khiva and the desert had not continued for, say, centuries, it would have been possible to talk of this level of trade in the 1970s. From this it can be concluded that trade between Khiva and the Turkmen land has its own characteristics, which is confirmed by the list of goods sold. Khiva's trade with Astrobod was carried out by the Yavmut tribes of the Turkmen, and the Yavmut Turkmen of the Turkmen played a major role in the processes in the Caspian Sea.

Due to the Crimean War, Tsarist Russia's influence in the Black Sea and the Balkans diminished considerably, so Russia's interest in Central Asian states increased. The Crimean War with Russia, which took place in the second half of the XIX century (1853-1856), for some time hindered Russia's military invasion of Central Asia and the implementation of its colonial policy. However, according to the plan set by Tsar Peter I, the Russian Empire aims to intensify its military campaign in Central Asia without stopping.

In turn, the British government, terrified of the national liberation uprising in India in 1857-1859, could not resist the active movement of Tsarist Russia in Central Asia in the 1860s. However, after the Russian occupation of Tashkent in 1865 and Samarkand in 1868, especially in 1868, the English tourist G. Rawlinson sent to the British Parliament, following a letter from the British suggesting that the Russians could occupy Herat and march on Kandahar, the British government hastily negotiated with the Russian state to establish a "buffer zone" between Tsarist Russia and British India. This "buffer zone" was supposed to be Afghanistan [15.19].

Trying to limit the direction of the Russians in Central Asia, Britain in 1869 initiated negotiations with Russia on the distribution of sphere of influence in Central Asia and the establishment of a shield zone between the Russian Empire and the British government in these regions. The talks lasted several months and were attended by Douglas Forsyth, Chairman of the Government Committee on Trade Development with Asian Countries under the Governor-General of India. Gorchakov and Forsyth met for the first time on August 1, 1869 in Baden-Baden. Both agreed on a peaceful solution to the border issue between Russia and Britain. At the same time, Gorchakov expressed his firm opinion that Russia will not interfere in the affairs of Herat and Afghanistan. He stressed that the Emir of Afghanistan, Sher Ali Khan, would focus on emergency government affairs and that no one would interfere with his work [15.19].

Earlier, it was initially assumed that Afghanistan would become a shield region. This view was not supported by the Russian government, as Afghanistan claimed the entire territory of the southern Amu Darya, and at that time Bukhara, in turn, claimed some parts of the southern Amu Darya. Some areas of Bukhara could not support the Afghan claim because Russia was under its influence. Information available at the British Foreign Office confirmed Russia's position.

The Russian government is concerned about the possibility of Afghanistan moving to neighboring Balkh, Kunduz and Badakhshan provinces. In this connection, the United Kingdom was required to guarantee that the Afghan border would remain as it was in 1869, at the time of the negotiations. Eventually, at this stage, the parties could not reach an agreement.

In a second meeting with Lord Clarendon, a representative of the British government, on September 3, 1869, Chancellor Gorchakov reaffirmed his earlier view and expressed the hope that the British government would in turn restrain Sher Alikhan from any attack on neighboring countries.

Later, on October 20, 1869, at a meeting in St. Petersburg between the Minister of War, D. Milyutin, and D. Forsyth, as well as the Director of the Asian Department, the two sides reached the following decision: “1) At present, the territories actually ruled by Sher Alikhan are considered to be the borders of Afghanistan. Britain will take all measures to prevent its border from widening to the north. 2) In turn, Russia will use its influence to prevent Bukhara from expanding its borders at the expense of Afghan territory. 3) If Russia is subsequently forced to act hostilely against Bukhara and will not carry out occupation operations against Afghanistan, regardless of its desire to occupy the entire khanate or part of it. Britain, in turn, will not allow the Afghan king to disturb his northern neighbors” [15.176].

Britain offered Russia to clarify the northern border of Afghanistan as a dividing line between the two empires. Russia agreed to the offer. Negotiations between the British and Russian governments to build a shield zone have resumed. The border of the Kabul Emirate is in the north from the crossing of the Amu Darya Khoja Salih and the upper Panj, then from this point the border turns south along the eastern border of Badakhshan and southwest of the northern border of Kafiristan and Chitrol. Apparently, neither Shugnan nor Vokhan entered the territory of the Kabul Emirate [14,19].

The question of whether Afghanistan will include Badakhshan and Wokhan, or whether the unification of Ox and Kokchi will form its

northern border has been a contentious issue in the resumption of talks..

The position of the British government in this regard was stated in a letter dated 17 October 1872 from the British Foreign Secretary, Count George Levison-Gouwer Granville (1815-1891), to A. Loftus. The government of the Kabul Emirate should expand at the expense of Badakhshan, which covers the entire territory of the Afghan province, forming the northern border, from Sarikol in the east to the confluence of the Kokchi River and the Oxus River, the Panj River, which is dependent on Wokhan District. Afghan Turkestan includes the following districts: Kunduz, Hulm and Balkh, which can serve as a northern border along the main road from Kokchi to Khoja Salih, which flows into the Okus River, ie from Bukhara to Balkh. The lower Emir Afghanistan, Hoja Salih, has no claim to the left bank of the Amu Darya [16.5].

These views did not coincide with the views of von Kaufmann, who strongly advocated denying the Afghan Emirate the right to include Badakhshan and Wahan in his government [16.13].

On behalf of Count Granville, a copy of the letter of October 17, 1872, was sent to Count A.M. Gorchakov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Russia (1798-1883). In a reply letter to his British colleague on December 7, 1872, he states: "The founder of the Afghan state, Dost Muhammad Khan, left behind a mess that did not allow him to accept the territories annexed by Afghanistan as a basis during some of his rule" [14.20].

Therefore, it is necessary to coordinate the consideration of only those territories that entered the country during the reign of Sher Alikhan and were later recognized by the government of Dost Muhammad" [17.118].

The Russian government, through its representative in London, demanded that the British government pay attention to the conflict that had arisen. The Russian government then concluded that while establishing its own governing mechanism in the occupied territories, it was necessary to accept Lord Granville's offer concerning the Afghan border in order to temporarily stabilize relations between the two countries in Central Asia [16.25].

The agreement signed in 1872-1873 was on the one hand the result of the interests of both great states. On the other hand, it allowed the British to reckon less with the Russians. Both great powers relied mainly on their vassal countries in carrying out their acts of aggression in order to conquer weak peoples; for the British invaders such a country was Afghanistan, and for Tsarist Russia it was Bukhara.

The two great powers, who pursued a policy of "protecting" Afghanistan and Bukhara, actually divided their sphere of influence at that time, and eventually tried to expand their colonial lands by occupying some weak nations. One of the documents states the real purpose of these agreements: "In order to maintain good relations between them (England and Russia. - the author), it would be expedient to predetermine their direct joint ownership in Central Asia. In this situation, the establishment of a neutral zone between the two colonial powers would be one of the best means, and inviolability would be a condition for both great powers" [16.3].

The Russian Empire, which was busy consolidating its future position in Central Asia and facing difficulties in the Balkans, agreed to sign an interim agreement that would benefit Britain. At first, he neglected to fulfill the terms of the agreements. This is particularly reflected

in the following statement by the head of the British government in Gladstone. The question in the British Parliament was: "Does Britain have a long-standing commitment to peace between Russia and Afghanistan, and should Britain use weapons to keep the Emirate (Afghanistan - the author) at peace with its neighbors? Gladstone replied: "The state does not take such responsibility and can only provide friendly advice" [18]. Such a response did not only satisfy the Russian government. Probably because the British government refused to fulfill the terms of the agreement even after the agreement was signed, it also put it in a difficult position.

## CONCLUSION

Undoubtedly, the government of the Russian Empire could not stand by and ignore the main points of the treaty. As a result, the two great powers continued to seek to expand their sphere of influence. To this end, the British may have begun to completely occupy areas that were semi-independent of the Hindu Kush region in northern India. At the same time, they have begun to consolidate their position in Afghanistan. As a result, in the Second Anglo-Afghan War of 1878-1880, the British managed to turn Afghanistan into a dependent state, depriving it of the right to conduct diplomatic relations with countries other than British India. At the same time, the British provided various (financial, military, etc.) assistance to Abdurakhman Khan, who was trying to expand his possessions at the expense of the northern regions.

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