



HISTORICAL ANALYSIS OF BUKHARA-AFGHANISTAN RELATIONS DURING THE ERA OF AMIR HAYDAR

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Abstract: This article analyzes the political, diplomatic, trade-economic and cultural relations between the Emirate of Bukhara and Afghanistan during the reign of Amir Haidar based on historical sources. The study covers the factors that shaped the relations between the two countries, the geopolitical situation in the region, foreign policy with neighboring countries, and the content of mutual interests.

Keywords: Amir Haidar, Emirate of Bukhara, Afghanistan, diplomatic relations, foreign policy, embassy, trade relations, Central Asia, international relations, historical sources.

The main factors that were noticeable in the political relations of the Bukhara-Afghan states that began in the middle of the 18th century can be considered as follows. First, the formation of an independent Afghan state and the beginning of an aggressive policy. Second, the change of dynasty in the Bukhara state and internal political chaos in the early period. Third, the emergence of political instability in Afghanistan at the end of the 18th century and the beginning of attempts to unify previously lost lands as a result of a certain process of centralization in Bukhara. This process remained the main cause of tensions throughout the 19th century.

Information has been preserved in historical literature that allows us to conclude that at the beginning of the 19th century, as a result of internal struggles and power struggles in Afghanistan, attempts to annex South Turkestan to the Bukhara emirate intensified again. The initiator of these actions was the next emir of Bukhara, Haydar (1800-1826), and historical literature shows that his main achievements in the wars with neighbors were resolving and regulating the territorial conflicts between the Kokand Khanate and Bukhara, pacifying the ongoing wars with Shahrissabz and Khiva, and finally maintaining his rule in Northern Afghanistan (Southern Turkestan)[1]. On the other hand, the South Turkestan principalities began to gain complete independence from Afghanistan at the beginning of the 19th century and were able to resist the Afghan state by resuming their ancient cooperation with Bukhara, a blood-related Mangid state with which they had lived together for a long historical period. It can also be concluded that the situation that brought the Balkh region closer to the Emirate of Bukhara was also due to their linguistic and ethnic proximity. Because, when the struggle for the throne in Afghanistan flared up at the beginning of the 19th century, the principalities of South Turkestan became independent principalities, but the oppression of the Afghans had



not yet been forgotten. However, some of the principalities of South Turkestan did not want to join Bukhara. According to Mir Abdulkarim Bukhari, the real power in the country was in the hands of the ruler of Khulm (Tashkurgan), Kilich Ali Khan, during his time, economic and political life flourished in Afghan Turkestan (South Turkestan), and after Kilich Ali Khan died in 1823, his close associate, the ruler of Kunduz, Muradbek Qatagan, conquered Khulm and forcibly relocated most of its inhabitants to the Kunduz region. Since the Kunduz lands were swampy, a large part of the population died of malaria [2]. The above information shows that the attempts of the South Turkestan principalities to pursue an independent policy, their struggle for leadership in the region were devastating the country, and the population of the small principalities wanted to achieve some peace around the centralized Bukhara Emirate, but the remoteness from Bukhara and the insufficient development of economic relations made it impossible to achieve this.

It can be concluded that Amir Haidar also followed the path taken by Timur Shah and pursued a policy of expanding the ranks of the army from other nations in order to reduce the influence of local rulers. During his time, the Bukhara army continued to accept Afghans, especially representatives of tribes that were rivals to the central government. In the information of Negri, who came to the Bukhara emirate as a Russian ambassador, it is possible to find information that 2 thousand Afghans and several hundred Kalmyks (Dzungars) lived in Bukhara during the time of Amir Haidar, who served mainly in the military sphere.[3] The Bukhara emirs tried to bring the Balkh region under their control and to give a legal tone to the struggles with Afghanistan, where internal struggles were escalating. On the other hand, there was also an attempt to peacefully return South Turkestan to Bukhara. In particular, the fact that Amir Haidar wanted to marry the daughter of Shah Shuja serves as a basis for confirming our above observations. The Afghan court informed Emir Haidar not to give the girl to him, and he was sent to Bukhara. Because this would put an end to any Afghan claims to South Turkestan. The reason given in Afghanistan was that there was no custom in the Sadazoi tribe to give a girl to another tribe in marriage[4]. On the other hand, the reason may be that Emir Haidar had about 200 women in his harem, and about 40-60 of them had children. Because the 14-year-old Afghan princess from Navnihol could have become one of the next captive women in Emir Haidar's harem. We can see in historical literature that Emir Haidar promised to conquer South Turkestan if the girl was not given to him, and even made a promise to the Afghans[5].

Although historical sources and literature of that period do not indicate that it was Emir Haidar's marriage proposal to the Afghan princess that paved the way for the beginning of new struggles between the two, it allows us to draw the two conclusions we have mentioned above. The first is that it gave impetus to the struggles for the lands of South Turkestan, and if the marriage proposal were to be implemented, it would have made the Afghan side's claims to South Turkestan unfounded. In conclusion, during the reign of Amir Haidar, relations between the Bukhara Emirate and Afghanistan served as one of the important factors in maintaining political stability in the Central Asian region, ensuring economic interests, and



strengthening mutual security. During this period, relations between the two states developed on the basis of diplomatic missions, trade, border issues, and common geopolitical interests. In particular, political processes in Northern Afghanistan occupied an important place in the foreign policy of the Bukhara Emirate, and Amir Haidar sought to constantly control the situation in this region.

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