

The Administrative Territorial Configuration and the Structure of the Population of the Emirate of Bukhara

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ABSTRACT: In the following article the administrative-territorial configuration and the structure of the population of the territories within the realm of the emirate of Bukhara and their occupations, ethnic composition in the late 19th and early 20th century are historically analysed.

Key words: Bek, fiefdom of bek, nobility, clergy, merchants of the guild, Russian settlements.

Introduction

The Emirate of Bukhara had a special place among the khanates of Central Asia and was one of the countries occupying large territories. By the beginning of the 20th century, the country of Bukhara stretched from the eastern banks of the Amu Darya, the Russian Pamirs, to the vast lands of Khiva. In its territory, Bukhara is bordered on the north by the Kyzylkum Desert, on the west by the Syrdarya and Khokand, and on the south by Afghanistan and the Afghan steppe. From the 50s of the 20th century, the Emirate of Bukhara consisted of several regions, which were divided into Bukhara, Samarkand and several districts. The rulers of the region were called “governors”. Later, the provinces were replaced by principalities, and their rulers began to be called “bek”¹. According to historical data, at that time there were 44 principalities in the Bukhara Emirate. In the middle of the 20th century, the Emirate of Bukhara was divided into the following administrative-territorial units. The land plot having 100 thousand tanabs

¹ Kholiqova R. Rossiya-Bukhoro: tarikh chorakhasida. Tashkent. O'qituvchi, 2005. –P.163.

was divided into the khazora, 25 thousand tanabs of land subdivided into the nimkhazoras, 10-15 thousand tanabs of land was subdivided into the obkho'ra, 400 tanabs of irrigated land was divided into qariyas, 300 tanabs of irrigated land was divided into the grassland (ma'razas)

In its turn, it was convenient to collect and accumulate taxes, zakat and other types of taxes on the division in such an order. According to the results of the research carried out, local government demonstrators described the area as a larger territorial unit than the village and mosques. For example, although the Karki region is divided into districts, there is historical information that they are in turn divided into bekcha, consisting of bekcha villages. The administrative districts of Rushan and Shognan in the Pamirs are also called aksakals. In addition, settlements are mentioned in the sources by three terms - village, district, daha etc. According to historical data, the population of the Emirate of Bukhara in the early 20th century was about 2 million, and in the 50s - about 2.5 million. In particular, more than 60,000 people lived in Bukhara and more than 50,000 in Samarkand. Turkmens also made up a large part of the population of the Bukhara Emirate. They lived on the lands on both banks of the Amu Darya, which belonged to the emirate, that is, in the southern and western parts of the emirate. Also, a small part of the population in the territory of the Bukhara Emirate were Arabs, who lived mainly in the principalities of Karshi and Sherabad². In the 19th century, the Emirate of Bukhara was one of three independent Uzbek principalities known as khanates. Ruled by the Manghit *amīrs*, Bukhara was the biggest and most important of the southern Central Asian polities and one of the major power centers in the wider region. To the readers of 19th-century European travelogues, Bukhara was known for the despotism of its rulers notorious for their cruelty and strange tastes. From a geopolitical point of view, the Emirate of Bukhara was part of an anarchic transition space between Central and South Asia made up of half a dozen petty principalities without centralized power structures. It should be noted that the majority of the population of the Emirate of Bukhara was Uzbek, and many Uzbeks lived in almost all regions of the emirate. The Tajiks lived in cities such as Samarkand, Bukhara, Nurata, Urgut, Kitab, in mountainous areas, including Panjikent, Vakhsh, Gissar, Qorategin, Kulob, Shahrisabz, as well as in the principalities of Kabadiyan, Yakkabag, and the upper part of Zarafshan.

² Ostonova G.Y. Qo'shbegi arkhivi Bukhoro tarikhini o'rganishda asosiy manba (XIX-XX asr boshlari). Tashkent, 2002. To'plam №11.

While the bulk of the 19th- and 20th-century secondary sources stress the despotism of its *amīrs* and its isolation in view of the declining caravan trade on the Central Asian caravan routes, Bukhara and other urban centers such as Samarqand and Qarshi were embedded in transregional religious and trading networks. As a crossroads of commerce and an important religious center, Bukhara in particular and other Transoxanian towns as well attracted flows of goods and people from all directions and was well connected to other places and areas such as Siberia, China, India, and Persia. In the second half of the 19th century, the Emirate of Bukhara and its neighbors north of the Āmū Daryā River came into the focus of Russia. After a series of military defeats in 1868, Bukhara was turned into a Russian protectorate, which finally became a People's Republic after the Bolshevik conquest in 1920. This political entity was absorbed into the emerging Soviet Union in 1924.

Until the 1950s, the entire population of the Bukhara Emirate was mainly sedentary and nomadic. Sedentary population included: Tajiks and the Turkic population, that's qarluqs, turks. The nomadic and semi-nomadic population also included representatives of Uzbek descent, mainly from the Zarafshan, Kashkadarya and Syrdarya oases. The group also included Khitay-Kipchaks and Kazakhs and Turkmens, partly from a local Turkic tribe. According to historical documents, the first census was carried out in the Bukhara Emirate in 1914, under the pressure of Tsarist Russia, until the beginning of the 20th century. According to the census, the majority of the population of the Emirate of Bukhara were Uzbeks, who represented a large number of tribes. At that time, the total number of Uzbeks in the Bukhara Emirate was estimated at 1.5 million³. In terms of population, Tajiks were second only to Uzbeks. Their total number was given as 550,000. Other sources put the number of Tajiks at 650,000. Tajiks live mainly in large cities in Samarkand, Bukhara, Kitab, Urgut and mountainous areas, including Panjakent, Dushanbe, Vakhsh, in the south of the emirate, mainly on the border with Afghanistan, Hissar-Darvaz, Qorategin, Kulab, Baljuvan, Qabadiyan, Yakkabag, Zarafshan and in the Falgar, Matcho, Yakkatut, and Fon principalities. The Turkmens, too, made up a large part of the population and lived on the two banks of the Amu Darya, which belonged to the Bukhara Emirate, in the southern and western parts of the emirate. According to historical sources, the majority of Turkmens were engaged in agriculture and animal husbandry in the lands belonging to the principalities of Charjuy, Burdaliq, Karki, Sherabad, Qurgantepa. In the Emirate of Bukhara, the Turkmen region consisted of 100

³ Naselenniye punkti Bukharskogo emirata, T.: "Universitet". S.5

to 500 settlements, equal to the territory of the districts. According to the data, the number of Turkmen living in the Bukhara Emirate was about 200 thousand people⁴.

The population of the Bukhara Emirate was also dominated by Arabs, who lived mainly in Karshi and Sherabad. Persians, Jews, Indians, Gypsies, Afghans, Karakalpaks, Kazakhs and Kalmyks also lived in the territory of the Bukhara Emirate. The Kalmyks lived in Bukhara, the Karakalpaks in the lower reaches of the Zarafshan, Amudarya and Syrdarya rivers, and the Kazakhs in the northeast of the Bukhara Emirate. There were also a small number of Tatars with Russian citizenship, mainly engaged in trade. According to 1916 data, a district had a population of 120 to 340. And the largest provinces were in the east of the country⁵.

According to the data of 1914-1916, there were 1420 settlements in Baljuvan, 1200 in Hissar, 700 in Qorategin, 635 in Kulab. In the first half of the 20th century, the Bukhara Emirate had a population of about 2 million. Most of the population of the Bukhara Emirate lived in the wet oases of the emirate. At the same time, 300-350 thousand people lived in the Zarafshan valley, 500 thousand in Kashkadarya, 200 thousand in the Surkhandarya oasis, and 500 thousand in East Bukhara. According to the information provided by the Buxoro qushbegi, stored in the Russian state military archive collections, it is somewhat different, that is, at the end of the 19 century - in the 20 century, it was written that the total population of the emirate of Buxoro was 2 million 153 thousand 240 people⁶.

Among the khanates of Central Asia, the Emirate of Bukhara had a special place, it had a very large territory. In the early 20th century, in addition to the Zarafshan and Kashkadarya oases, the territory of the Bukhara Emirate included the Surkhandarya oasis, densely populated areas such as Hissar, Khujand, Uratapa, Panjikent, the upper reaches of the Zarafshan River, much of South Turkestan, and the Charjuy to Murgab rivers. By the beginning of the 20th century, the main reason for the expansion of the territory of the Bukhara Emirate was, first of all, the result of the Manghit dynasty's desire to establish a centralized state. In the early 20th century, the Bukhara Emirate was bordered by Iran and present-day Afghanistan on the one hand, the Khiva Khanate on the other, the Kazakh Juz on

⁴ Bekqulov M.S. O'zbekiston tarixining dolzarb muammolariga yangi chizgilar. // Toshkent, Sharq, 2003. –B. 73.

⁵ Tukhtametov T. G. “ Russko-Bukharskiye otnosheniya v kontse XIX - nachale 20 XX vv ”., S.14; Khotamov N. “ Sverjeniye emirskogo rejima v Bukhare”. – Dushanbe. S.143.

⁶ Tukhtametov T. G. “ Russko-Bukharskiye otnosheniya v kontse XIX - nachale 20 XX vv ”., S. 14; Khotamov N. “ Sverjeniye emirskogo rejima v Bukhare”. – Dushanbe. S.143.

the third, and the Kokand Khanate on the fourth. By the 1920s, Uratpa and Khojand under the Bukhara Emirate were occupied by the Kokand Khanate and declared the territory of the Kokand Khanate. As a result, these territories led to constant conflicts between Bukhara and Kokand and were repeatedly subordinated to the rule of Bukhara and Kokand. By the 1950s, Balkh, Andhoi, Maymana, Shiberghan, and other provinces of South Turkestan, which had long been vassals of Bukhara, had been completely occupied by Afghan emirs with the direct help of the British government.

At the beginning of the 20th century, the population of Bukhara was three and a half million people, with an area of 225,000 km², which was approximately equal to the area of Italy. The majority of the population is Uzbek, Turkmen, Kyrgyz, Kazakh, Tajik, Jewish, and Arab, and according to “Tarikhi Nofeyi”, there were also cities and districts that were subordinate to individual provinces. For example: Muminobod to Kulob; Khovaling and Kungrad Boljuvon; To the governor of Dushanbe and Karatag- Gissar; Romitan, Hyderabad, Bahouddin, Khoja Boston, Khoja Ubon, Khoja Arif, Vobkent and Zandana were subordinated to Bukhara⁷.

Until the 1950s, the entire population of the Bukhara Emirate was sedentary and nomadic. At that time, the sedentary population consisted mainly of Tajiks and ancient Turkic peoples, the Qarluq Turks. The nomadic and semi-nomadic population consisted mainly of nomadic Uzbek tribes settled in the Zarafshan, Kashkadarya and Surkhandarya oases. Also included in the composition of this group were Khitoy-Kipchaks and Kazakhs, Turkmen, who were partly represented by the local Turkic tribe. As in other countries in the Central Asian region, the emirate of Bukhara has never carried out its population registration process until the beginning of the 20 century. Only in 1914, under pressure from the Tsarist Russian government, administrative calculations were made in a certain case of the population, arable land, settlements (settlements) and livestock numbers in the principalities of the eastern regions of Bukhara. During this period, the capital of the Emirate of Bukhara, along with Bukhara, consisted of 20 principalities and 9 independent districts.

Also, according to the information, in Bukhara, a small number of people belonged to Russian citizenship, and mostly Tatars, who were engaged in trade affairs, were also residents. Most of the population lives in large cities and villages, where there is almost no exact amount of them. Various sources and memoirs written by Russian citizens in the Bukhara region in the 20th century give only the

⁷ Muhammad Ali Baljuvani. Tarikhi Nafeiy. Toshkent, Akademiya, 2001. –P. 32.

number of dwellings, not the number of inhabitants. It is noteworthy that the socio-political structure of the population of the Bukhara Emirate was also different.

For the first time, the rights of Russian citizens to enter and settle in the emirate were reflected in the Bukhara-Russia intergovernmental agreement. In particular, as stated in the “Friendship” Treaty between the two countries in September 1873, Russian citizens could acquire commercial warehouses, industrial enterprises, shops and houses and other types of movable and immovable property in the emirate through personal agreements with the emirate government or its citizens⁸. While the construction of the Caspian Railway strengthened Russian-Bukhara ties and rapidly developed trade relations, on the other hand, the number of Russian citizens arriving in the emirate increased. As a result, new Russian settlements such as Bukhara (Kagan), New Chorjuy, Karki, Termez, Amirabad, Farab, Saray appeared in the territory of Bukhara.

According to historical sources, in 1898, 12,150 Russian citizens were registered in the emirate's census, and by the early 20th century, about 50,000 Russian citizens (excluding the military) lived in these Russian settlements, which were the political and economic backbone of the imperial government⁹. The Russians also lived in Farab, Kiziltepa, Ziyauddin and other places where the railway stations were located. The Russians also numbered 6,000 in Old Bukhara, 1,500 in Karmana and 800 in Karshi¹⁰. Later, along with Russian citizens, the number of locals in these Russian settlements also increased. The social and ethnic composition of the population in these settlements included people from all walks of life, including nobles, priests, guild merchants, soldiers, doctors and teachers, representatives of the bourgeoisie, various categories of workers, and others. The population living in Russian settlements was mainly sedentary, engaged in trade, partly in agriculture, and partly in government work. It should be noted that one of the reasons for the increase in the population of the settlements was the fact that the population of the surrounding villages and principalities came to these settlements out of concern for their livelihood. For example, in 1915 there were 30 Russian citizens in the Palace, and in the same year there were 100. The reason for this was that Kyrgyz living in the

⁸ Normurodova G. Bukhoro amirigida rus va mahalliy aholi munosabatlariga nazar. <http://dx.doi.org/10.26739/2181-9599-2019-3-37>

⁹ Fomchenko A.P. Russkiye poseleniya v Bukharskom emirate. – T., 1958. - P.12

¹⁰ Ishanov A.I. Sozdaniye Bukharskoy Narodnoy Sovetskoy Respubliki.–Tashkent, 1955. -S.22.

surrounding principalities of Kurgantepa, Kulob and Baljuvan became Russian citizens through passports¹¹.

A certain part of the population was made up of the military. As a result of Bukhara's border with Afghanistan and the conflicting relations between Britain and Russia, the Russian government deployed Russian troops near Charjuy and Karki in 1886, and near Termez in 1897¹².

In conclusion, it can be said that by the end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th centuries, the population of the Bukhara Emirate was nationally and socially diverse, which was reflected not only in the local territory of the emirate, but also in Russian settlements. On the basis of this social structure level of diversity the stratification of the emirate several social layers of population were located within the wide range of traditions. The main point is that during this period of time the Russian and local stratas of population were established based the new cohesive, international relations were promoting the above-mentioned ideas. The discovery and the interpretation of the historical relations hold important role in that period, has significant role in the tolerant and solidarity issues of both ethnicities.

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¹¹ UzR NSA (National State archive of the Republic of Uzbekistan), Fund II-3, Registry 1, Folio 875, Page 4 .

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