



THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE KHIV KHANATE INTO A SEMI-COLONIAL STATE.

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ABSTRACT

This article covers issues such as the Russian Empire's attack on the Khanate of Khiva, the directions of the invasion, the war between the two countries and its results, the signed peace treaty, and the loss of Khiva's independence.

After the Russian Empire turned the Emirate of Bukhara into its semi-colony, it was the turn of the Khiva Khanate. Russia had prepared for this campaign for a long time. Because the expeditions organized to the Khiva Khanate during the reign of Peter I and after him had ended in failure. In addition, the difficult tests of the roads to Khiva were the reason for this.

The Russian ruling circles, turning the Turkestan Governor-General into a base for the implementation of their military plans in Central Asia, aimed this time at subjugating the Khiva Khanate. They did not forget the will of Peter I. The destruction of the Bekovich-Cherkassky army in 1717 and the failure of the Perovsky campaign in 1839 were not forgotten by the Russian generals.

The independence of the Khiva Khanate posed a serious threat to the colonists. It was seen as a symbol of the ancient Khorezm state, which had existed for thousands of years, and as a threat to Russia. Russia was well aware that Khiva was the driving force behind the Kazakhs' struggle for freedom under its rule. They also remembered that the Kazakh leader Kenasari Kasimov had resisted Russia for ten years, receiving constant support from Khiva.

At the end of 1872, a secret council headed by the Minister of War in Petersburg, attended by the governors-general of Turkestan and Orenburg, and the viceroys of the Caucasus, decided to conquer the Khiva Khanate. The aggressive intentions of Russia were no secret to the Khan of Khiva and his high officials. In 1872, Muhammad Rakhim Khan II sent an ambassador to the Viceroy of India, asking for help from England against the Russian threat. The Khiva ambassador, Aminboy Muhammad oglu, held negotiations with Lord Norsborough in Calcutta. Although the ruling circles of England were interested in preserving the independence of Khiva, they were afraid of entering into open conflict with Russia. Lord Norsborough openly stated that in the fight against Russia, Khiva should form an alliance with the Muslim states surrounding Khiva, and that if war broke out, Khiva should not hope for the help of England.

Khiva now had to rely on its own power capabilities. The khanate army had a total of 27 old cannons, 2 thousand cavalry, and a navigator of 4 thousand sailors, who were also mainly located in the capital. [4. – B 138-139].

The Russian state built fortifications on the roads leading to the Khiva Khanate from the Caspian Sea and stationed military units in them. In this regard, there were clashes between the Khiva Khanate army and Russian soldiers. However, the decisive attack of the Tsarist government against the Khiva Khanate took place in 1873. This military campaign was very carefully prepared, and it was planned to mobilize troops against the khanate from three sides. In the first half of April of that year, the army, which set out from Mangyshlok, marched through Ustyurt and occupied Kungrad. A military campaign also began from Orenburg, and on May 20, 1873, they joined forces with the military unit that had left Mangyshlok in Kungirat, and continued their journey. The troops from the areas under the Turkestan Governorate-General set out from Tashkent. A total of 11 thousand troops were gathered, led by K.P. Kaufman. Also, the emperor's close relative N.K. Romanov participated in the campaign. Muhammad Rakhimkhan II sent his army of Uzbeks and Turkmens to the east - in the direction of K.P. Kaufman, 6 thousand soldiers to Kungirat, 2 thousand He sent his soldiers to Hazorasp and another army to Khojaly. Part of his army clashed with the enemy from Kungirat in Khojaly and after a short fight, returned. Khojaly was captured by the enemy. In particular, in Mangit, there was a fierce battle between the army led by General Verevkin and the defenders of the homeland. In the end, the invaders came and massacred the city's population. Mangit was burned and destroyed. While continuing the journey from Mangit, General Verevkin fought with a combined army of Uzbeks and Turkmens and won. After that, there were clashes between the two. In particular, the army of 4-5 thousand people located in Shaykharik fought bravely against the invaders. However, it was still forced to retreat. [1. – B 36].

On May 29, 1873, the tsarist army reached the outskirts of Khiva. The troops of Muhammad Rakhimkhan II, who tried to repel the Russian army, were defeated. Muhammad Rakhimkhan II, considering it a shameful thing to be captured by the invaders, retreated with a small group of his men to Badirkent, where the Yavmut Turkmen lived - to the Ismomut Ata cemetery. At one point, when the fighting was going on, Muhammad Rakhimkhan II's brothers, Amir and Otakhan, stood by their brother, and instead of uniting the people and fighting against the common enemy, they fought for the throne. Taking advantage of the Khan's flight, Amir and Otakhans conspired with treacherous mahrams and went to Kaufman. Kaufman warmly received the defeated - but did not see them as the Khan of Khiva. Kaufman demanded that the Khan come himself. He sent a letter to the Khan, saying, "If he does not come and make peace within three days, one of his sons will be made Khan in his place."

Muhammad Rakhim Khan sent a messenger to General Kaufman, informing him of his surrender, and stopped the military operations. However, about a thousand troops led by the cruel and ignorant Colonel Skobelev and Count Shuvalov blew up the Shahabad gate, killed everyone they met on the way, and rushed to the Khan's horde. His real goal was to capture more booty and wealth, to gain higher ranks and insignia. However, Kaufman condemns this arbitrary move and warns Sikobelev severely. [2. – B 74].

Muhammad Rakhimkhan II returned to Khiva to sign a peace treaty. By the time he arrived, the khan's treasury, along with many other treasures, including 300 rare manuscripts, had been sent to St. Petersburg. On August 12, 1873, a peace treaty ("Gandimiyon Treaty") was signed between Kaufman and Muhammad Rakhimkhan II in the village of Gandimiyon near Khiva. According to this treaty, the lands on the right bank of the lower reaches of the Amu Darya passed into the hands of Russia. All opportunities were created for Russian ships to sail along the Amudarya. Russian merchants received the right to trade freely in the territory of the khanate and to build warehouses on the left bank of the Amu Darya. The Khiva Khanate was deprived of foreign relations with Russia without its permission and became a vassal. The khanate was obliged to pay an indemnity of 2 million 200 thousand soums (over a period of 20 years). Russian merchants and industrialists were exempted from duties and obligations in the Khiva Khanate and were allowed to purchase real estate in the Khanate.[3. – B 369].

In the book "Essays and the Conquest of Khiva", published in Moscow in 1875, E. Zhelyabsky writes: "Central Asia, where the Khiva Khanate is located, was in the distant past the cradle of our Europeans, Indians and Persians, that is, Indo-European-Aryan tribes. Once upon a time, our ancestors - the Sylvians - came to Russia from that Central Asia. It is known that King Alexander the Great also organized his famous campaign in Central Asia. Pre-Islamic religious enlightenment also appeared in the Persians. At the beginning of the 6th century, Christians and the Christian episcopate also came to us from these parts. The current Khan of Khiva, Sayyid Muhammad Raimkhan, does not like to engage in state affairs, he is easily influenced by those around him. He is greatly influenced by the greedy and strict Matkarim devobeghi." [5. – B 73]

In conclusion, in the conquest of the Khiva Khanate, the tsar's troops encountered many difficulties on the way to the khanate. However, they did not encounter much resistance in the battles on the territory of the khanate. Because the Russian army was well-armed, had good tactics, and was well-prepared for this battle, gave the result. Many material and spiritual wealth was taken from the territory of the Khanate. Khiva almost became a colony. Khiva was subjected to even more restrictions than Bukhara..

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