

COVERAGE OF THE HISTORY OF KHOREZM TRADE RELATIONS IN THE WORKS OF RUSSIAN TRAVELERS

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Аннотация

Сведения русских путешественников по истории торговых отношений городов Хорезма до конца не изучены в хронологическом аспекте и в сравнительном анализе. В древности и до позднего средневековья города Хорезма по своим древним традициям и географическому положению соединял различные ответвления Великого Шелкового пути, являлся на этом пути одним из крупнейших транзитных пунктов. Сведения, предоставленные русскими путешественниками, посетившим Хорезм и Среднюю Азию, были научно глубоко изучены, благодаря чему были получены сведения о наиболее ценных товарах, вывозимых из Хорезма, или в каком районе Хорезма были изготовлены эти товары и какие изделия из Хорезма были наиболее значимые в регионах и городах России. Целом вопрос спроса и цены является одним из основных направлений этого исследования. В связи с этим в данной исследовательской работе в хронологическом порядке и сравнительном анализе рассматриваются сведения русских путешественников по истории торговых связей городов Хорезма, стоящих или близлежащих на трассах Великого Шелкового пути.

Annotation

The information of Russian travelers on the history of trade relations between the cities of Khorezm has not been fully studied in a chronological aspect and in a comparative analysis. In ancient times and until the late Middle Ages, the city of Khorezm, according to its ancient traditions and geographical location, connected various branches of the Great Silk Road, and was one of the largest transit points along this route. The information provided by Russian travelers who visited Khorezm and Central Asia was scientifically deeply studied, thanks to which information was obtained about the most valuable goods exported from Khorezm,

or in which region of Khorezm these goods were made and which products from Khorezm were the most significant in the regions and cities of Russia. Overall, the issue of demand and price is one of the main areas of this study. In this regard, in this research work, in chronological order and comparative analysis, the information of Russian travelers on the history of trade relations of the cities of Khorezm, standing or nearby on the routes of the Great Silk Road, is considered.

Beginning in the 16th century, a new state emerged in the Khorezm oasis: the Khiva Khanate, which for a long time played a significant role in the trade of the Great Silk Road. Due to its geographically advantageous location, water supply, and, most importantly, its position on caravan routes, the Khiva Khanate actively participated in trade between the West and the East, although not on the same scale as in ancient and high medieval times. In particular, it played an important role in Russia's trade relations with Bukhara and, to some extent, with India and Iran. The Khanate's extensive participation in foreign trade was linked to the development of its crafts. Khiva, the capital of the khanate, has a long history of craftsmanship. In the Middle Ages, the city's crafts were specialized. Specifically, carpet weaving, wood carving, weaving, and other crafts existed in Khiva. Numerous written sources provide information about the nature of the Khiva Khanate's foreign trade relations. However, a drawback of this information is that much of it is contradictory. From this perspective, this study comparatively analyzes not only the accounts of Russian travelers and envoys (I. Khokhlov, the Pazukhin brothers, D. Rukavkin, F. Beneveni, A. Blankennagel, D. Gladyshev, I. Muravin, and N. Muravyov) but also data from travelers, merchants, and envoys from Bukhara, Iran, and other regions who visited the Khiva Khanate for various reasons.

The article utilizes such scholarly research methods as systematization, historical-comparative analysis, generalization of historical data, and the principle of objectivity.

The question of the scale of these trade relations, or which products were exported from the khanate and which were imported, is one of the most pressing topics, and it is crucial to study this issue through the written sources of the period. Trade relations between Russia and the Khiva Khanate were of particular importance for the khanate's economy, which, from the 16th century, was developing along the lines of a global market economy and becoming involved in global economic ties. From this point of view, the information from Russian travelers who visited the khanate's territory for one reason or another is of paramount importance. A scholarly analysis of this data makes it possible to determine Russia's role in the foreign relations of the Khiva Khanate and,

conversely, the significance of economic relations with the khanate for Russia's own economic development.

If we are to describe the visits of Russian merchants, envoys, or travelers to the khanate's territory in chronological order, we must first turn our attention to the information from Ivan Khokhlov's embassy in 1620.

The reports of the envoy Ivan Khokhlov do not contain specific information about the products manufactured in the Khiva Khanate or the products exported from the khanate to Russian markets. However, based on the information about the 900 zandanachi fabrics gifted to him by the Khan of Bukhara, it can be concluded that even during these periods, a large quantity of silk fabrics was exported from Bukhara and Khorezm to Russia [1, p. 629]. Furthermore, since Khorezm was primarily a center for transit trade at this time, it can be assumed that the khanate's products exported to Russia consisted of cotton and silk fabrics. At the same time, Ivan Khokhlov noted that the Bukhara Khanate had 30 cities while the Khiva Khanate had only 4, and that the latter was economically very poor [1, p. 417]. It is evident that during the 17th and 18th centuries, craft production and foreign trade in the Khiva Khanate were very poorly developed. Only goods produced in India, Iran, and the Bukhara Khanate were brought to and sold in Russia; in other words, transit trade was developing.

Ambassadors serving in diplomatic missions were also engaged in trade. Envoys from Khiva typically purchased cloth, which was the primary commodity in trade with Russia. Goods exported from Khiva to Russia included carpets, dried fruit, and vegetable dyes. Similarly, Russian envoys, whose duties were not solely political, sought to purchase various goods in the Khanate of Khiva. For example, the mission of V.A. Dautov and M. Yu. Kasimov, which visited Central Asia in 1675-1677, was dispatched from Moscow to Khiva and Bukhara with the task of procuring leather goods and dyed leather. Some of the textiles exported to Russia underwent further processing to be made into finished products [1, pp. 532-543], [2, pp. 34-39]. In 1753, the Russian merchant D. Rukavkin, while in Khiva and Bukhara, provided information on the production of high-quality cotton and silk goods in the Khanate of Khiva and their sale in the markets of Orenburg [3, p. 32]. Alexander Blankennagel, who was in the Khanate of Khiva in 1793-1794, reported on the import of cotton and silk goods from the khanate to Russia. He emphasized that it would be more advantageous for Russia to produce these goods domestically if the khanate supplied raw cotton instead of cotton fabrics, and that Russia would greatly benefit from this arrangement [4, pp. 17-19].

In general, during the 18th century, Russia began to actively pursue the establishment of close trade relations with the Central Asian khanates. This was

because the importance of maritime trade also began to increase during this period. Merchants could travel from Astrakhan across the Caspian Sea to Mangyshlak, and from there overland to Urgench, Khiva, and Bukhara.

In the 18th and 19th centuries, the Khanate of Khiva reached a certain dynamic stage of development. Despite its complex position amidst the neighboring Emirate of Bukhara, the Kazakh Zhuz, and independent Turkmen clans, a relatively peaceful environment prevailed within the khanate. During this period, Khiva also attached great importance to its foreign trade relations. However, available materials indicate that Khiva's foreign economic ties were primarily oriented towards Russia and, through it, to Western countries.

It should be noted that in the 1720s-1740s, Russia's relations with the Central Asian khanates were somewhat sluggish. This was due to the suspension of trade and economic relations between Russia and Khiva in 1716, following the failure of the Bekovich-Cherkassky expedition [2, pp. 51-57].

Florio Beneveni, a Russian secret envoy who was in the Khanates of Bukhara and Khiva from 1721 to 1725, urged the Khan of Khiva to restore friendly relations with Russia and, in particular, to revive trade. Although F. Beneveni's mission does not provide specific details about Russo-Khivan trade relations, his reports make it clear that trade with the khanate was always of great importance to Russia [2, pp. 63-65].

However, in 1726, the Khivan ambassador Subhankulibek arrived in St. Petersburg. He raised the issue of restoring trade relations between Russia and Khiva with the Russian government. On September 17, 1726, the Supreme Privy Council concluded that sending merchants from Russia to Khiva would benefit both the Khivans and the Russians, as the treasury and the merchants were suffering from the trade ban. In response to Subhankulibek's ambassadorial mission, Russia's Supreme Privy Council issued a special decree to establish trade relations with Khiva. Using Astrakhan as a base, a Russian trade caravan was sent to Khiva under the leadership of Yodgor Alimov of Samarkand, who at the time was renowned for his trade connections with Russia. The aforementioned decree of the Supreme Privy Council permitted Astrakhan and other Russian cities to trade in goods brought from Khiva and Bukhara [5, pp. 274-275].

A.I. Yukht, who studied archival documents on Astrakhan's trade relations, noted that goods from Khiva and Bukhara were brought to Astrakhan by Central Asian merchants - namely Khivans, Bukharans, and Turkmens - and that natives of Central Asia accounted for about 51% of all goods brought to Astrakhan in the 1730s. At the same time, the researcher mentions that Khivans held a leading position among the Central Asian merchantry, noting that in 1734-1735, Central

Asian merchants brought goods worth 17,000 rubles to Astrakhan, of which 13,000 rubles' worth belonged to the Khivans [6, pp. 100-101].

Thus, in the 1730s and 1740s, for political reasons, merchants from Khiva began to hold an important place in Russia's trade with the Khanates of Khiva and Bukhara via Astrakhan. Based on this, and on the lists of goods imported into Russia from Central Asia found in the customs ledgers of Astrakhan, as well as data on the measured quantities and prices of these goods, it can be concluded that Khivan merchants held a leading position in Russia's trade with Central Asia until the end of the 18th century.

Colonel Nikolai Muravyov, who was in the khanate in 1819, provided very valuable information on the trade relations between the Khiva Khanate and the Russian state, as well as on the products exported from the khanate to Russian markets. In particular, he wrote that in addition to the cotton and silk goods exported from the khanate to Russia, which had been noted by many Russian travelers, newly launched vegetable dyes and soap products were also being sent to Russia, and he especially emphasized the high quality of Khivan soap [7, p. 98].

In the 1830s and 1840s, jewelry making was considered one of the most important crafts in Khiva. Many stones - such as turquoise, coral, pearl, ruby, emerald, colored glass, and sapphire - were used by jewelers in the making of gold items and ornaments [8, p. 79].

The crafts of Khorezm played an important role in its economic life. At the same time, the development of crafts in the country directly laid the foundation for economic growth and the development of domestic and foreign trade relations.

Thus, the information provided by Russian travelers, ambassadors, and merchants who visited the Khiva Khanate is important for determining the extent of the khanate's foreign trade ties and for drawing final conclusions. For example, from the information provided by Vámbéry, a Hungarian traveler who came to Khiva in 1863 - 10 years before the 1873 invasion - it is clear from his book "Travels in Central Asia" that "the Khivan Khanate... has nothing imported from Russia" [9, p. 213]. By the end of the 19th century, the khanate's economy flourished due to products imported from Russia, and markets were the primary means of commercial and monetary relations for merchants.

In conclusion, it should be noted that existing sources, the instructions given to ambassadors and merchants, and the reports published in ambassadorial diaries still retain their value, as they provide us with important information about the foreign economic relations of the Khiva Khanate. Based on the evidence presented, it can be said that the Khiva Khanate established intensive trade and diplomatic relations with the Russian state during the 16th-19th centuries.

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