

**POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC REASONS FOR THE OCCUPATION OF TURKISTAN
BY THE RUSSIAN EMPIRE**

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Annotation: *It is for this reason that the empire's administrators fully followed the colonial policy in terms of meeting the cultural needs of the local population. Although the policy carried out in this regard at that time was described as a policy of non-interference in the spiritual life of the local population, in essence, this policy consisted of moving the Russian population to the country, Russifying the local population, imposing the Russian language in government offices, and stifling the development of national culture in various ways. The essence of the cultural and educational policy carried out by the colonialists can be seen in the fact that the tsarist government paid little attention to opening schools introducing modern knowledge to the local population, holding various spiritual and educational events, opening cultural education institutions, improving sanitation and hygiene, and cultural relations.*

Key Words: *Turkistan, Russian Empire, Khanate of Khiva, Emirate of Bukhara, Khanate of Kokan, colony, general - governorship , freedom movement, management, military, industry, agrarian, deportation policy, national liberation , war, uezd, volost, iron road, state, king, дума, rebellion, bek.*

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It is known from history that by the middle of the 19th century, the economic and political situation in Russia changed, and this country gradually began to move to the path of capitalist development. But it began to develop at a much slower pace compared to other countries in Europe that were on the path of capitalist development. The fact that Russia was lagging far behind England, France, and Germany in its development was especially evident during the Crimean War of 1853-1856. The reader should pay special attention to the fact that the ruling circles in Russia were well aware of the reasons for the defeat in the Crimean War. In order to further strengthen the power of the Russian Empire, it became clear that large-scale economic and political reforms were necessary. These reforms were connected with the need to study the experience of the developing countries in Europe, abolish the system of serfdom, which has a great impact on economic backwardness, develop the industry, supply it with raw materials, and look for new markets for the sale of manufactured products.

Studying the experience of Western countries has brought up many problems related to the development of the industry. It is known that the serf system in Russia completely tied the peasants to the landlords. Even if the industry developed, the

peasants did not have the right to go to an enterprise and get a job as a hired worker. The population of Russia consisted mainly of serf peasants, and due to their poverty, there was no opportunity to sell industrial products even within the country.

In such conditions, sources of raw materials and new markets without competition were extremely necessary for Russia. If we take into account that the most developed sector of the Russian industry at that time was textiles, there were no conditions or opportunities in Russia itself to supply this sector with raw materials. In addition, it was not possible to supply the relatively developing textile industry with expensive cotton purchased from America. Having its own independent raw material base has become one of the main issues for Russia.

Russia could not compete with European industrial products in the world market in terms of the quality and type of its industrial products. M.A. Terentev wrote about this: "The products of our textile industry, except for some products, cannot find buyers in the European markets... Central Asia is in the same position for us as we are in relation to factories in Western Europe. Central Asia has fully opened its markets for the products of our industry and is giving raw materials, sheep and coins in exchange for the products received. However, the complicated political situation in Turkestan, the introduction of a large amount of British industrial products to this country through India and Iran limited the possibilities of selling Russian industrial products.

For these and other reasons, Russia abandoned its plans for the Middle East and the Balkans after the defeat in the Crimean War. Apart from that, it was not possible to develop cotton and silk production in other territories subordinated to Russia. All territories that became a Russian colony became its uncompetitive market. In such a situation, in order to create a new base of raw materials, the political circles of the Russian Empire focused all their attention on Turkestan. As a result, in the middle of the 19th century, Russia turned Turkestan into a source of raw materials and an uncompetitive market as its main strategic goal.

DISCUSSION At this point, the following words of the Chief of the General Staff of the Russian Army, Major General Blaramberg, can be quoted: "The future of Russia is not connected with Europe. He should focus on Asia. Year by year, the rapid growth of the textile industry puts the opening of new markets for product sales on the agenda. As the European markets are closed to Russia due to strong competition, it has to sell its textile industry products in the markets of the vast Asian continent.

According to the data collected by Russian economists on the eve of the invasion of the Russian Empire, at that time there were approximately 10 million the population lived, and their need for chit gas was 1,750,000 poods. In 1856-1864 Russia's exports to Turkestan, yarn - gauze made up 60 percent of the total product. M.Terentev writes that "there is no doubt that our having such markets will lead to the creation of new sources of income for our textile industry."

Yu. Getelmeister, one of the famous economists of Russia at that time, compared the development opportunities of Europe and Russia and came to the conclusion that

Russia should focus mainly on Asian markets. While studying the economic opportunities of Asia, Yu. Getelmeister focused his attention mainly on Turkestan. He even developed plans to take and sell products to Tashkent and Kokan by establishing a shipyard in Syrdarya. This economist, who conducted tireless research for the interests of Russia, came to the conclusion that in order to turn Turkestan into a large market, it must be conquered by military force.

Another important issue is the issue of trade relations. For example, Turkestan merchants had a great position in the domestic markets of Russia. Due to the fact that Turkestan merchants were charged less duty and there were no other obstacles, the people who brought goods from this country to Russia and those who took products from here were mainly merchants from the states of Bukhara, Kokand, and Khiva. Since the development of trade relations with the so-called "non-Muslims" in Muslim countries was very limited, Russian merchants could not operate on a large scale in Turkestan. In addition, in those times, Russian merchants lacked rich experience and commercial skills for the Khanate markets.

Russian scientist V.V. Grigorev compares trade relations between Russia and Turkestan and emphasizes that the main income remains in the hands of Turkestans. He wrote, "Russia is not trading with Inner Asia, but Inner Asia is trading with Russia." Generally, both in Asia and in the Russian Empire, the sellers and buyers of goods are mostly Asian merchants. As a result, all the profits from trade remain in their hands."

V. Grigorev put forward the idea that the main way to develop trade relations with Turkestan is the conquest of this country by a Christian state capable of establishing order everywhere. According to his firm conclusion, trade relations with this country cannot be properly established without conquering Turkestan.

The administrators of the Russian Empire, who knew the political weakness of the Central Asian khanates and fully believed in their military superiority, developed many plans related to the development of cotton cultivation and the creation of high-yielding varieties of cotton long before conquering this region. Because Turkestan cotton was cheaper compared to cotton imported from America. That is why A. Shipov, one of the largest representatives of the textile industry in Russia, thoroughly studied the economic importance of Turkestan cotton for Russia and proved that Central Asia can be an important and rich base of raw materials for many branches of industry. Consequently, Russia was economically very backward during this period, and the development of the textile industry was of great importance for this country.

The interest of the Russian Empire in Turkestan was also connected with the desire to develop many underground resources in this country. It is known from history that news about the rich gold deposits of Central Asia was known to Russia as early as the 16th century. In this matter, Peter I was to take appropriate actions. Before the invasion of the Russian Empire, all Russian officials who came to Central Asia were always interested in studying natural resources and identifying underground reserves.

SOLUTION According to a number of archival materials, news about the gold mines of Central Asia was so widespread in Russia that during the Russian invasion, along with the troops of the Russian army, many specialists in the development of underground resources entered this country. Among them there were big industrialists such as Khludov and Pervushin, who spent a lot of money in search of gold mines during their initial entry . It should be noted that the information about the rich underground and above-ground resources accelerated the implementation of the plan to conquer Turkestan.

At the beginning of the invasion of Tsarist Russia, oil fields in the Kokan Khanate, in particular, were given to Russian industrialists. Based on the agreement between Kaufman and Khudoyar Khan, Russian officers and tourists began to enter the Ferghana Valley under the guise of merchants. According to information, Kaufman asked Khudoyar Khan to allow Russian "industrialists and businessmen to engage in mining" in the Khanate territories . In 1868, merchant Fyodorov also received permission from Khudoyar Khan to use Moibulok oil fields.

After the establishment of the rule of the Russian Empire in Turkestan, serious efforts to study the mining industry on a scientific basis began. In particular, on December 19, 1869, A.S. Tatarinov, the head of mining works under the Governor General of Turkestan , organized a chemical laboratory on the instructions of Kaufman . Scientists such as Mushketov, Romanovsky, Severtsov, Middendorf, mining engineers such as Mishenkov, Davidov, Meyer, Ivanov, Lopushinsky participated in the laboratory work. The scientists of this laboratory were involved in the search and exploitation of the natural resources of the country - gold, silver, copper ore, lead, iron and coal deposits, and later salt, oil, granite and building materials, as well as precious stones .

Naturally, the Russian Empire needed to build roads to transport raw materials and wealth in Turkestan.

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