



HAMID ZIYOYEV'S RESEARCH ON ISSUES OF COTTON MONOPOLY

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Annotation: *This article summarizes the issues of tsarism and cotton monopoly, based on the works of historian Professor Hamid Ziyoyev, who made a significant contribution to the development of the history of Uzbekistan.*

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The development of cotton in Uzbekistan can be divided into three stages: In the first stage - from antiquity to the 60s and 70s of the XIX century, when Russia invaded Central Asia, the country exported mainly cotton products are released. In the next two phases, during the Tsarist period and the Soviet era, almost all cotton was exported as raw material. There are subtle cases here.

Tsarist Russia invaded the Uzbek khanates in the 1960s and 1970s in exchange for bloody and terrible wars. At that time, the first period of Uzbek cotton-growing ended in the violence of external forces.

So what were the advantages of the first period?

First of all, all the income from cotton would remain in our country. This has played an important role in the growth of productive forces and material and spiritual life in the country. Farmers, artisans, and merchants were considered the real owners of the wealth that came from their hard work. From ancient times, the export of cotton products to the open and foreign markets has created a specialized handicraft industry in the country. (Ziyoyev, *The struggle for cotton monopoly in Uzbekistan and its consequences (late XIX - early XX centuries)*., 1999) In Bukhara, Samarkand, Tashkent, Urgench, Khiva, Kokand, Andijan, Namangan, Margilan, and other cities, there were textile, sewing, tailoring, dyeing, and other handicraft enterprises employing thousands of people. However, during the khanate period, cotton was grown in moderation. That is why, at that time, according to one of the 1874 issues of the newspaper "Бирживыя ведомости", food in the country, especially in Tashkent, was so plentiful and cheap that wheat and rice were left unattended in the market for weeks. They only became more expensive after the arrival of the Russians. According to the newspaper, cotton prices were high at that time. Russian ambassadors to Tashkent in the 1990s wrote that the city was rich in cocoons, cotton, as well as wheat, barley, millet, and fruits: grapes, apricots, walnuts, apples, pears, melons, and watermelons.

Philip Nazarov, who was in the Kokand Khanate from 1813 to 1814, noted that in the Fergana Valley, mainly cotton was grown, but also a variety of fruits. Of course, in



some places the seeds may have been planted in larger areas, but in general, cotton monopoly was not allowed in all three khanates. Cotton monopoly emerged only after the Tsarist government invaded the Uzbek khanates. From then on, the second period of cotton growing began, which lasted until the victory of the October Revolution. (Ziyoyev, The struggle for cotton monopoly in Uzbekistan and its consequences (late XIX - early XX centuries), 1999)

The successive conquests of the Uzbek khanates by the tsarist government first of all alarmed the Russian trade and industry, which was lurking for a lucrative income. The Russian press, including the «Русский вестник» (1868), declared that Central Asia's wealth was not only gold and precious stones, but also cotton, silk, and fruit, and focused on the development of cotton growing. The newspaper also says that Bukhara cotton is already cheaper than American cotton. But stakeholders in Russia are unable to do so quickly. Because in the 60s and 70s of the XIX century, the tsarist government was mainly engaged in the conquest of the khanates and the strengthening of its position in the country. In addition, local cotton was largely unsuitable for the Russian textile industry. It is known that in Central Asia for many centuries the local varieties of cotton "brown cotton" and "red cotton" have been grown. The seeds of the "red husk" are much larger, and the fiber is white. The cotton plant is called the "Red Sheaf" because of its reddish color. The length of the fiber reached 22-23 millimeters. The length of the "red cotton" fiber was 14-16 millimeters, the color was redder, and the seeds were very small. This variety is distinguished only by its fertility. Among the local cotton varieties, the quality, softness and fiber length of cotton grown under the Khiva khanate are estimated at an average of 20 millimeters. According to experts at the time, Khiva cotton was not inferior to American cotton. Prior to the conquest of Central Asia by Tsarist Russia, the failure of the Red Cotton variety to meet consumer demand was evident to some traders, especially those trading with Russia. They are trying to climate American cotton in our country in order to increase their income. For example, in the middle of the 19th century, one of the largest traders, Kh. Saidumarov, brought a European hand machine (Jin) to Bukhara via Russia to separate American cotton seeds and fiber from seeds. Although the Americans produced low-yielding varieties, the fiber was of high quality and was sold only at the Nizhny Novgorod fair. However, conditions have not yet been created in Bukhara for the acclimatization of this new variety of cotton. I think it is necessary to pay special attention to the initiative of NN Raevsky in the climate of American cotton. He had previously worked on air conditioning cotton in Crimea. In 1866, he proposed the establishment of cottongrowing in Orenburg, and sent to the governor-general a copy of the American Cotton Seed and a Guide to the Cultivation of Cotton. According to some reports, American cotton seeds were sent to Tashkent that year. Efforts to develop cotton in the country are failing. In 1868-1869, in Tashkent, Khojand and Samarkand, Khoja Yunusov, together with Spridonov, succeeded in climateizing American and Egyptian cotton varieties. In 1869, at a meeting of the



Society for the Promotion of Russian Industry and Trade, I. N. Raevsky spoke on "The Development of Cotton in Russia and the Neighboring East." Representatives of the textile industry and trade will take an active part in the meeting. The speaker argues that the supply of raw materials to the Russian Empire from Central Asia and other cotton-growing areas is beneficial and convenient in all respects. According to him, a total of 3,088,285 pounds (42,710,136 soums) of cotton was imported to Russia, of which 639,192 pounds (5,972,491 soums) were imported from the eastern countries. This accounted for 21 percent of the cotton imported into the Russian Empire. Of course, millions of soums were spent to buy a lot of cotton. Due to the lack of a merchant fleet in Russia, cotton was imported by European fleets and railways, which resulted in high prices. During the war years, many textile enterprises were closed down and the government suffered heavy losses due to sharp interruptions or reductions in the supply of cotton to the Russian Empire. With this in mind, I. N. Raevsky emphasizes that the development of cotton growing in Central Asia is of great benefit to Russia. He mentions the shortcomings of local cotton varieties and recommends replacing them with American varieties; comments and suggestions. For example, he suggested that the United States invite experts from Egypt and other countries, publish manuals on cotton growing methods in Russian and local languages, and set aside special areas for experiments. According to him, it was necessary to take the seeds of American and local cotton varieties grown at the experimental stations and train qualified specialists. He also stressed the need to bring to the country advanced machines for cleaning and sorting cotton, as well as threshing equipment.

In 1871, I. N. Raevsky personally came to Tashkent and did a great deal of work on the conditioning of American cotton. He grows American cotton in Samarkand. Turkestan Governor-General Kaufman, at his suggestion, sent two men to the United States to enrich their knowledge of cotton growing.

I. N. Raevsky sent to the owners of the Moscow textile industry to find out the quality of American cotton grown in Tashkent. Entrepreneurs appreciate the quality of cotton. Mulla Yulchi Toychibaev was the first to plant American cotton in Tashkent in 1875. Seeds of foreign cotton varieties were planted in Bukhara khanate, as well as in 1878 in Andijan, Namangan, Kokand and Margilan. It is obvious that at that time the efforts to climate American cotton in our country were intensified.

American cotton climate experiments have made it possible to produce a higher quality, longer-fiber cotton variety than the local "brown cotton." However, this variety was less productive. At that time, the American varieties "Seansland" and "Petit" were planted and tested. Anyway, they didn't fit the local conditions. At the same time, other varieties of American cotton will be tested. In 1877 a cotton experimental firm was opened in Tashkent. Several varieties of American cotton are grown here, and their seeds are distributed to the local population. For the first time in the cotton fields, plows and hand ginners are used. As a result, agro-technical work will be easier and the cost of cotton will be lower. Cotton ginning will also be





introduced. The cotton fiber grown in the experimental fields will be sent to the Moscow textile industry. Industrialists recognize the length and quality of cotton fiber. But new varieties still yielded little. Finally, by the 1980s, the Upland variety had become a high-quality, high-yield local variety of American cotton. Meets the requirements of the textile industry in all respects. The "cotton temptation" did not stop in the early twentieth century. The Russian Empire's efforts to secure cotton independence intensified. This was also reflected in the press at the time. In particular, one of the issues of the newspaper "Turkestanskije Vedomosti" noted that the country produces high-quality cotton that is not inferior to American cotton, and cotton is one of the leading agricultural crops. I. Slutsky, the author of the book "Туркестанский хлопок" explained the importance of cotton growing in the life of all Russian: "Cotton is the main branch of life of the whole Turkestan region. Indigenous peoples and Russians living in Fergana, Syrdarya, Samarkand and Caspian regions, Bukhara and Khiva khanates depend in many ways on a very useful crop - cotton. The lives of hundreds of thousands of people living in central Russia, factory owners, and railway workers are closely linked to Turkestan cotton. Trade and industry flourished in Turkestan and central Russia, and the Tsarist government benefited greatly. If the Tsarist army invaded Turkestan and seized the real jewel, it is safe to say that one of the jewels was cotton, which tied the whole of Turkestan to Russia. The transfer of the Central Asian railway to Andijan and the construction of the Tashkent-Orenburg railway also contributed to this priceless wealth. There were two different views on the development of cotton growing. One of them was to grow cotton by opening new irrigation networks and developing new lands. For example, Senator Palen, who has studied the situation in the country in depth, wrote that without it, its development would have negative consequences.

The Tsarist government continued to urge its representatives to intensify cotton production, despite the loss of land. Russia's agricultural inspector, Krivoshein, said: "Turkestan's grain is related to Russian grain and its cotton to American cotton." (Ziyoyev, The struggle against Russian aggression and domination in Turkestan

(early XVIII - XX centuries). , 1998) This means that if more grain is grown in Turkestan, the demand for grain imported from Russia will decrease. This means that the more cotton is grown, the greater the demand for Russian grain. In turn, this would solve Russia's problems with American cotton, which is falling in price. According to the inspector, if cotton growing is developed, it will benefit both sides. No matter what happens to the people of Turkestan, Russia's interests will be fully preserved! This is the only policy pursued by the tsarist authorities.

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