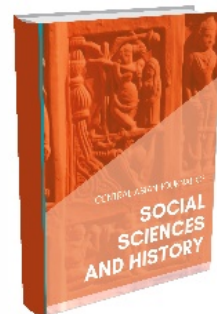




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A Brief Description of Price Fluctuations in Kokand Khanate in the 60s and 70s of the XIX Century

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ABSTRACT

The article deals with wholesale and retail prices of main commodities circulating in Kokand khanate in 60-70s of XIX century. The sources used are archival material, periodicals and official statistics. Using concrete examples, it shows the dependence of prices on sending caravans to Russia, weather conditions and military action.

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In the 60s and 70s of the XIX century Kokand Khanate territory became part of the Russian Empire, which had an impact not only on the political but especially on the economic life of peoples living there.

Russia becomes the main trading partner of Fergana Valley at that time, with most caravans passing through Tashkent.

The main wholesale commodity is cotton. It was divided into refined and unrefined. Purified cotton was much more expensive in all regions.

In Tashkent, on 30 October 1873 a pood of purified cotton costs 4 r. 27 ½ k. [18] in exchange for another commodity, in May 1877 - 4 r. 33 ½ k. [21], i.e. in 4 years the retail price of cotton has hardly changed.

For Kokand we only have data for 1871 - 1872. (Table 1)

Table 1

Date	Cotton refined -per pud– Kokand
1871. October	- 3 r. 87 k. – 4 and 4 r. 75 k. [10]
1871. December	- 3 r. 97 k. per pood
1872. February	cash – 4 r. 30 k. pood, credit - 4 r. 50 k.
1872. April	cash – 4 r. 35 k., credit - 4 r. 75 k. – 5 r.,
1872. December	cash – 3 r. 70 k., credit – 4 r. [15]

Considering the currency rate, in 1876 only 51 rubles were paid for one camel of cotton, and in 1877 over 72 rubles.

Higher wholesale prices were for cotton, which was sold on credit or exchanged for other goods. The price difference was more than 10 rubles per camel, for example on 2 April 1871 the cash price was 70 r. 30 k., on credit or exchange 83 r. 60 k., at the beginning of December 1874 the cash price was 57 r. 95 k., and the credit price varied from 60 r. 80 k. to 98 r. 40 k. There was no large price fluctuations, ranging between 2 and 5 rubles, the only exception to this were probably December 1874.

The change in price depended on sending caravans to Russia. Prices rise steadily in spring, when caravans leave for Russia and wholesale trade is on the rise and after the harvest in October-December, when the new crop is purchased, in winter December-February the price is lowest.

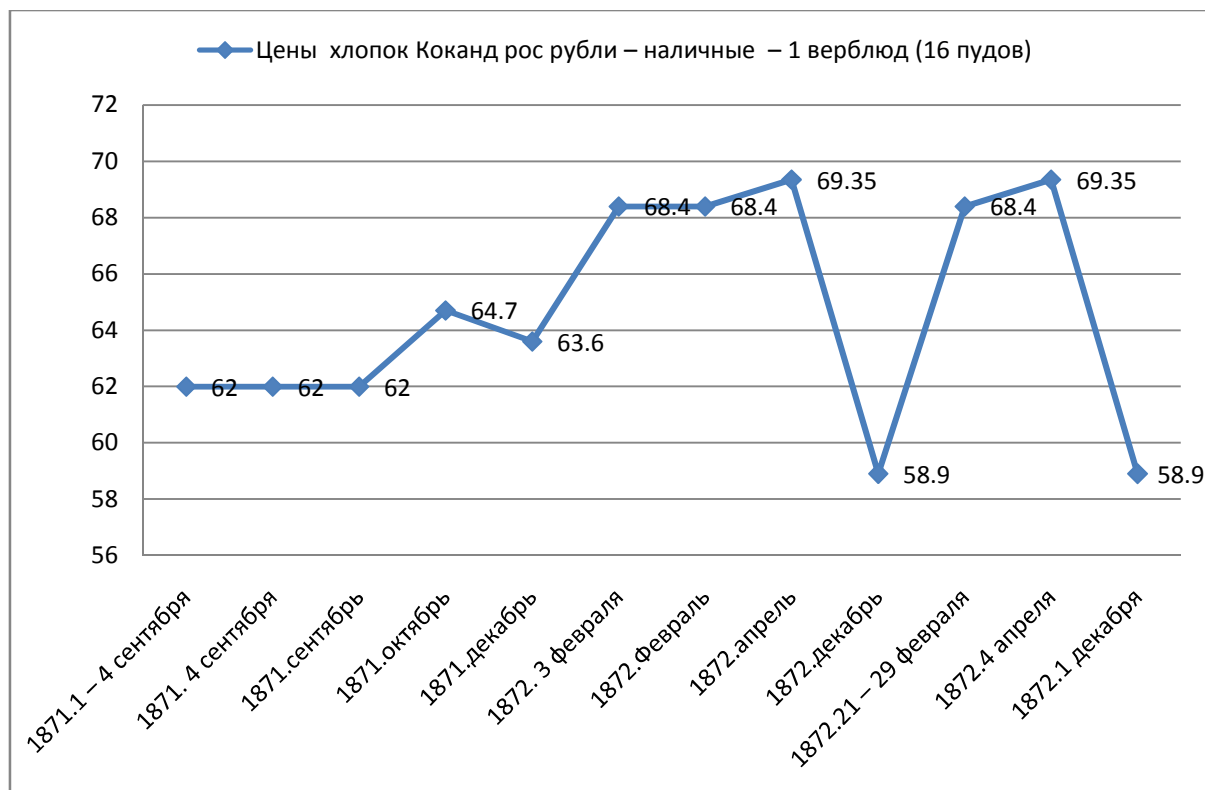
In Kokand, prices are much lower, which is understandable, since from Kokand cotton was taken in bulk to Tashkent for sale. (Table 2)

Table 2

Date	Kokand cotton prices grew rubles – cash – 1 camel (16pood)
1871. 1 - 4 September	62 r.
1871. 4 September	62 r. 70 k. – 64 r. 60 k. [8]
1871. September	62 r.
1871. October	64 r. 70 k. [10]
1871. December	63 r. 60 k. [13]
1872. 3 February	68 r. 40 k. [17]
1872. February	68 r. 40 k.
1872. April	69 r. 35 k.
1872. 21 – 29 February	68 r. 40 k. [16]
1872. 4 April	69 r. 35 k.
1872. December	58 r. 90 k. [15]

The difference with the wholesale price in Tashkent for cash was 15 to 20 rubles. (diagramm 1)

Diagramm 1



The diagram also shows that cotton price fluctuations occur in the same period as in Tashkent. (Table 3)

Table 3

Date	Kokand Cotton Prices grew rubles -exchange, cash– 1 camel(16pood)
1871.1 – 4 September	76 r.[10]
1871.4 September	18 – 19 ducat [8]
1871.September	76 r.
1871.October	76 r. [6]
1872.3 February	72 r. 20 k. [17]
1872.April	76 – 79 r. 80 k
1872.December	64 r. 60 k. – 4 r. [15]
1872. 4 April	76 r. – 79 r. 80 k. [14]
1872. 1 December	64 r. 60 k. [15]

The prices of cotton on credit or exchange are also changing. The difference with cash prices is between 5 and 10 rubles. The price goes up and down on credit. For the same reasons as cash.

The silk price depended primarily on its variety and degree of dressing, silk was sold in cocoons, unwound, wholesale, retail and on credit and the price varied greatly both by region and depending on the variety and the time of year.

The raw cocoons and raw silk price depended on where it was sold, for domestic use, and apparently

the lower quality was cheaper, for export abroad the price was more expensive, the difference in all years ranged within 50 rubles.

Tashkent from the moment of conquest became one of the main transit points, silk from the provinces was delivered to Tashkent and from there it was shipped directly to Russia. Silk prices in Tashkent for the most exported varieties: sarnak, hamster, fillister and tafil during this period depended on the demand for these varieties.

The fillister variety was shipped to Tashkent from Kokand, Namangan, Khojent and Kashgar. The most expensive was from Namangan, followed by Namangan and Khojent varieties. Silk was sold by the puddle, for cash and exchange and credit, and its price fluctuated between 83 and 133 rubles during 1871 - 1873.

Silk sarnak was much cheaper, from 1871 to 1876 price fluctuations ranged from 11 r. 40 k. up to 19 r. for pood for cash and on credit. The difference between cash and prices on credit ranged from 2 to 5 rubles.

Prices for the same varieties of cotton in Kokand were much lower than in Tashkent, for example, on February 1, 1872, a silk pood hamster cost in Tashkent from 174 r. 80 k. up to 182 r. 40 k., and in Kokand - 167 r. 20 k., on April 4, 1872 tafil variety in Kokand was sold from 152 r. up to 182 r. 40 k., and in Tashkent the price rose to 209 r. (Table 4)

Table 4

Date	Location	Silk prices
16-26.09 1871	Kokand	Silk tafil – 50 golden coins, hamster – 40-42 golden coins, Kokand chill – 50 – 52 golden coins [12]
1.02.1872	Kokand	Tafil 182 r. 40 k. - 197 r. 60 k., hamster– 167 r. 20 k., Namangan fillister from 114 r. to 121 r. 60 k., Kakand fillister from 106 r. 40 k. to 114 r., Kashgar silk from 68 r. 40k. to 83r. 60 k., Sarnak from 11r. 40k. to 17r. 10k. per pood.[17]
4.04.1872	Kokand	Hamster, tafil from 152 r. to 182 r. 40 k. Namangan fillister – 117 r. 80 k., Kashgar silk– 76 r per pood. [14]
17.07.1874	Kokand	Silk hamster – 30 golden coins per pood, Pishik 34 - 35 golden coins [20]
September 1874	Kokand	Sarnak – 3,5 – 3,75 golden coins, silk – 8 – 9 for 10 pood [19]
13.07.1876	Kokand	Silk at 28 tillas per pood [19]

Prices for dried fruits, raisins and apricots, as well as nuts varied throughout the year. These goods were in demand especially when caravans were sent to Russia. Caravans were sent from Tashkent, hence the price also depended on the number of deliveries from the regions, so in August 1871 the price jumped sharply because of the small number of deliveries from Kokand, Khodjent and Samarkand, the distilleries were left without raw materials and the price jumped sharply by almost 10

rubles per camel.

Knowing the course of political events of this period, all price fluctuations become clear. In the years when there are active military operations, prices rise sharply, as soon as the Central Asian states enter a period of relative stability prices gradually decline, although they do not reach the level that it occupied in previous times. In general, however, dried fruit prices began to rise after the conquest, reaching their peak in 1873, and then began to decline.

So, for example, raisins in 1868 - 1871 in Tashkent were kept at relatively the same price: 1868 – 2r. for pood [23], 25. 04. 1871 – 1r. 87k. – 2r. 10k. for pood [9], in July 1871 – 1r. 78k. – 2r. 10k. for pood [7].

In 1872, at Turkestan department of the polytechnic exhibition, the price was fixed within 1 r. 50 k. - 4 r. per pood [1], but already in the winter of 1872 in Urgut a pood of raisins cost 7 rubles [3], the same price was fixed at that time in Penjikent from 5 to 7 r. per pood [3], which is explained by the natural seasonal increase. In 1879, a butman of raisins in Zarafshan cost 8 rubles. [22], which is approximately 1 ruble per pood.

Raisins were exported in bulk, by camels its price differed depending on the variety and the region from which it was delivered. The price of raisins in 1871 - 1877 ranged from 14 to 38 rubles.

In other regions, information on wholesale trade is very limited, it is only known that, on 25.04.1871 in Kokand, raisins cost 16 rubles 20 kopecks for a camel [10], which is almost half the price at the same time in Tashkent.

The subject of wholesale trade was apricot, which was also exported from Tashkent, and sold by camels. The price of apricots in 1871 - 1877 ranged from 10 rubles to 40 rubles.

It is also known that in April 1871 in Kokand the price of apricot was 15 r. 20 k. for a camel [10], in Tashkent the apricot cost 28 r. – 30 r. 40 k. for 16 pood [11].

Of the imported foodstuffs, sugar and tea were in special demand. Prices in Kokand for them were similar to those in Tashkent, in 1871 - 1872 they fluctuated within 10 r. 80 k. - 11 r. 40 k. (Table 5)

Table 5

3.10.1871	Kokand	lollipop – 10 r. 80 k., candy – 11 r. per pood [6]
1 – 4.09. 1871	Kokand	lollipop – 11 r., candy – 11 r. 50 k. per pood [10]
26.09.1871	Kokand	sugar and lollipop – 11 r. 40 k. per pood [12]
19 – 24.10. 1871	Kokand	lollipop and candy 11 r. per pood [5]
3.02.1872	Kokand	Candy – 10 r. 80k. per pood [17]

But of the locally produced products, the price of wheat fluctuated the most during these years. Since the late 1960s, the price of wheat had been rising steadily.

In Tashkent 1867-1868 wheat cost - 5 r. 60 k. a butman and 50 k. a pood, already in 1871 its price rose sharply to 13 r. a butman. Then the price slowly began to fall and by 1873 it was the same price as in 1867 - 1868, the same price remained until 1879, after which the price went up sharply again, and 1880 reached 14 r. 40 k. - 21 r per butman of 11 poods.[24].

Prices in Namangan were slightly cheaper than in Tashkent, but they were also constantly increasing.

(Table 6)

Table 6

Date	Prices - Namangan per butman of wheat
Autumn-Winter 1878	Wheat 2 r. 40 k.[2]
Spring 1879	Wheat 4 r. – 4r. 50 k. [2]
1879	Wheat 3r. – 4 r. [2]
July 1880	Wheat 3r. 80 k. – 6 r. [2]

Also the prices of barley in Avlia-Ata increase, in 1874 per butman of barley cost 2 rubles 30 kopecks [4], since 1877 the price has been rising all the time, this year it is 3 rubles-3 rubles 20 kopecks per butman (12 poods) [24], in 1878 5 rubles - 5 rubles 50 kopecks,[24] in 1879 6- 7 rubles,[24] and in 1880 the price increased at once to 10 - 12 rubles [24]

Based on our research, it was possible to highlight the following main points:

Goods in the markets of the Kokand Khanate of Asia were of great variety. Local products were notable for their cheapness and accessibility. Wholesale prices for goods exported from the region - silk, cotton, dried fruits, depended on their quality, the place of production and periods of gathering and sending caravans to Russia. Prices rose steadily in spring, when caravans left for Russia, and in autumn, after the harvest, new caravans were sent before the first frosts, in winter the price was the lowest. It is also noticeable how prices for cotton and some varieties of silk increased from year to year, which is explained by political reasons and the introduction of cotton monoculture. The prices for dried fruits, on the contrary, went down every year.

The prices of imported goods also depended on many factors, the arrival of caravans, the prices of these goods in Russia, the state of communications. A sharp rise in the price of all these goods was in 1871 - 1873, because there were two consecutive years of bad harvests and frosts, which affected not only the price of local goods, but also imported goods.

The prices of food, goods produced in Central Asia, and retail items changed for other reasons. Food like no other commodity changed in price due to political and natural factors. The greatest price increases occur in years of war and natural disasters, for example, the sharp increase in all products in 1871 - 1872, because there were two years of frost and severe crop failure. Prices for some products then returned to their previous levels. But the price of wheat continued to rise, and in 1888 it was much more expensive than in 1865.

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