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The History of Surkhan Oasis in the Late XIX and Early XX Centuries

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Abstract:

This article analyses the civil wars and uprisings that continued in the first half of the 18th century not only plundered the Bukhara Khanate, but also reduced the economic and political power of the country. In addition, this article conveys that during this period the area around Old Termez was relatively small, ie there were the villages of Pattakesar and Salihabad with a population of about 1257 people.

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The civil wars and uprisings that continued in the first half of the 18th century not only plundered the Bukhara Khanate, but also reduced the economic and political power of the country. By the beginning of the 19th century, Bukhara, Khiva and Kokand Khanates were formed instead of a single Khanates. The disintegration of the country will greatly facilitate the entry of Russian colonialists into Central Asia. The Tsarist government will take bold steps to prevent the British from invading Central Asia. Special attention is paid to the southern borders of the Emirate of Bukhara, in particular, the occupation of Termez.

On the eve of the invasion of Tsarism, the Surkhandarya oasis consisted of the principalities of Boysun, Sherabad and Yurchi, and this land was called the "Eastern Lands" or Eastern Bukhara of the Bukhara Emirate.

An agreement was signed between Tsarist Russia and the Emirate of Bukhara on September 28, 1873. The agreement consists of 17 articles, Article 3 of which states: "In the Amu Darya part of the Bukhara Emirate, Bukhara ships and Russian steamships, as well as other naval vessels, government and private ships are allowed to sail freely." The Russians have the right to build their own parking lots and warehouses on the banks of the Amu Darya in Bukhara.

Under an additional treaty signed on June 23, 1888, its articles were revised and it was found that Russian citizens could live in the cities of New Bukhara (now Kogon), Chorjuy and Karki. In addition, according to the protocol, it is planned to build Russian settlements, mainly along the banks of the Amudarya. At the same time, the construction of settlements for Russians began near the village of Pattakesar, which connects Termez to the banks of the Amu Darya.

It is noted that during this period the area around Old Termez was relatively small, ie there were the villages of Pattakesar and Salihabad with a population of about 1257 people. According to the Russo-Bukhara treaty of January 15, 1893, the city of Termez was "presented as a gift" to the Russian tsar.

As a result, the trade routes of the Emirate of Bukhara are slowly beginning to deteriorate. In connection with the construction of a Russian military fortress on the banks of the Amudarya, the Tsarist government in 1900 repaired the Termez-Samarkand road.

With the pressure of Tsarist Russia on July 24, 1894 and the accession of the Emirate of Bukhara to the Customs Union, the work of turning Termez into one of the Russian military bases accelerated. In early December 1894, the Amudarya Border Guard Brigade was formed, which was to supervise the area from Kerki to the village of Lola. At the same time, Kerki, Kelif, Pattakesar, Ayvonchi, Saroy customs checkpoints and Chubek and Bog'ariq border checkpoints will be established. On December 12, 1894, 8 km from the ruins of Termez, at the confluence of the Surkhandarya and Amudarya rivers, the 31st Amudarya Tsarist frontier troops arrived in Pattakesar, which was convenient for the ship to stop. The Tsar's troops descended on the village of Pattakesar and built a fortress 2 km above the river, which the natives called the "Soil Fortress." The Tsarist troops that arrived in Pattakesar set up surveillance in five directions, namely:

- 1) 10 cavalry, 10 infantry, 2 free mercenaries to the Shurab checkpoint;
- 2) 9 cavalry, 10 infantry and 2 mercenaries to Maymantogai checkpoint;
- 3) 6 cavalry, 2 infantry and 1 free mercenary to the Aral (Prophet Island) checkpoint;
- 4) 9 cavalry, 11 infantry and 3 mercenaries to Pattakesar checkpoint;
- 5) 8 cavalry and 8 infantry will be placed at the air checkpoint.

The Amudarya Brigade is headquartered in Pattakesar and served 2 state officers, 5 ober officers, 1 cavalry, 7 infantry, 22 non-commissioned officers and 2 free mercenaries. There was also a training unit at the headquarters, which included an ober officer, 24 cavalry, and 2 non-commissioned officers. A military control, an arms workshop and a warehouse were also located at the headquarters. According to Academician W. W. Bartold, in 1900 the population of the Russian-occupied town of Pattakesar consisted of 8,052 men and 2,069 women. That is, the bulk of the population was made up of Russian servicemen, and the Russians settled in the new city of Termez and began trying to turn it into a political and military center in line with Russian interests.

Construction work on Termez began in 1895, and in order to keep the city in their hands, the colonizers immediately bought 43 desiatins (1 desiatina - 1.09) of land from the Salavat brothers

Sayyid Olim and Sayyid Ali Khojas in June 1897. In addition, 1,200 acres of land north of Pattakesar will be purchased, and housing for the military, the Officers' House, a hospital, a barn, weapons and food warehouses will be built on the purchased land. In Termez, Russian fortifications will be built along the Amudarya River, during which time there will be a need to build roads, bridges and irrigation facilities. However, the tsarist government intended to carry out these constructions at the expense of the Emirate of Bukhara. This can be seen from the words of Tsarist Gubерович in 1898: "In the lands of Bukhara, bridges, roads and canals should be built not at the expense of the Russian people, but at the expense of local funds". Tsarist officials in Termez developed a project of irrigation facilities to be built under the leadership of engineer Telman to draw water from the Surkhan River. The total cost of the project was estimated at 60,000 rubles, and construction and excavation work was carried out by the Military Engineering Court. However, the extremely small size of the irrigation system did not allow many lands to be irrigated. This is why the once densely populated city has become sparsely populated due to water shortages. The construction of irrigation facilities in Termez was very difficult. The Governor-General of Turkestan did not provide funds in a timely manner for the work to be done for this purpose. In particular, according to the calculations of engineer Telman, the cost of irrigation facilities to be built in Termez is estimated at 130 thousand rubles. If these funds were allocated and irrigation stations were built in and around the city, 4,750 acres of land would be irrigated. A commission headed by Governor-General Duxovskiy was set up to discuss the project, which concluded that "the Russian government should take over the construction of all irrigation facilities around Termez." However, the funds to be allocated for the construction of irrigation facilities were not provided in a timely manner. The construction work was treated with indifference, as a result of which the project was left unfinished. Because the tsarist government was not interested in the beautification of the city by the administration of the people, but in the military strategic capabilities of the city.

In 1895-1900, the Russian tsarist government spent 57,000 rubles on the construction of a military fortress and the city's defensive walls. In the spring of 1897, the colonial government sent the 4th Orenburg Cossack Regiment and the 13th Turkestan Battalion, the 9th Turkestan Regiment, the 6th Siberian Artillery Regiment and the Tobin Artillery Route to Tashkent. Brings the 546th Cossack detachment to Termez and deploys it. On January 22, 1900, the Emir of Bukhara, under the pressure of tsarism, signed an act granting to the Tsarist government the free use of all lands bordering the Karakum Desert in the north, Surkhandarya in the northeast, and the Amudarya in the southwest, with a total area of 10,514 desiatins. The Emir of Bukhara demanded that he be given the title of Russian General, or the highest badge "Andrey-Pervozvanny" in exchange for land given for free use. The Emir's request was granted, and he was given the rank of Russian general, so that in exchange for the title of "Russian general" the city of Termez and the surrounding lands were given to the colonialists.

Although the Tsarist government paid great attention to Termez as a military fortress, the social status of the indigenous population was completely ignored. The report of Major General Baronovskiy, the head of the Termez garnison, to the political agency in Bukhara on August 29, 1902, is a clear proof of this.

From these excerpts from the report, one can imagine the plight of the civilian population in Termez. Termez consists of two parts, the northern part where the garrison is located is surrounded by a fortress and is called in Russian literature "Military Fortress-Termez". In this part of the city, the authority of the garrison chief also extended to the common people, so here he was a full-fledged master. The

southern part of Termez was called the village of Pattakesar, where the natives obeyed the laws of the Emir of Bukhara and obeyed the beys from the emir's house, while the Europeans obeyed the laws of the tsarist government and were governed by an uneducated "city council".

From Chorjuy to Termez in August 1894, the first group of boats arrived to guard the mail and cargo. Then they marched two kilometers into the interior of Surkhandarya and decided to set up camp there. In late autumn, due to a decrease in water from the Surkhan River, the settlement remained on land. The settlement was moved to the Amudarya River in 1896, thus creating the first location of a river port in the Surkhandarya oasis. In general, the socio-political, economic and cultural life of the Surkhandarya oasis in the late XIX - early XX centuries can be traced back.

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