



## CENTRAL ASIAN JOURNAL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HISTORY

Journal homepage: <https://cajssh.centralasianstudies.org>



### The Abolition of the Kokand Khanate by the Russian Empire and the Formation of the Fergana Region and the Formation of the Colonial System of Government

**Ravshanov Sherzod Rakhmatovich**

Researcher of Navoi state pedagogical institute

[ravshanovsh@inbox.ru](mailto:ravshanovsh@inbox.ru)

#### Abstract:

This article describes the resettlement policy pursued by Tsarist Russia after the occupation of the Kokand khanate by the Russian Empire in order to form and colonize the Fergana region and its negative consequences.

#### ARTICLE INFO

##### *Article history:*

Received 25-Jul-22

Received in revised form 28-Jul-22

Accepted 15-Aug-22

**Available online 7-Sep-2022**

**Key word:** politics, colonial, government, population, volost, Skobelev, serfdom, province, resettlement, metropolis, "Newkokand line", "berdan", protectorate, desyatina, "half-king".

**Introduction.** Due to the strategic position of Central Asia, its economic and political potential, the Russian Empire has sought to establish diplomatic relations with the Central Asian khanates since the XVIII century. But foreign policy - military and internal contradictions, strong popular uprisings in Russia, wars with a number of European countries, constant resistance from Britain had slowed down the Russian government's penetration into Central Asia. However, in July 1853, Russian troops occupied the Oq Machit fortress[1] of the Kokand khanate in the second attempt, and in the following years Yettisuv, Issyk-Kul, Avliyota and Shymkent. In March 1865, the Turkestan region (administrative center - the city of Shymkent) was formed and included in the Governor-General of Orenburg. At the same time, the New Kokand military line (Newkokand line) was created, and General M.G. Chernyaev was appointed as a military governor of Turkistan region.

Although the Kokand Khanate and the Bukhara Emirate were required to unite in order to determine the direction of Russia's occupation of Central Asia, they were embroiled in civil wars and internal strife. Khan of Kokand Khudoyorkhan, unable to suppress the uprisings in the country, the attacks of the Bukhara Emirate, lost the throne three times from 1845 to 1875 and regained the throne. Although he knew that the popular uprisings of the summer and autumn of 1875 were aimed at the Russian invaders, including the Governor-General of Turkestan, Khudoyorkhan asked the Russian army for help in suppressing the uprisings. Taking advantage of this, troops under general M. D. Skobelev's command carried out massacres in the cities of Andijan, Margilan, Namangan, Kokand, and many villages. K.P.Kaufmann, who was in St. Petersburg, sent a telegram to Tashkent on February 2, 1876, in which he ordered the abolition of the Kokand Khanate and the establishment of the Fergana region with its center in New Margilan[2, P.144].

On February 8, 1876, Russian troops occupied the city of Kokand, and 10 days later, on February 19, the imperial military minister D. Milyutin announced the creation of the Fergana region in place of the former Kokand khanate. One week later, on February 25, the Russian emperor issued a decree to this effect, and Major-General M.D.Skobelev was appointed governor-general of the new, rich Fergana region, which was part of the Turkestan governor-general's office[3, 2 sheet].

Andijan, Kokand, Margilan, Namangan, Osh and Chust districts were formed in Fergana region. In 1912, on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the death of M.D. Skobelev, Margilan district was renamed M.D.Skobelev, but in many cases the old name of the district was used. Although Khojand and nearby villages belonged to the Fergana Valley, the Syrdarya region, formed in 1867, was included. Due to the regularity of the uprisings, the Chimgan district, consisting of several villages around Konibodom, was established in 1876 (renamed Isfara district in 1879) and became part of the Fergana region. Khojand district was joined to Samarkand region in 1886[4, P. 57]. Five years before, Chimgan (Isfara) district was destroyed, and its territory was divided between Kokand and Margilan districts. As a result, there are 6 districts left in Fergana region.

At a time when the practice of relocating the Christian population from Russia to Turkestan and developing cotton and industrial industries in the provinces were expanding, the local administration took appropriate countermeasures, realizing the growing dissatisfaction of the local population with colonial oppression of the local population, especially farmers. The fact that Fergana region had a larger material production potential than other regions and a large share of indigenous peoples, as well as experience in participating in uprisings and fighting Russian troops, encouraged the Governor-General of Turkestan to improve governance in the region, taking into account and approaching the region. For example, Russians who moved with their families to the Fergana Valley arbitrarily occupied Kyrgyz lands. As a result, in the early 1900s, clashes intensified between the local population and Russian immigrants[5, P.38].

In this regard, it should be noted that in Fergana region, despite the economic, trade and other traditional ties of the indigenous population, in addition to the later destroyed Chimgan (Isfara) district, 6 main districts, including 91 volosts consisting of 613 rural communities[6, P.10]. Another significance of this region was that in the districts formed by the colonial administration there were large and small cities such as Andijan, Jalal-Abad, Margilan, Kokand, Namangan, Uzgen, Osh, Chust. These cities were already well known in Central Asia and neighboring countries with the development of handicrafts, agricultural raw material processing industries, and cultural life.

Prior to the Russian occupation of the Fergana Valley, more than 70% of the region's population was

Uzbek, 16% Kyrgyz, and the remainder Tajiks, Uighurs, Dungans, and others. The indigenous population of Fergana region was 2 million more than the population of other regions[7, P.10]. Even before the invasion of Russian troops in the villages of this Fergana region and the resettlement of Russian peasants from Russia to this region, there was a significant shortage of arable land.

Nevertheless, Russian troops, supplied with food and horses at the expense of the local population, were deployed to guard the Chinese border with Osh district and to destroy or control contacts with the Muslim population of East Turkestan. Cossacks relocated from Western Siberia were stationed near the border.

The rulers of the metropolis, the big capitalists, especially the governor-general of Turkestan, tried to strengthen the system of governance by a number of measures, unlike other regions, seeking to subjugate the economic and social potential of the Fergana Valley to imperial interests and keep the indigenous peoples in obedience. These measures included the establishment of military garnisons in Namangan, Osh, Kokand, Andijan, New Margilan, Isfara, Fergana region, prisons in these cities and in Jalal-Abad, Asaka, Uzgen, Chust, 4 prisons - in New Margilan, Kokand, Namangan and Osh[4, P.46], the establishment of police stations in the cities, guards' offices in the district centers, and the service of the guards in the villages, each of the European men (excluding Germans) who were relocated to rural areas was given a "berdan" rifle and 10 cartridges[8, P.16].

Great attention is paid to the creation of a system of governance and the implementation of changes in it that serve the colonial rule, as well as the strict control of the indigenous population of the country, Fergana region, historical traditions, customs and rules of social life. To this end, the task was to reduce the prestige of the judges conducting the trial in accordance with traditional Sharia law and, if possible, to replace them with civil and military courts in force in Russia. The military governors of the provinces and the heads of the districts had the power to issue administrative, civil, tax, and commercial decisions on the territory in their jurisdiction[9, P.157.]. The Governor-General of the country (K.P. Kaufman), on the other hand, had almost unlimited powers. It was no coincidence that the first governor-general, K.P. Kaufman, was called a "half-king" among the natives. It should be noted that K.P. Kaufman was not a skilled politician, diplomat, ruthless colonialist, or hard-line governor-general in governing Turkestan.

In addition, the establishment of telegraph communications in the 1980s and 1990s, the transfer of railways to the imperial government accelerated colonialization, accelerated the delivery of additional military units when needed, and gained control of colonial officials. But this was not a factor in alleviating the plight of the indigenous people of the country at least a little.

In Turkestan, including the Fergana Valley, where the majority of the indigenous population lives, nobles and wealthy local people have been appointed in volosts and villages to ensure that governance is colonial and at the required level, and that local government is "in the hands" of the people. However, this appointment was masked by the "election" of elders. The reason for this hypocrisy was not the people who respected the volost and village leadership but whose loyalty to the colonial authorities was questionable. As a result, in such "elections" under the control of colonial officials, even the filthy competition between the aristocracy and the rich, the bribery of "supervisors", bribery, and the transfer of unsuitable people to the volost or village elders, the "election" results were annulled, he would appoint people he knew to such positions.

The "election" of the volost governor and village elders, the de facto appointment, the division of rural areas into volosts, rural communities, the weakening of tribal traditions, social relations, economic traditions, the influence of the rich on the local population, and at the same time the collection of taxes and fees from settled and nomadic herders to set things in order, to establish control.

From the shortcomings of F.K.Girs on the shortcomings of the local system of "self-government" it is possible to cite the following:

firstly, the desire to become a volost manager is explained, on the one hand, by a much higher salary and, on the other hand, by the fact that the manager collects taxes on the entire volost and collects illegal payments in this regard;

second, the volost manager may impose a fine of up to 3 rubles using the authority given to him. It is absolutely impossible to control the collection and amount of such money, especially among the nomadic population;

thirdly, in all regions, including Fergana region, 35% of volost governors are dismissed every three years, i.e. a new governor is appointed in every third volost[4, P.38].

All the burdens and sufferings that arose as a result of the rule of this state and the practical activities of the colonizers fell on the shoulders of the peasants and nomadic herdsmen.

However, the essence of the system of governance throughout the country was mainly determined by the rights, powers and practical activities of the Governor-General of Turkestan (also the commander of the Turkestan military district), military governors of the provinces and district heads. At that time, of the colonies of the Russian Empire, only the administration of Turkestan and the Caucasus was subordinated to the imperial military ministry, and the rest to the interior ministry. It was not in vain that the heads of the provinces, and all districts were appointed from the military.

In Turkestan, in accordance with the goals of the colonizers, strategically important territories of Bukhara and Khiva khanates were occupied, and in these areas Zarafshan district (later Samarkand region), Amudarya branch and Transcaspian military unit, and then the region of the same name were formed. Russian control (protectorate) over economic, trade, customs and foreign policy issues was established over the khanates. Under the leadership of this "half-king", a stable system of administrative-territorial governance was established in Turkestan, property and land relations were reformed, and methods were introduced for indigenous peoples to work for the empire, to pay taxes and fees unconditionally, and to be obedient. The powers of the governors-general after K.P.Kaufmann were not inferior, but they were not equal to him in the implementation of colonial policy, because by order of Emperor Alexander II he was given "the resolution of all political, border and trade affairs, negotiations with neighboring countries and to sign agreements, arrangements and to send proxies to discuss the terms of decisions"[10, 21 sheet].

From this it was clear that in 1876-1882 the Fergana Valley began to attract large investments from Russia, the resettlement of Russian peasants and their placement on favorable terms, the transformation of the valley into a major cotton and silkworm breeding base, actively started to increase. Since this policy was directly related to the practice of resettlement of Russian-speaking people in the country, especially in the densely populated Fergana Valley, where there was a shortage of agricultural land, the Russian Empire said that it was necessary to change land relations and taxation of indigenous peoples according to colonial plans, calculated. The created management system was adapted to perform such a difficult task in both the armed and police forces [11].

**Conclusion.** Thus, in general, it should be noted that the colonial system and political system of strict control of the multinational population with experience of social struggle was much more perfect than in other regions of the country. Accordingly, all governing bodies except the volosts were given to military officers who showed themselves with great statehood, great Russian spirit. Provincial and county chiefs had very broad powers, even the execution, imprisonment, etc. of local representatives who were considered criminals, etc. had rights. In all districts of Fergana region there were police, security, secret search courts, prisons, a network of spies, military garrisons in major cities, and cavalry patrols in the villages. In order to turn Fergana region into a base of Russian cotton, silk and other raw materials in a short time, the arrival of industrialists, large traders and investment commercial banks from the metropolis was organized here. In addition, the relocation of the Russian population to the region began in order to build another reliable support for the colonial regime and to carry out appropriate reforms in agriculture.

## REFERENCES

1. It was turned into the port of Perovsky.
2. History of the peoples of Uzbekistan. Volume II.// Leader of the creative group. Doctor of historical sciences Boboxo'jaev.- T.: Fan, -2.1994.
3. National Archive of the Republik of Uzbekistan. I-216-fund, 1st list, 1st case.
4. Abdurakhimova N, Rustamova G. The colonial system of power in Turkestan in the second half of the XIX-I-quarter of the XX centuries, T., 1999.
5. Pyaskovsky A.V. Revolution of 1905-1907 in Turkistan. Moskow, Publisher house Academic Sciences the USSR. 1958.
6. Kosymbekov K.F. From the history of popular movements in Fergana in the late 19th - early 20th centuries. Diss. cond. hist. sciences.-Toshkent, 1966.
7. Socio-economic and political situation in Uzbekistan on the eve of October // Otv. ed. department of ANUz. K.B. Zhitov, Dr. hist. sciences. Kh.Z. Ziyaev.-T.: 1973.
8. Galuzo P.G. Armament of Russian settlers // Communist Thought. 1926.-No. 5.
9. Ziyoev X. History of the struggle for independence of Uzbekistan.-T.: Sharq, 2001.
10. National Archive of the Republic of Uzbekistan. I-1 fund, 34 list, 78 work.
11. Shokhjahan, R. (2021). The Role of Sharof Rashidov in the Foreign Policy of the USSR. American Journal of Social and Humanitarian Research, 2(5), 112–115. Retrieved from <https://www.grnjournals.us/index.php/ajshr/article/view/498>