

ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH THE NEIGHBORING REGIONS IN THE FIRST HALF OF THE XXth CENTURY IN CENTRAL ASIA (EXEMPLIFIED BY THE CITY OF KOKAND)

Aminjon Yusupov

Assistent, Fergana Polytechnic Institute

Phone.:+99890-562-62-42

ANNOTATION

The article is devoted to the role of Kokand in the economic life of Central Asia in the first half of the 19th century. Information is given about the trading markets of Kokand in the city, both for their own traders and for merchants from other regions who arrived in the city along caravan routes. The merchants of the Khanate conducted brisk trade with many neighboring and distant countries, such as Bukhara, Khiva, Iran, Afghanistan, China, India, Arabia, Turkey and others directly. And through Tashkent with Southern Kazakhstan and the Kyrgyz nomads. By the end of the 19th century, the city became a major hub in trade between Russia and the East. The export of raw materials and the import of finished products was established.

Keywords: Merchant, trade, caravanserai, vakuf, Bukhara, Khiva, Iran, Afghanistan, China, India, Arabia, Turkey

Introduction

The actuality: In the second half of the 19th century to the beginning of the 20th century, the city of Kokand served as the trade and industrial center of the Fergana Valley, particularly during the 2nd half of the 19th century. During this time, many large trade enterprises were gathered in Kokand. It is noteworthy that from the early 19th century, the city gradually gained importance and began to flourish, initiating a period of prosperity. Kokand played a significant role in the economic development by being strategically located along major caravan routes connecting the East and the West. Its favorable geographical location facilitated the production and export of its own goods and the import of other essential products for the population [1].

Research Methods: Various historical methods, such as accuracy, historicity, and historical continuity, were employed in presenting the topic based on systematic analysis of archival materials.

Research Results: The National Archives of the Republic of Uzbekistan stores valuable sources and information related to the history of the Kokand region. In particular, the city's importance in trade and commerce added significant value to its historical role in the region's socio-economic development. The convenient location of trade routes and the hard work of the city's population, especially traders and artisans who were always in demand in other cities, contributed to the city's vital role in preserving its socio-economic position.

Kokand is situated in the eastern part of Uzbekistan, in the southern-western part of the Fergana Valley. As the capital of the khanate, it was one of the major economic and cultural centers of Turkestan in the early 19th century. Its strategic location along important caravan routes connecting the East and the West played a crucial role in Kokand's economic development. It became a transit point in trade and

economic relations with Russia, Tashkent, and Bukhara, as well as with China and India. Furthermore, due to the consequences of conflicts between the neighboring states, many residents were forced to leave their homeland and settle in the southern territories of the Russian state [2]. Engaging in various economic activities, such as agriculture and craftsmanship in villages and towns, they actively participated in trade with the neighboring countries. This, in turn, played a significant role in international trade with neighboring countries. Notably, individuals like Bozorboy Niyozmukhamedov, who identified as Kokand residents, actively engaged in successful trade. However, it is important to acknowledge that, unlike in other countries, the majority of immigrants were non-residents from the East, often referred to as "Bukharians" or "Tashkent residents."

Kokand traders also successfully traded with these countries. The craft workshops, silk production, and paper manufacturing were well-known in Kokand, making it a prominent economic and cultural center in Central Asia. According to Baron Meyendorf in 1820–1821, "Kokand had six large markets, two of which were actively traded by Kokand residents, while the remaining four were dominated by caravans and their traders from other countries." In the 1830s, A. Potanin, a visitor to Kokand, emphasized that "the city's outskirts extended to 25 versts, with 6,000 houses and a population of over 15,000 people, excluding women." Depending on the information provided by different authors, it is possible to assume that one refers to the city (Meyendorf) and therefore may have inaccurate information about another city (Kokand) or did not visit it at all [3].

According to Potanin, there were six stone markets in Kokand, two of which were actively traded by Kokand residents, while the other four were consistently dominated by caravans and their traders from other countries. In these markets, traders from India, Tibet, Kashgar, Bukhara, Afghanistan, and other countries were engaged in the "sale of goods they brought themselves." This information is confirmed by a group of Tatar traders who visited Kokand in 1829. There were also caravanserais called "waqf" in Kokand, where shops, warehouses, and other business premises were rented to non-resident traders. Particularly, Kokand's significant market left a considerable impact. With large open rows and separate stores, it surpassed the bazaar in Tashkent, creating favorable conditions for free air circulation, which contributed to preventing the spread of various diseases. The city had a total of 420 stores. Additionally, there were 15 large caravanserais and several small ones, according to the "Turkestan toplami" pages. Each nationality had its caravanserais, where they stopped, preserved their belongings, and traded their goods. Kokand traders conducted intensive trade with Khiva, Bukhara, Afghanistan, Iran, India, Arabia, Turkey, and other countries [4]. However, Tashkent, another major city, was the main trading partner for Kokand. According to information from the mid-19th century, "Every year, about 16,000 carts with goods arrive in Tashkent from Kokand, other cities, and regional centers. Approximately one-fourth of them consist of cotton, over 200 carts carry paper, 60% of imported goods are paper, silk and cotton fabrics, carpets, coarse woolen fabrics, and others, and almost 2,000 carts contain fruits and vegetables." The estimated cost of these imported goods was around 4,580,000 rubles per year. Russian goods, which were mainly transported through this city to other cities of the khanate, accounted for approximately 10,000–15,000 carts of various goods per year. The estimated value of imported goods amounted to approximately 2,375,000 rubles per year. Based on this information, it is possible to estimate that the annual trade turnover between these two cities reached around 7 million.

The main product exported from Kokand to Bukhara was silk. The finest silk, called "Chilla," was cultivated in Kokand and its surrounding areas. This silk was sold for 197 rubles and 60 kopecks in

Kokand and was mainly taken to Bukhara because this city had various craftsmen who produced various goods from this raw material. Kokand residents exported a small portion of this silk to India. In Bukhara, this silk was sold for 240 rubles [5].

In addition to silk, Kokand also exported food products to Bukhara, with melons being the most important. This is associated with the fame of Fergana Valley as a region known for its agriculture. P. I. Demayson noted, "The amount of melons grown in Bukhara is not enough to satisfy the needs of the population, and it is appropriate to bring most of it from Kokand." It is important to emphasize that Kokand played a significant role in the development of trade and economic relations between Russia and the East, particularly contributing to the transportation of goods. The organization of Kokand's bazaars also had a noticeable impact on the further development of mutual trade.

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