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ABOUT THE FEATURES OF ECONOMIC RELATIONS BETWEEN BUKHARA KHANATE AND INDIA

A. A. Erkuziev*; **R. Mahkamov****

*Docent,
Candidate of History, UZBEKISTAN

**Master of sciences,
Namangan State University,
UZBEKISTAN

ABSTRACT

On the arrival of Anthony Jenkinson in Bukhara, the Bukhara Khanate had established active trade and economic relations with India. In his memories, Jenkinson wrote that there was an annual gathering of traders in Bukhara, which was visited by the traders from India with large caravans.

KEYWORDS: *Economic Relation, Bukhara Khanate, India, Caravan.*

INTRODUCTION

Admitting that Bukhara was one of the world's trade centers, the English traveler gave information about the foreign traders in the city, particularly, about the importance of trade by the Indian traders. Jenkinson pointed out that these traders were poorly dressed, and despite the fact that they had brought very little goods, these goods stayed unsold for 2-3 years.

However, a number of sources deny this information. According to them, Jenkinson deliberately discriminated against the activities of foreign, especially, Indian traders and the sale of Indian goods in Bukhara. The English traveler, who was well aware of the lack of demand for woolen fabrics woven in British manufactories in Central Asian markets, did not like the fact that the trade in Bukhara Khanate, in general, in Central Asian markets seemed to be important to another foreign country.

According to Jenkinson, Indian traders brought to Bukhara thin white fabrics used for turbans, as well as various white fabrics used for clothing and headwear. And they took silk cloths, unbleached hides, slaves and horses from Bukhara.

Jenkinson noted that Indian traders underestimated red and other mohair fabrics, and even though the traders from India and its distant lands, even from Bengal and the Ganges Valley were offered to exchange karasea for their goods, they did not want such mohair.

It is difficult to say that Jenkinson's information about the Bukhara trade was completely true. Because he could not sell woolen fabrics woven in British manufactories in Central Asia, so he deliberately tried to downplay the activities and role of Indian traders in Bukhara. Apparently he might have wanted to distract the traders who might be competitors in the trade from this trade.

Based on Jenkinson's data, it can be said that stable trade relations were established between the Bukhara Khanate and India. One of the main commodities in this trade was indigo (the Nile dye). There is also evidence that trade and diplomatic relations between the two countries revived in the XVI century. In particular, during the reign of Abdullakhan II, diplomatic relations were established between the Bukhara Khanate and Russia. In 1589, the ambassador Muhammad Ali from Bukhara brought gifts to the Russian Tsar Fyodor Ivanovich on behalf of Abdullakhan II, and the gifts included 40 pounds of the Nile dye.

This information indicates that at that time Bukhara served as a market for transit goods in trade between the Bukhara Khanate and India. N. I. Kostomarov and M. V. Fekhner, wrote in their works that Indian goods were import to Russia via Bukhara.

India was actively involved in international trade during the Baburids dynasty. However, India was gradually losing the opportunity to trade by sea with Western countries. V. V. Barthold writes, "The Portuguese began to occupy the most important coastal lands as early as the beginning of the XVI century in order to maintain profitable trade with India."

Such changes in India, in general, in the life of the Eastern states were associated with great geographical discoveries. In the early of XVI th century, the Portuguese occupied the port cities of India such as Diu, Daman, Gao, and took the control of the maritime trade of India. The fact that most of the country's maritime trade was passed into the hands of Europeans caused a great damage to the local traders. The Indian traders who were deprived of maritime trade began to turn their attention to Afghanistan and Central Asia.

Anthony Jenkinson said about the activities of Indian traders in the markets of Bukhara, "The Indians (to Bukhara) do not bring gold, silver, precious stones or spices. I tried to figure out the reason for this and found out that these goods were traded by the ocean. Because all the areas where these goods were produced (in India) were controlled by the Portuguese."

Jenkinson's opinion that the Indians did not bring gold, silver, precious stones, or spices to Bukhara is far from the truth. Because spices were one of the main exports from India to Bukhara.

In Russia in the XVII century gradually began to collect information on trade relations between Bukhara and India. For example, in 1671, Mullah Farrukh, the ambassador of Bukhara to Moscow, in meeting with Artamon Sergeevich Matveev, the head of the embassy in Russia, noted about the establishment of the constant trade relations between Bukhara and India and informed that precious stones, pearls and various floral fabrics were brought to Bukhara from India.

According to M. V. Fekhner, Rheum was brought to Bukhara from India.

The data about Bukhara-India relations given in Russian sources can also be found in the works of Western European authors. One of the foreign authors, the French traveler François Berne (1625-1688), lived in India for 12 years. According to him, there was a great demand for wet fruits in India. Wet fruits: melons, apples, pears, grapes were transported from Samarkand, Bukhara and Iran to Delhi and sold at high prices throughout the winter. In India, dried fruits, such as almonds, pistachios, hazelnuts, plums, apricots, raisins and other dried fruits were sold throughout the year.

According to F. Berne, because of the high demand for Central Asian horses in India, twenty-five thousand horses were brought to India every year from Central Asia, particularly, from the Bukhara Khanate. According to I. M. Reisner, the majority of the goods imported to India in the XVII century were horses imported from Central Asia and Arabia.

Afghan nomads, commonly known as "povinda", also took an active part in trade relations between the Bukhara khanate and India. In particular, the trade caravans coming from India to Central Asia, particularly, to the Bukhara Khanate, were guarded by the members of the Afghan povinda tribe. Povinda included the tribes such as lokhani, nasiri, haroti, miyahel, dutani, niyazi and they had more than 35,000 camels. Povinda members brought the goods belonging to the traders to Central Asia by their camels.

In the XV-XVIII centuries, the members of the povinda, who lived on caravan routes, took an active part as an intermediary in the India-Iran-Central Asia (Bukhara Khanate) trade. The data about the Afghan traders acting as intermediaries in trade between Bukhara and India can be found even in the sources of the XIX century. For example, in the article entitled "Afghanistan" it was noted as "They (members of the povinda) traded by their horses and camels between India, Khorasan and Bukhara. They joined an armed caravan to prevent looting on the road. They traveled to Bukhara and India twice a year. In March, they would return to their families and then to the Gilzai Mountains to prepare caravans for Kabul, Bukhara, Kandahar and Herat".

Thus, based on the above evidence, it can be said that in the XVI-XVIII centuries, trade and economic relations between the Bukhara Khanate and India continued despite all obstacles.

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