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**FROM THE HISTORY OF KHIVA-RUSSIAN RELATIONS (LATE XIX-  
 EARLY XX CENTURIES)**

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**ABSTRACT**

*This article is devoted to the history of relations between the Khiva Khanate and the Russian Empire in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. It covers the activities of state bodies and historical figures responsible and authorized to maintain diplomatic relations between the two countries.*

**KEYWORDS:** *Khiva Khanate, Russian Empire, Turkestan, Amudarya Branch, Consulate, Diplomatic Representative, Petro-Alexandrovsk, "Diplomatic Official".*

**INTRODUCTION**

After Russia invaded the Khiva Khanate in 1873, an agreement defining bilateral relations was signed on August 12, 1873 in the Gandumiyon Park near Khiva by Khiva Khan Muhammad Rahimkhan (1864-1910) and Governor-General of Turkestan von Kaufmann [1, 330; 2, 118; 3, 347-351]. That is why this agreement go down in history as the Gandumiyon Treaty.

According to the agreement, the lands on the right bank of the Amudaryawill be separated from the Khiva khanate and the Amudarya branch will be established within the Syrdarya region under the Governor-General of Turkestan [4, 2].In accordance with the "Regulations on the management of the Turkestan region", the head of the Amudarya branch is entrusted with the full control of the life of the Khiva khanate, as well as acting as the Representative (Ambassador) of the Russian Empire in the Khiva khanate<sup>1</sup>. The powers of the head of the department were much broader, and any relations with the Khiva khanate were carried out under his direct supervision. This is because the head of the Amudarya department was directly subordinate to the Governor-General of Turkestan, contrary to the procedures established in the Empire<sup>2</sup>. However, in accordance with the "Regulations on the administration of the Turkestan region" approved by

Emperor Alexander III (1881-1894) in 1886, the Amudarya branch was part of the Syrdarya region, and its head was subordinated to the regional military governor. Due to the fact that the relations with the Khiva khanate are treated with special attention and responsibility by the Russian authorities, it is possible to conclude that such a situation satisfied them.

The administrative center of the Amudarya branch was the city of Petro-Alexandrovsk (now Turtkul). Colonel M. Galkin, one of the active participants in the invasion of Turkestan and Khiva, was appointed the first chief of the Amudarya branch [6, 59]. Due to the fact that the department covers a large area of land, as well as the large number of financial and economic responsibilities of the head of the department, a special position of the second assistant head of the Amudarya department was introduced, responsible for relations with Khiva khanate, control, official correspondence<sup>3</sup>. At the disposal of the assistant was a separate court office, in which diplomatic staff, translators worked. The staff of this court, in response to the text, content and quality of official correspondence with the Khiva khanate, controlled the movement of all documents issued through the head of the department. All official documents related to the Khiva Khanate were kept under the supervision and guidance of a special official who served as a "Diplomatic Officer" in the Cabinet of the Governor-General of Turkestan. This official was responsible for the proper conduct of relations with the Khiva Khanate and the Emirate of Bukhara<sup>4</sup>. The incumbent also reports to the Russian Foreign Ministry<sup>5</sup>. At the same time, due to the steady growth of bilateral economic and trade relations, the Consulate General of the Russian Empire in Khiva operated in the city of Yangi-Urgench, the largest center of trade, industry and banking capital of the Khiva Khanate<sup>6</sup>.

In addition, the post of Consul of the Khiva Khanate, ie diplomatic representative, was established in Petro-Aleksandrovsk to quickly resolve various problems and issues arising in bilateral relations, to provide practical assistance in the development of economic and trade relations<sup>7</sup>. The Consul of the Khiva Khanate lived permanently in Petro-Alexandrovsk and for many years successfully fulfilled this task, Nurmuhammadboy Aminiddinbaev, who was considered one of the Khan's trusted aides<sup>8</sup>. Correspondence has so far been conducted in the official languages of both countries, ie all letters and official documents issued in Khiva have been written in Uzbek and delivered to the Amudarya branch through the Khiva Consulate. The necessary translations were made by the staff of the department and, after approval by the head of the Amudarya department, were sent to Tashkent, to the "Diplomatic Officer" serving in the court of the Governor-General of Turkestan. However, in 1896, at the suggestion of the head of the Amudarya branch of the Khiva khanate to finish the correspondence in Russian, Ahmadjon Agaev, a Tatar of Russian descent, was of Muslim descent, who was fluent in the local Uzbek language and had translation experience, was invited to Khiva<sup>9</sup>. His main task was to help translate official diplomatic letters and documents from Uzbek to Russian through the Khiva Khanate via Petro-Alexandrovsk, under the supervision of the head of the Amudarya branch, to various Russian officials, as well as to train Russian to some Khiva government officials.

During this period, there were no diplomatic relations, between the Khiva Khanate and Russia, established in Russia in accordance with the norms of international law. Any problems and disagreements were resolved at the level of the head of the Amudarya department, or through a "diplomatic official" in the court of the Governor-General of Turkestan. During the reign of Khiva khan Muhammad Rahimkhan-II (1864-1910) he did not personally visit Russia.

According to some reports, as Ambassador, mainly Prime Minister Islam Hodja has visited Russia several times. The businessman and minister was one of the leaders of the ongoing reforms in Khiva. As a result of his visits, he was able to open a modern post office in Khiva, build a European hospital and schools, and bring technical innovations.

It is known that many citizens of Khiva regularly visited Russia and Turkestan for commercial or civil purposes. Some citizens have permanently resided in cities where they can live comfortably. Therefore, on the initiative of the Khan of Khiva Muhammad Rahimkhan, the post of Special Representative of the Khiva Government, the Elder was established in various cities of Turkestan. The order of approval of the Khiva representatives for this position was carried out in accordance with the order of the Governor-General of Turkestan, approved on April 28, 1899<sup>10</sup>. On this basis, on the recommendation of the Khiva khan, a citizen of Khiva, Dustman MahkamKuliev, was appointed Elder of the Khiva people living in and around Ashgabat, the capital of the Caspian region<sup>11</sup>. In the same order, on the recommendation of the Khiva khan, with a special letter from the Khiva government, OtajonAvazniyozov was appointed the Elder of the Khiva people living in the city and district of Merv, then Muhammadshirin Muhammad Yakubov, the Elder of the Khiva people in the city and district of Chorjoi, first VaisovKhudaybergan, then MuhammadaminboyAvazmuhammedov were appointed<sup>12</sup>.

In order to develop the economic resources of the Khiva khanate and earn more money, Russian citizens, traders and businessmen began to flock to the country. By the beginning of the twentieth century, more than 30 companies and campaigns belonging to Russia's largest business circles, operating in many countries around the world, and hundreds of small entrepreneurs were operating in the Khiva Khanate. In general, by the beginning of the XX century, the Khiva khanate was inhabited by more than 1.5 thousand Russian citizens. In addition, hundreds of Russian citizens come to Khiva from Russia every year for commercial and other purposes. On the instructions of the Russian emperor, the senator, who came to inspect the social and economic situation in the country, ensured the introduction of the post of Russian Arbitration Court, City Police Officer in the Khiva Khanate, based on the demands and requests of Russian citizens living in Khiva<sup>13</sup>. As a result, the decisions and judgments of the Russian judiciary are enforced in the territory of the Khiva khanate, as they are in the whole territory of Turkestan, and even in the territory of the Khiva khanate they are strictly enforced by the citizens of Khiva<sup>14</sup>. For this purpose, it is planned to organize mobile sessions of the Samarkand District Court in the cities of New Urgench and Petro-Alexandrovsk, and permanent posts of court investigators will be established in these cities<sup>15</sup>. Not limited to this, Russian officials achieved the adoption of Law No. 28 "On the Application of Russian Jurisdiction in the Khiva Khanate", approved on June 1, 1912 in the highest circles of the Russian Empire. According to this, from January 1, 1913, the post of independent arbitrator will be established to operate in the territory of the Khiva khanate<sup>16</sup>. The court's decisions applied equally to Russian and Khiva citizens.

Thus, the analysis of the documents defining the bilateral relations shows that the Russian Empire based its military-political power and potential on the system of subjugation of small peoples, violation of their rights, disregard for the great statehood. The documents prove that he established relations with the Khiva khanate in a similar way, in which the Khiva khans cooperated with the ruling circles, and the Khiva people were completely deprived of the right to determine their own destiny.

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