

The Emergence of Large Land Holdings in the Khiva Khanate

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Abstract— *The article discusses the causes and consequences of the emergence of large land holdings in the Khiva khanate, the lands of the kingdom.*

Keywords—“vaqf lands”, “state lands”, “royal lands”, Rofanik courtyard, Gulbanbog courtyard, Oqmasjid courtyard, Shabad courtyard, Aqyab courtyard, Zeh courtyard.

1. INTRODUCTION

Until the land tenure relationship in any state is defined, it is not possible to properly understand the socio-political life of that state. By the nineteenth century, the forms of land tenure in the Khiva khanate were as followings: most of the land consisted of "private" land. There were also “vaqf lands” and then “state lands” or “royal lands”. (Such a distribution of land contradicts the customary opinion of historians, as all sources generally believe that royal lands constitute the bulk of the lands of the Khiva khanate, as.

According to archival sources, the lands belonging to the citizen, i.e. the common people, were less than 1/10 of the lands of the whole khanate, and 9/10 of all the lands of the khanate belonged to large land owners. Based on this, we can conclude that in the XIX century the economic basis of the Khiva khanate was the land of the rich, and this khanate was a state of large land owners.

So how did large-scale land ownership in the Khiva khanate come about?

1. The wealthy Uzbeks and the officials who grew up among them take over the neglected lands of the dead, runaway, exterminated locals, and sometimes forcibly occupy them.

2. The strong Uzbek tribes that migrated to the settlements occupied the lands of the weaker tribes. The chiefs of these tribes were considered the masters of all the property and lands belonging to these tribes. Accordingly, a large part of the land was accumulated in the hands of the upper class.

3. Large land owners also pulled or bought very few plots of land in the hands of the poorest farmers.

4. As land became the main source for the enrichment of the rich, and the greed of these rich was boundless, the great rich took possession of whole lands by bringing water to new lands.

The need for economic development required the restoration and consolidation of a large centralized land ownership in Khiva. This demand was fulfilled during the reign of Muhammad Rahimkhan and the khans who succeeded him to the throne.

Muhammad Rahimkhan, ending the rule of the ancient rulers, was proud of his "originality" and sought to exclude all those who dreamed of the old order from him and from any administrative work. According to in each tribe there were 32 officials, including the cow itself, the biys, and so on. They have special rights, privileges, and responsibilities, and have always been respected.

2. MAIN PART

Muhammad Rahimkhan will end their rule, but in order not to turn the people against him, he will keep only the titles, and will keep the lands belonging to the tribes and the property of these people. With the abolition of the dominion of the tribes, their possession of the land was also abolished, i.e., the "lands of the tribes were declared the private property of the chiefs.

In some historical sources we can see that large land holdings in Khiva were believed to have been created by the confiscation of the lands of the tribal chiefs. However, based on the above data, we can see that large land holdings in Khiva were created not by confiscating the lands of the seed chiefs, but by confiscating the lands belonging to the lower strata of these seeds. It was no coincidence, then, that the proclamation of Muhammad Rahimkhan's reforms angered the lower strata of the people.

The need for economic development required the restoration and consolidation of a large centralized land ownership state in Khiva. It is known that at that time, when the development of the productive forces was at a very low level, only large land owners could supply agricultural products to the market as commodities. The growth of large land holdings has led to an increase in trade.

As the large landowners became economically stronger, they accumulated more wealth in their own hands and became more active in seeking to exercise political power. The khan, who owned royal lands, was also the first large land owner in the

country. Each khan bestowed many lands on his relatives, various officials and sepoys who supported him in all his domestic and foreign policies.

Since the previous khans had taken over all the state lands, there was no space left for the new khan. Therefore, as soon as each new khan came to the throne, he would start his work by building new canals, as these canals would irrigate new lands and share these lands as gifts to the khan's relatives and friends. With the commissioning of the new canal, the khan immediately took possession of the lands irrigated by the canal's water, thus seeking to expand his lands as much as possible.

It turned out that the next khans could have a single land only in places far from the capital, because all the lands near the capital had passed into the hands of large landowners. In different districts and in the vicinity of the capital there were lands belonging to the khan and the treasury, but they consisted of courtyards and gardens. Muhammad Amin khan had the following fortresses and gardens around Khiva: Rofanik courtyard, Soyot courtyard, Gulbanbog courtyard, Oqmasjid courtyard, Shabad courtyard, Aqyab courtyard, Zeh courtyard.

3. CONCLUSION

Taking into account the above mentioned information, we can conclude that in the XIX century the Khiva khanate was a large landowner state. The characteristic feature of this large landholding was not only that a large part of the land was accumulated in the hands of a minority, but also that this process took place in a very short time. Only about two or three centuries had passed since the occupation of the Khiva oasis and the transition of Uzbeks from nomadic pastoralism to sedentary farming. Also, in the Khiva khanate the state lands were less than in other types of lands.

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