

Anglo-Russian Rivalry In English Historiography

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Abstract: *The Second Anglo-Afghan War provoked various reactions in British society. After the initial military successes, supporters of the "aggressive policy" celebrated the victory and demanded that it continue in this manner. D. Buldger, a well-known historian and one of the proponents of "aggressive politics", called for the occupation of Herat, Balkh, Maymana and Faizabad. He also proposed the consolidation of British military units in Herat, where an auxiliary army of five thousand soldiers, trained by British officers, consisting of representatives of the local population, would be formed.*

Keywords: "Great Game", Anglo-Afghan War, Central Asian khanates, St. Petersburg, British-Indian border

I. Introduction.

D. Buldger believed that it would be easier to establish contacts with the Central Asian khanates bordering Afghanistan through Herat, turning them to the British side and against Russia. The historian also stressed that Kandahar is an important point. "As both a military and a political center, Kabul could be the key to Herat," he said [1].

Bulger argued that the policy of "aggression" should be directed not only at Afghanistan, but also at Iran. He had predicted that if Britain did not allow the British to enter the Iranian army, and if the Shah and his ministers could not turn against Russia's plans, they would lose the only chance we had to rule in Iran. [2]. The occupation of Armenian fortresses and the Gulf of Batumi as a result of the Russo-Turkish War of 1877-1878 was assessed as the Russians' approach to the Iranian capital. [3].

One of the most important studies on the historiography of Anglo-Russian rivalry in Central Asia in the 1980s was the work of George Bruce Malleson (1825-1898), a British officer, author of many historical and journalistic works. His novels, "The history of Afghanistan," J. Keyning the work of the nineteenth century, 50 years to end the works devoted to the history of the events in India, "Indian history" of the uprising J. Keyning "ushering in the history of the war won" the work of additions. Malleson is also the author of special works on the Anglo-Russian rivalry in Central Asia, such as The Russo-Afghan Question and the Indian Invasion, and Herat: The Central Asian Warehouse and Garden. [4]. J. Malleson believed that the occupation of Herat by the British was of great importance to the defense of India. He says he is convinced that several years of British rule in Herat, as seen in the example of India's Bengal province, will lead to the division of Afghanistan. Also, J. Malleson came up with the idea of establishing a separate state in Herat, the need to deploy British spies in every important center of Afghanistan. He also called for the use of tribal strife and disagreement within Afghan society in the interests of the British government.

Another major researcher and participant in the Big Game policy, Ch. It was McGregor (1840-1887). Born in British India, he was one of the leading experts on British foreign policy and in 1885 was appointed head of the British

Indian intelligence department. Ch. McGregor had traveled to many parts of Central Asia and created many works dedicated to Anglo-Russian rivalry. In particular, the "Central Asia", "defense" in the works, such as India, Iran, Afghanistan, India, regions participate in the political process will save a tooth that had [5].

Ch. McGregor's work is notable for having a solid source base. In particular, his work "Defense of India" is based on the accounts of E. Pottinger, the British political representative in Afghanistan during the Anglo-Afghan War of 1838-1842, the military archives in St. Petersburg, the archives of the Tashkent headquarters, Chingiz Marvin, who worked in Russia. created without [6].

Ch. McGregor began his study of the Anglo-Russian conflict by comparing the balance of power between European states. He linked the need for "Indian defense" to a conflict of interest between Britain and Russia in other parts of the world. He therefore came up with a proposal to create an anti-Russian bloc uniting the countries of Europe and the East. Germany, Austria-Hungary, the Ottoman Empire, as well as Iran, Afghanistan and China were classified as worthy members of this bloc. Ch. McGregor insisted that the Big Game policy could not be resolved peacefully. He will begin to analyze the consequences of Russia's growing military-political power in Central Asia. In particular, as a result of the connection of the Caspian and Aral Seas by railways, canals and other means of communication, the supply of water and food resources to the regions of Russia will increase. Turkestan will establish relations not only with the Caucasus, but also with Central Russia. The independent khanates in the region were abolished and became a Russian protectorate. The continuation of religious fanaticism in Bukhara (in our opinion, the author referred to the three Central Asian khanates) creates favorable conditions for the exploitation of the region. Freight traffic will develop along both banks of the Amudarya and Syrdarya rivers, and trade relations will be revived. All of this could have a serious impact on British dominance in the East [7]. In turn, the deterioration of economic relations between the British and the Central Asian khanates could also threaten British rule in India. Ch. According to McGregor, no country's threat poses as much of a threat to the British world as Russia's rise. He also noted that Russia has become more interested in occupying strategically important objects - Herat, Kabul,

Chitral. Ch. According to McGregor, the favorable geographical location of these territories and the formation of tribes hostile to Britain as a potential ally will ensure Russia's superiority in this regard. Ch., Who made a careful military-political analysis of the region. McGregor cites the separate position of Sarakhs and Khorasan in resolving the Anglo-Russian conflict in this part of Asia. Russia succeeded in subjugating the Caucasus, making Bukhara, Khiva, and Kokand khanates vassals, and capturing the operation of checkpoints through Merv, Petro-Alexandrovsk, and Osh. Convincing the Ottoman Turks that they would be defeated in the war, he is expanding his sphere of influence in Iran. Russia, for its part, is a little way of China and Kashgar, so it is likely to travel to India.[\[8\]](#).

II. Discussion.

In turn, it should be noted that Ch. According to McGregor's notion of an "aggressive attack," Russia is not expected to attack the British colonies, but the processes leading up to an armed conflict can be observed in the form of diplomatic pressure. That is, it will expand its influence by establishing trade ties in the Russian-occupied territories of Central Asia. The expansion of trade and economic ties between the Central Asian khanates and the Russian Empire would undermine the position of the British Empire in the country. In fact, Ch. McGregor's views on the "aggressive attack" position were quite controversial. Because he himself denounced the political and military figures who said that the pressure between the two empires could be resolved through diplomatic means, emphasizing that Russia would exert diplomatic pressure on the military forces. He elaborated on the strategy of all offensive operations to be used by the United Kingdom in the event of a war with Russia. At a time when relations were strained, he was reiterating that Russia could gain the upper hand by depriving it of trade opportunities. Ch. McGregor's position against Russia was reflected in the comprehensive development of the navy by the British Empire.

Another major researcher of the "big game" policy was VM Thorburn, who, like many of his contemporaries, believed that a buffer state should be created in Afghanistan to strengthen British rule in India. At the same time, he opposed the idea of expanding the colonial territories militarily, stressing the need to learn from the example of the Afghan war. To prove his position, VM Thorburn began a serious study of sources related to Russia's domestic policy, including the Russian periodical press. "Russia is undergoing reforms that will change Russia's policy in Asia, although it is almost unknown to the British," he said. Russia's main needs are people and railways. From now on, for many years to come, Russia will have to make social changes aimed at easing foreign policy issues[\[9\]](#)." VM Thorburn believed that Russia should manage its colonies, not war, in the current situation. For Britain, the development of trade relations with Russia through Central Asia was also necessary for the promotion of the ideas of the British Empire's civilization mission in the East. The strengthening of trade relations, the opening of new trade

routes, the expansion of trade infrastructure further strengthened the Russian government in the country.[\[10\]](#).

Another researcher of this period, F. Trench (1832-1890 tenure). A soldier who served five years in Peshawar and two years on the Afghan-Indian border, he understood the content of British policy in Central Asia to be "an increase in British influence in countries located between the Indian and Russian borders." He noted that Afghanistan, Iran and East Turkestan were included in these territories, and that movement in these areas should be in the hands of the British.[\[11\]](#). F. Trench ideas gradually improved. He supported his political views during Gladstone's tenure as prime minister and criticized their foreign policy concepts when the Liberals came to power. When the Disraeli government began to support the idea of a "great empire" in the British Parliament in the 1880s, it began to demand political and military measures such as occupying roads leading to India and actively intervening in Afghanistan and Iran to strengthen Britain's influence in Asia. In order to strengthen the British position in India, it is necessary to build railways connecting Lahore, Calcutta, Peshawar, and to accelerate the activities of the military garrison in Punjab. Referring to the Anglo-Russian conflict in Central Asia, he stressed that the UK could not put any pressure on Russia as it moved forward in the region. He also noted that the formation of frontier troops on the British-Indian border (i.e. Turkestan) could pose major challenges for the British in the future. [\[12\]](#).

As a result of Trench's study of Russia's economic, political, and military situation, he becomes convinced that the threat posed by the Russians to India is far from real. "Even if Russia is Britain's rival in Asia, it will not be able to take a position that is a serious concern for British rule in India," he said. The Russian invasion of India is perhaps the unfortunate thing that has been predicted for many years. Russian government officials and the military cannot dare to take on such a serious task[\[13\]](#)."

Henry B. another researcher who has a special place in the historiography of Anglo-Russian competition in Central Asia. Hannah (1839-1914). He was directly involved in the Second Anglo-Afghan War during the reign of General Stuart and Field Marshal Lord Roberts. Military service allowed him to be on the western borders of India and to learn how to organize the movement of troops through Afghanistan. Henry B. Hannah described the Anglo-Afghan war of 1878-1880 in detail and tried to explain its causes, the course of the war, and its consequences. He expressed his views on the problems of British politics in Central Asia in his three-volume work, *The Problems of India*. [\[14\]](#). G. In her work, Hannah notes that she began to substantiate not the political will of any British party, but the desire to preserve the inviolability of the British colonial empire. Like many sane politicians, G. Hannah rejects the idea that the Russian Empire was invading India. He concludes from his military experience that Russia had no plans to invade India at all. "The Russian government has been rejecting plans to invade India for a lifetime, while the

Russians are wondering how to strike at our influence and power in the East," he said. The establishment of peace and friendly relations between the two countries is a temporary process[15]. G. Hannah denies claims by some British authors that Russia's military strongholds along Turkestan and the Caspian Sea could expand toward India. He also says that an extremely poor Afghan state cannot be a base for Russia to carry out its aggressive plans in the East.[16]. G. According to Hannah, Russia's progress in Central Asia was only aimed at protecting Russia's borders, establishing and consolidating peace in the region. When the British see Russia as their enemy, they say they should expect the same from the Russians.[17].

Like many British researchers, Hannah considered it appropriate to turn Afghanistan into a buffer state. He saw the creation of the "Afghan buffer" as a military priority in the first place, and through this direction a peaceful line of defense would be created on India's northwestern border. In the event of a war with Russia or other European countries, if we strengthen the Anglo-Indian garrison at the expense of the local army, we can safely eliminate the threat that threatens us in East Asia and Africa. Indigenous peoples in Afghanistan and India should be used as a source to form British army ranks. These army units should be led by locals, not British officers[18].

He interpreted the creation of the "Afghan buffer" as the addition of a fourth line to the three lines of defense that existed in the northwestern part of the Indian Empire. "If there is a military conflict with Russia or other European countries, if we strengthen the Anglo-Indian garrison at the expense of the local army, we can safely overcome the threat that threatens us in East Asia or Africa," he said.[19].

The natives should be used as a source of formation of the detachments that would fill the British army. These units should be composed of the inhabitants of the territory which we have established, and should be headed by representatives of the natives, and not by British officers. It was then that these military units set aside the national feeling and became a good helper to the British regular army[20].

III. Conclusion.

Thus, without excluding the possibility of war with Russia, Hannah suggested that if military action were to take place, the British Empire should protect its borders in India as much as possible, conducting war processes outside its borders, in Afghanistan or Central Asia. The unification of all the tribes on the border with India under British rule would prevent the emergence of anti-British forces in this region as well in dangerous situations. Hannah reinforced her views on Indian defense with the idea that Afghanistan, which was expected to be formed as a buffer state, could also be occupied. In such a political situation, G. Hannah urged the British government to provide military assistance to the Emir of Afghanistan, to persuade the Emir to form a military-political alliance with Britain. If this agreement were reached, the British Empire would be able to act,

considering any aggressive action against Afghanistan as hostile to its ally and to itself. [21].

XIX - XX centuries have left a mark on the history of the British-Russian competition in Central Asia, politician and British policy in Central Asia is one of the most prominent ideologues J. It was Curzon (1859-1925). He studied at Eaton and Oxford Universities. In 1886 he was elected to the British Parliament in the ranks of the Conservative Party. J. Curzon has made many trips around Central Asia. In particular, in 1888 he visited the Caspian region, in 1889-1890 in Iran and Afghanistan. 1888 J. The purpose of Kerzon's first trip to Central Asia was to explore the military and political significance of the Central Asian railway, including its place in the concept of India's defense. [22]. Impressions of the trip are described in the book "Russia in Central Asia." [23]. J. With this book, Curzon called on the British public to react to Russia's military plans against the welfare and security of the empire, to awaken a sense of calm in the British. Describing Russia's progress in Central Asia, Lord Curzon writes: "I think Russia's invincible forces are advancing towards the Persian Gulf, Kabul and Constantinople. The future of the Russian aggressive marches in the south of the Asian continent also depends in some sense on the activities of the British. Noting Russia's success in building the strategically important Caspian Railway, Curzon is proposing to build a railway from India to Afghanistan. "Rail aggression is the least, cheapest and most beneficial, and one of the necessities of Indian defense," he said.[24].

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