

# From the history of trade relations between the Fergana Valley and East Turkestan

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**Abstract:** The East Turkestan region has a history of several thousand years as a geographical area. According to the material evidence found around the Taklamakan desert, these areas were inhabited by highly cultured people 5-6 thousand years ago. In the III-II centuries in East Turkestan there were states such as Krurona, Turfon, Kuchar, Kashkar (Suli), Erkend (Yuytyan), Khotan (Udun), Usun, which were under the influence of the Sun Khanate. During this period, the existing western and eastern Han empires in China worked tirelessly to conquer the country and take control of the Great Silk Road from China to the West, although in some years they achieved their goals temporarily but could not completely pull it out of the Huns.

**Keywords:** East Turkestan, Fergana Valley, Great Silk Road, Kokand, Kashgar

## I. Introduction.

It should be noted that East Turkestan has always attracted the attention of major powers due to the fact that it is an important area on the Great Silk Road, which connects East and West. Therefore, the migration processes of the peoples in the country have become serious, and the development of the history of statehood here has always been under external influence.

East Turkestan's geographical location and place in international trade have always attracted the attention of its neighbors. The Dzungars gained complete control over the state in 1713 by placing lords under their influence on the khanate throne. According to the administrative division of the Yorkend Khanate, it was part of the Qumul-Chalish-Turfan province and was ruled by beys. In the second half of the 17th century, the Chalish-Turfan region was one of the first to become dependent on the Dzungars. It should be noted that due to its geographical location, Kumul was of equal strategic importance for the Qing Empire and the Jungar Khanate. It is no coincidence that Chinese sources do not describe the region as "the gateway to all western countries."

Trade and economic relations between East Turkestan and the Kokand Khanate are also noteworthy. Trade relations of the Kokand khanate with East Turkestan developed rapidly. Trade between them was carried out through Kashgar. Trade relations between Kokand and Kashgar developed very well during the reign of Muhammad Alikhan (1822-1842) after the construction of several forts (Daraut-Kurgan, Kyzyl-Kurgan, Sufi-Kurgan) on the border of the Kokand khanate with East Turkestan. In 1831, a peace treaty was signed between Kokand and China. Beijing's 1828 economic sanctions against Kokand and the trade ban were repealed, and a special imperial decree of January 13, 1832, allowed only tea and ravocho to be taken from Kashgar, even allowing Kokand traders to trade duty-free in Kashgar[1]. In six cities of Kashgar - Aksu, Kashgar, Uchturfan, Khotan, Yorkand and Yangihisar - the Kokand khan appointed special elders to collect taxes from Kokand merchants. Thus, from

this period onwards, the Cossacks had a monopoly position in trade with Kashgar.

## II. Discussion.

Along with traders from Kokand, Samarkand and Bukhara, traders from Tashkent also traded in East Turkestan. Kashgar goods were transported to the Siberian and Irbit Fairs through Tashkent traders. All of them were subordinated to the Kokand elder, who lived in Kashgar and had the right of resident and consul under the treaty signed in 1831 between the Kokand Khanate and China[2]. The information provided by Chingiz Valikhanov on the number of foreigners living and trading in East Turkestan is also noteworthy. According to him, the majority of migrants live in Kashgar, where the Andijan population alone is about six thousand. The city with the largest number of foreigners is Khotan after Kashgar and Yorkand. In Aksu and Uchturfan, the number of foreigners was much lower. Foreigners in Kashgar make up a quarter of the local population, numbering 145,000.

Ch. Valikhanov's information on the main goods traded in trade relations between Central Asia and Kashgar is also important. According to these data, the bulk of the goods exported from Central Asia to East Turkestan are doro, cloth, indigo, silk fabrics, fine road or floral silk, thin fabric called gulbara, king and beqasam, brightly colored semi-silk and cotton fabrics, as well as yarn, leather, sheep and cattle, opium, tobacco, and other handicrafts made in Central Asia. Tea, cotton, silk, gray, carpets, crystal ware and silver were imported from East Turkestan to Central Asia. Central Asian traders also traded goods from Western Europe in East Turkestan markets. These include bright red cheeses made in Switzerland, France and England, English American cardboard, red English cashmere, white muslin (silk and fine fabric) and more[3].

Merchants from Central Asia, especially Kokand and Tashkent, also mediated the import and sale of Russian goods from Russia to East Turkestan. Chingiz Valikhanov also reports that Russian goods are imported to Kashgar via Kokand and Gulja. The following Russian goods were added to Kashgar:

mohair, various fabrics, silk fabrics used for turbans, silk fabrics, fabrics; Velvet made in Riga; glasses, peppercorns, novshadil, mercury, red paint, various metals (iron, miss, tin) and metal objects (samovars, teapots, plates, bowls, pots, trays, candlesticks, buttons, glasses, spoons, locks and keys), pencils) and others. Indeed, trade in East Turkestan was concentrated mainly in the hands of traders from Kokand and Bukhara.

Chingiz Valikhanov's information on the prices of goods imported from Central Asia to Kashgar is also noteworthy. For example: 20 balls of silk (1st grade) 24 zolotyx, 40 ball king 11 zolotyx, 40 ball beqasam 8-8.5 zolotyx, 20 balls of roses 12-13 zolotyx, 40 ball pieces 16 zolotyx, one pound of Khotan silk 12-14 zolotyx in Kokand standing[4].

According to P. Nebolsin, the Kokand khanate established close trade relations with Kashgar. For example, Kokand traders sent to Kashgar Russian iron, cast iron, steel, mauve, leather, yarn: chit, kolenkor (same thick surp), vyboyka, nanka (coarse yarn), floral raw velvet, wooden tea and green tea from Kashgar. , occasionally black tea, porcelain dishes, silk, silver yams. The Kokand-Kashgar trade was very intense. The hardships of the caravan routes continued very successfully, despite the fact that they passed through the mountains. There was no danger to traders on this road. That is why almost every week small trade caravans traveled from Kokand to Kashgar and vice versa from Kashgar to Kokand.

The distance between Kokand and Kashgar was a 23-day journey. Caravans with a load of 1000-1500 horsepower usually set off in early June. These caravans were loaded with tents, clothes, and food. Merchants from Kabul, Iran, Bukhara and Tashkent were also in the caravan. P.I. Nebolsin reports that Kashgar teas were brought to Khiva from Kokand in the middle of the 19th century[5].

According to Nebolsin, first of all, trade relations between Kokand and Kashgar developed very rapidly, secondly, Kokand acted as a mediator in Kashgar's trade relations with Bukhara, Iran, India and Russia, and thirdly, the Kokand-Kashgar road with respect to Bukhara-Iran or Khiva-Iran roads. which is quite arduous and at the same time unsafe.

Kokand not only traded directly with Kashgar, but also served as Kokand's mediator in Kashgar's trade relations between Russia and China. Kashgar sent tea, porcelain, livestock and livestock products, silk fabrics and other goods to China and Russia in transit through the borders of the Kokand Khanate. In exchange for these goods, fabrics, leather, silk, sheepskin, fur, precious stones, jewelry and many Russian goods were exported from Kokand.

In the middle of the 19th century, trade between the Kokand Khanate and Kashgar reached 5 million rubles a year. From Kashgar to Kokand alone, tea alone brought 30,000 pounds a year[6].

According to an article published in Russkiy Vestnik in 1875, the Central Asian khanates were supplied

with more tea and Chinese porcelain from China via Gulja, Chuguchak and Kashgar. Sugar, indigo, cotton, cashmere rice, and European goods were imported from India[6].

The author of the article notes that the low production of gold in the Bukhara and Kokand khanates, and the small amount of silver imported from Kashgar do not meet the needs of Central Asians. With this conclusion, the author may be approving of Russia's efforts to capture Central Asian markets. He wrote that Central Asians could not pay for anything they bought from China and India: tea, sugar, Russian gold for indigo, and other Russian goods. At the same time, the author commented on Russia's access to the markets of East Turkestan.

Trade relations with the city of Kashgar in East Turkestan and Bukhara and Tashkent continued in the 70s of the XIX century, and information about this can be found in the work of A.P Khoroshkhin. It says that cotton, fruits, wool, leather, silk, opium, silk fabrics from Kokand and Margilan factories from Kokand to Tashkent, tens of thousands of sheep from the Kyrgyz steppes through Avliyota to Kokand, Russian manufactured goods from Tashkent, sugar, iron, etc.[8], Indian tea from Bukhara, indigo, kolenkor, mal-mal, opium, Bukhara silk fabrics From Kashgar opium, porcelain dishes, in the form of silver yombi, Chinese silk fabric called kimhan, various felts and carpets are brought[7].

In 1862, a Dungan uprising broke out in Western China. The Dungan uprising was not only a political process in the life of the Central Asian states, but also had a negative impact on economic life. The play by AG Rotchev acknowledges that before the Dungan uprising, China had strong trade relations with Kokand, Bukhara[10], Khiva and other countries, but this uprising had a negative impact on the development of trade relations between these countries. This was especially the case in the tea trade[8].

### **III. Conclusion.**

Tea caravans destined for Central Asia first gathered in Urumqi and then split the road in two. The first road came from Urumqi to Verniy, Avliyota and Shymkent via Gulja, the second road, from Urumqi via Kashgar to Kashgar-Dovan road to Osh. In Osh, the caravan route will be divided into two, one from Osh-Khojand-Samarkand-Bukhara, and the other from Osh-Kokand-Namangan to Tashkent.

The above data show that economic relations between the Kokand Khanate and East Turkestan were more developed in the XIX century than in the XVIII century. However, we are far from concluding that trade and economic relations between the two countries continued at a low level in the XVIII century. Since ancient times, the peoples of Central Asia and the people of East Turkestan have established close neighborly relations. In conclusion, it should be noted that the Fergana Valley is the closest to East Turkestan, and the constant strengthening of these ties over the centuries has not only economic significance,

but also had a positive impact on the development of cultural ties.

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