

**DURING THE PERIOD OF MUHAMMAD
RAHIMKHAN I (1806-1825) "THE PROBLEM OF
RUSSIAN SLAVES" IN RELATIONS BETWEEN THE
STATE OF KHIVA AND RUSSIA**

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**MUHAMMAD RAHIMXON I DAVRIDA (1806-
1825) XIVA DAVLATI VA ROSSIYA
MUNOSABATLARIDA "RUS QULLARI
MASALASI"**

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**"ПРОБЛЕМА РУССКИХ РАБОВ" В
ОТНОШЕНИЯХ ХИВИНСКОГО
ГОСУДАРСТВА И РОССИИ В ПЕРИОД
МУХАММАДА РАХИМХАНА I (1806-1825)**

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Annotation: This article talks about how the "problem of Russian slaves" affected the relations between the two countries in the relations between the Khiva state and Russia during the reign of Muhammad Rakhimkhan I (1806-1825), and about Russia's attempts to solve this problem. In addition, in general, information is given about the situation of Russian and other nationalities slaves in the state of Khiva, in which areas of the economy they are employed.

Key words: Muhammad Rakhimkhan I, Khiva state, Russian slaves, "live stock", Caspian Heights, Khiva slave bazaars.

Annotatsiya: Bu maqolada Muhammad Rahimxon I davrida (1806-1825) Xiva davlati va Rossiya munosabatlarida "rus qullari muammosi" ikki davlat munosabatlariga qanday ta'sir qilgani, Rossiyaning bu muammoni hal qilishga urinishlari haqida so'z boradi. Bundan tashqari, umuman olganda, Xiva davlatidagi rus va boshqa millat qullarining ahvoli, ular xo'jaligining qaysi sohalarida band bo'lganligi haqida ma'lumotlar berilgan.

Kalit so'zlar: Muhammad Rahimxon I, Xiva davlati, rus qullari, "jonli chorva", Kaspiy tepaliklari, Xiva qul bozorlari.

Аннотация: В данной статье говорится о том, как «проблема русских рабов» повлияла на отношения двух стран в отношениях Хивинского государства и России в период правления Мухаммада Рахимхана I (1806-1825), и о попытках России решить эту проблему. Кроме того, в

целом даются сведения о положении русских рабов и невольников других национальностей в Хивинском государстве, в каких сферах экономики они были заняты.

Ключевые слова: Мухаммад Рахимхан I, Хивинское государство, русские рабы, «живой скот», Каспийские высоты, Хивинские невольничьи базары.

INTRODUCTION

In the Khiva Khanate, the hard work, strength and skill of the Russian slaves instilled a certain respect in their oppressors. Even though they were outsiders and were forbidden to follow the rules of their religion, their masters allowed these slaves to practice three faiths: celebrate their birthday, bathe, and pray; at this time they will be released from work [2].

Muhammad Rakhimkhan also paid special attention to the production of weapons and gunpowder. He moved the gunpowder production workshop from Old Urganch to New Urganch. Gunpowder was traded in the bazaars of Khiva. Russian slaves were used in the production of weapons and gunpowder in the Khanate. The head of Khan's gunners was also a man called "Popish the Russian" [5].

LITERATURE ANALYSIS AND RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

In the first half of the 19th century, slave trading continued in Khiva and Bukhara khanates. Kazakh, Turkmen and Uzbek nomads subordinate to the Khanate of Khiva captured Russians and Iranians from the regions of Khurasan and Astrobad from Russia, Orenburg and around the Caspian Sea, and sold them in slave bazaars such as Khiva, Urganch, Hazorasp.

According to N.Muravyov, there were 3,000 Russian, 30,000 Persian and Kurdish captives in Khiva Khanate in the 20s of the 19th century [2]. Compared to the Iranians, the Russians had a higher price in the slave bazaars and bought a young, healthy Russian captive for 60-80 tilla (gold) [2]. The condition of the slaves was extremely difficult, and the Russian captives were engaged in various crafts. Iranians were used in earthworks, gardening, cleaning ditches, and digging canals. About the fact that the slave owners in the Khiva Khanate used several

different methods of punishment for the slaves in their hands, N.Muravyov writes the following: "Although slave owners had the right to kill slaves in their hands on flimsy pretexts, they usually limited themselves to using barbaric methods of punishment, such as cutting off the ears of slaves or gouging out one eye, because the loss of labor power was a loss for them. If the master found out that the slave thought about running away, then they nailed his two ears to a pole and tied them to serve as an example to others. The poor slaves died from such sufferings: hunger, dehydration and beatings" [2]. The information given by N.Muravyov about the life of Russian prisoners in the Khiva Khanate and the oppression they suffered in captivity is also confirmed by the information given by ensigns F.F.Grushin, Tikhon Ryazanov, Andrey Nikitin, Medyanin and Portupey among the Russians who were in the Khiva Khanate in the first and second quarters of the 19th century and then escaped from captivity.

DISCUSSION

For example, let's take the story of Fedor Fedorovich Grushin, who was held captive in the Khanate of Khiva in the 20s and 30s of the XIX century. His story consists of 20 pages and was printed in the preface of the 1838 issue 5 of the "Russian Invalid" journal [6]. According to F.F. Grushin, he was one of the Meshchans of Sizran, and in 1819 he was captured by the Turkmens in the Caspian Sea with two of his companions. The Turkmens sold these to an unknown person named Khudoybergan. Khudoybergan sold them to Khan of Khiva Muhammad Rakhim. According to F.F. Grushin, the khan bought it with his companions for 150 Dutch chervons [6]. F.F. Grushin worked in Khiva Khan's palace. One day he ran away from Khiva when the Khan went hunting. However, on the way Turkmen caught him and brought him to Khiva. Kushbegi F.F. Grushin was given two hundred canes for running away [6]. Two years later, F.F. Grushin escaped again with a Russian

prisoner named Osip. This time he was caught ten days later and brought to Khiva. The author says that the Khan now ordered their ears and noses to be cut off; They cut Osip's ears and nose. As for Grushin, Rakhimquli, the khan's son, requested him, the khan ordered him to be nailed to a pole by his ear, but Rakhimquli intervened again, and finally, instead of the above two punishments, he was given 300 sticks [6]. A few years after F.F. Grushin, Astrakhan, Tikhon Ryazanov from Meshchan, Ilya Fedorovich, son of Astrakhan merchant Zakhar Polikarpov, along with Maxim Parfelov from Ural Cossacks escaped from Khiva again and this time they arrived safely in Orenburg. In addition, Tikhon Ryazanov, who escaped from captivity at the hands of the ruling circles of Khiva, also provides a lot of interesting information about the situation of Russian prisoners in Khiva. His story consists of 19 pages. In 1839, S. It will be published in St. Petersburg in "Morning Dawn" journal [6]. According to the author, in 1819 he was captured by the Kazakhs while fishing on the shores of the Caspian Sea and brought to Khiva. T.Ryazanov was bought by Khudash mahram in Khiva and brought to Muhammad Rakhimkhan. And Khan entrusted it to his son Saidmuhammad Tora [6]. In his story, T. Ryazanov also provides information about the methods of punishment applied to Russian prisoners in the Khiva Khanate. His information is very similar to N.Muravyov's information on these issues [6].

In his story, Ryazanov mentions N.Muravyov's visit to the Khiva Khanate, and he says that there were rumors that Muravyov was captured in Khiva [6]. In their stories, both of the above authors write about the peoples living in the Khiva Khanate, their customs, cities, the Khan's palace and its procedures, their escape from captivity, the condition of the Russian prisoners in the Khanate, the city of Khiva and its climate, caravan palaces, streets, mosques. But they do not provide any information about the diplomatic and trade relations of Khiva Khanate with Russia. Although N.Muravyov saw the Russian prisoners in the Khiva Khanate in a very difficult situation, he did not raise the issue of their release before the

Khiva government. According to the instructions given by A.P.Ermolov, this task was not assigned to him. After N.Muravyov, in the diplomatic relations between the Russian state and the Kheva Khanate, along with trade and border issues, the release of Russian prisoners in the Kheva Khanate and the cessation of Russian citizens being captured and sold as slaves in the bazaars became one of the main tasks of the Russian ambassadors. ANALYSIS AND RESULT

Consequently, in those years, slaves performed the main heavy work in the farms of the Khiva Khanate. Thanks to their hard work, agriculture developed, abundant harvests were obtained, and gardens flourished. But only the landowners benefited from the wealth gained by the slaves.

The main suppliers of these "live stock" were the Turkmens, who returned to their places with grain on camels freed from slaves. In the middle of the 19th century, 30-40 thousand slaves worked in Khiva Khanate.

If a slave ran away, the signs of that slave were reported in the bazaars and they began to search for him. The escape of slaves spread throughout the country. At this time, Turkmen horsemen accompanied by dogs were looking for the fugitive. They knew well the regions where slaves ran away and caught a runaway slave and received a large gift and money from his owner [6].

The Russian state sent a request for the release of its citizens who were enslaved in the Khiva Khanate several times. However, the landowners did not want to release the purchased slave for free. After Khan was desperate and could not resolve these requests positively, the two countries gradually became cold.

Another reason for the coldness of relations between the Khanate of Khiva and Russia was that during the reign of Muhammad Rakhimkhan I, the Khanate began to influence the Mangishlaq Peninsula.

Also, Russian politicians did not like the fact that the Khanate of Khiva reached the Kazakh steppes and interfered in the affairs of the desert population. A large area of steppe here did not

belong to either country. This created a border problem.

For this reason, the Russian state began to take a number of measures against the Khanate of Khiva. In 1825, a trade caravan from Russia, under the control of an armed detachment of 625 people, arrived at the banks of the New River, where the Kyrgyz, who were enemies to us, joined forces with the Khiva and attacked the caravan. After three days of fighting, the caravan was forced to turn back, abandoning all the goods. As a result, 547,600 rubles were damaged. In addition, every year around 200 Russians were abducted on the banks of the Caspian and sold as slaves in the bazaars of Khiva. Also, the kidnapping of fishermen in the Caspian Sea had become a common occurrence. The purchase of Russian slaves from Khiva in 1826 amounted to 21,289 rubles [5]. So, in the last years of Muhammad Rakhimkhan I's career, diplomatic relations with Russia became more and more complicated.

By this time, instability and robberies began to occur inside the country, especially in the remote areas. The cases of caravan robbery have increased.

Because of this, by 1821, trade caravans coming to Orenburg were drastically reduced. In total, only 1783 camels arrived from Bukhara and only 5 camels from Khiva. In 1820, this figure was 4951 camels in Bukhara and 268 camels in Khiva [1].

CONCLUSION

Muhammad Rakhimkhan I built a powerful state, economic and cultural life improved. However, stratification in the life of the country increased,

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and the gap between them increased seriously. While the Khan and his officials, large landowners, priests, bishops and elders lived richly, the number of homeless and landless people also increased. The hardest physical work in the country was placed on the shoulders of ordinary hardworking people. Especially this situation caused serious problems in remote areas of the country. Many Karakalpaks were left without land and became the herdsmen of the rich. The life of the slaves in the country became very sad.

Cleaning water structures, working in agriculture, working in the fields were the responsibility of representatives of this class. The brutal oppression of the common people caused a strong social protest.

The change in the tax system caused a lot of damage to the common farmer. Now he had to pay for "Solgit Kesma" by selling his products at a low price instead of the in-kind fee. In addition, the local officials invented various taxes in the markets and devastated the common people. In the Khanate, people of other nationalities were particularly affected.

The tension within the country did not decrease even though Khan of Khiva made Turamurod Sufi separatism one-sided. Various conflicts intensified, relations with Russia began to cool over the issue of slaves. Riots broke out in the outlying areas. The uprising of the Karakalpaks under the leadership of Aydotbi shortly after the death of Muhammad Rakhimkhan I is a proof of this.

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