

PAPER

HISTORY OF THE RUSSIAN EMPIRE'S EXPEDITIONS TO THE KHANATE OF KHIVA

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Abstract

The conquest of Central Asia was very important for the industry and market of the Russian Empire, and in addition, the gradual attempts of other European countries to enter Central Asia through various routes accelerated the military campaign of Russia. In this article is analysed directions, goals, and consequences of the Russian Empire's military campaigns to the Khiva Khanate.

Key words: Khiva Khanate, khan, Russian Empire, expedition, colony, army, truce, tribe.

Introduction

One of the most dramatic and fundamental periods in human history was the 15th-16th centuries, during which humanity discovered new events and phenomena for itself and its knowledge of the world increased. By this time, the importance of the "Great Silk Road" for humanity had increased even more. The Ottoman Empire, which controlled this route connecting the East and the West, had further strengthened its control, and also began to take aggressive actions against European countries. In addition, as the population of European countries continued to grow, the demand for new lands and raw materials increased significantly. As a result, Europeans were forced to look for new trade routes and began the era of "Great Geographical Discoveries" which marked a fundamental turning point in human history. Geographical discoveries opened the way for European countries not only to increase their economic power, but also to build colonial empires. Countries such as Great Britain, France, Spain, Portugal, and the Netherlands had their colonies mainly by sea.

By the 17th century, Russia joined the political arena in the struggle for territory in the Asian region. Unlike Western European countries, Russia did not carry out military expansions across the continent, but rather by sea. During the reign of Prince Ivan IV, after Russia conquered the Kazan, Astrakhan, Nogai, and Siberian khanates, the borders of the state approached the territory of Central Asia. The rulers of the Romanov dynasty continued this

policy further east and south.

At the same time, the British Empire began to expand into India and the path to the Central Asian khanates began to open. In such a situation, the Russian Empire set itself the main goal of quickly conquering Central Asia.

As a result, the interests of Russia and Great Britain, which were considered two large imperialist powers, clashed in Central Asia. Russia rapidly conquered the Central Asian khanates one after another. In this article, we will try to cover in detail the military expeditions of the Russian Empire to the Khiva Khanate.

Analysis and Results

We are based on the following information written by the historian Muhammad Yusuf Bayani in his work "Shajarai Khorezmshahi", namely: "The Russian state had already sent five soldiers to Khorezm five times before, some of them died of thirst on the way to Khorezm, and some went to Khorezm and fought and were killed, and so far they have never been able to achieve victory" [10, p. 6]. So, using this information, we can know that Russia made five military expeditions to the Khiva Khanate and shed light on the history of these expeditions and clarify them. In the 16th-17th centuries, the Khiva Khanate was always in the center of attention of the Russian state. By studying the relations of the Khiva Khanate with India and other neighboring countries, they

aimed to find the most convenient and safe routes for Russia to India [1, p. 74]. Initially, diplomatic relations between Russia and the Khiva Khanate continued well. For example, one source notes that 27 ambassadors came to Russia from Khiva between 1616 and 1744 [16, p. 4]. The Special Committee under the Asian Department of the Russian Foreign Ministry was responsible for managing and directing relations with the Eastern countries, including the Khiva Khanate [17].

The first Russian military expedition took place in 1605. At that time, the Khiva Khanate was ruled by Arab Muhammad Khan, the youngest son of Haji Muhammad Khan (1598–1602). At the same time, along with Russia, the Yayik Cossacks invaded the country from the north. During this attack, the Yayik Cossacks, led by ataman Nechay and ataman Shamay, attacked Urgench, but were defeated by the Khiva troops.

Also about this attack, Abulkazi Bakhodir Khan wrote: during his reign, the Yayik Cossacks under the leadership of Ataman Aborkin (1602) and Ataman Nechay (1603) invaded the Khiva Khanate and plundered the country and the capital Urgench. In 1604, Ataman Shamay marched on Khorezm with an army of 1,000 people, but was defeated like Aborkin and Nechay. This situation, on the one hand, was due to the Russian attack, and on the other hand, the devastating wars of the Cossacks ruined the country's economic situation. The Russian Empire later sought to conduct its policy carefully by sending many embassy missions to the Central Asian khanates. In turn, Russia was watching Great Britain's attempts to enter Central Asia in various ways.

The second military expedition of the Russian Empire to the Khiva Khanate was the 1714–1717 expedition of Alexander Bekovich Cherkassky. In 1714, he was appointed head of the Khiva Khanate's expedition to the Amu Darya. The reason for this expedition was the existence of legends about the presence of golden sand in the Amu Darya. At that time, during the political period known as the "Game of Khans" the Khanate was ruled by Shergozi Khan. The main reason for this expedition was the need to develop the metallurgical industry at the beginning of the 17th century and the keen interest of Russian rulers and explorers in the fate of the mineral deposits of this region, including the rich deposits of Ulug'tov, who had already become famous at that time. Information about the gold deposits overflowing in Central Asia attracted special attention of the government, and as a result, Peter I personally developed a plan to penetrate the territory of the Uzbek khanates [13, p. 5].

"According to the instructions of Peter I, the Bekovich expedition set the following goals: - to study the former bed of the Amu Darya; - to persuade the Khan of Khiva to accept Russian citizenship and provide him with a detachment of Russian guards to protect him; - to build fortifications on the eastern shore of the Caspian Sea in the area of the Krasnovodsk Bay and the old channel of the Amu Darya; - to conduct geological exploration; - to establish contact with the Khan of Bukhara; - Lieutenant Kozhin was sent from Khiva under the guise of a merchant to search for a trade route to India." Another source contains information that the mission was assigned the following tasks: The expedition, organized in 1714, was tasked with the following tasks: to collect information about the Khiva and Bukhara khanates; to find the old bed of the Amu Darya; to study the eastern shores of the Caspian Sea [6, p. 151].

Peter I sent Alexander Bekovich Cherkassky with 5,000 well-armed soldiers to Khiva to negotiate with the khan about bringing it under Russian patronage [4, p. 327]. In April 1715, Bekovich-Cherkassky set off from Astrakhan and reached the eastern shores of the Caspian [9, p. 107]. The Khan of Khiva, foreseeing Russian aggression, took drastic measures against the Russians and defeated the expedition led by Cherkassky. "The severed heads of Alexander Bekovich Cherkassky and his assistant Zamonovsky were hung at the gates of the Khiva bazaars," writes Majid Khasani in his "The Sword on the Neck of the Country or the Conquest" [14,

p. 5]. Thus, the second military expedition of the Russian Empire ended in defeat.

The third military expedition of the Russian Empire to Khiva was the Tsiolkovsky expedition of 1824. The implementation of this expedition was based on a military tactical plan developed under the leadership of Captain Berg, and an invitation was made to the Orenburg Governor-General to implement this plan. In this plan, in order to ensure the successful implementation of the military operation against the Khiva Khanate, the most important task was to organize military fortifications in the Dashti-Kipchak region, that is, in the southern part of present-day Kazakhstan, in the Tunguska Mountains, Ustyurt, and Aral Sea regions in the direction of Khiva. The Russian authorities considered these territories to be within their interests, and in 1824, as part of a very large trade caravan sent to Central Asia, a military force of 625 soldiers and 2 modern cannons under the leadership of Colonel Tsiolkovsky was sent to carry out a military operation against Khiva. However, when they reached Beshtepa in Kyzylkum, they were attacked by the Khivas, and were forced to retreat, abandoning everything except the most necessary valuables [2, p. 87]. Later, in a battle with the Khivas on the banks of the New River, the Russian mission's army was completely defeated by the Khivas. As a result, the Russians were forced to retreat [18]. Thus, this expedition was also defeated.

The fourth military expedition of the Russian Empire is the Perovsky expedition of 1839–1840. Mikhail Ivanin writes about this expedition as follows: "Especially in 1839–1840, the large expedition organized to capture Khiva returned with huge losses, which was very expensive for Russia" [11, p. 3]. Indeed, this expedition suffered heavy losses. The main reason for this was that the winter in Central Asia was severe that year, and the Russian troops' reckless military expedition led to the failure of the mission and the loss of lives. As can be seen from this, the Russian Empire was not well acquainted with the nature and geography of Central Asia, and thus suffered losses. At the same time, the Khiva Khanate was ruled by Khan Alloqli Khan (1825–1842). The Khan's relations with neighboring khans and emirs were also quite serious. Russia took advantage of this situation.

"Russia is going to punish our treacherous and insidious neighbor Khiva for the first time. In two months, God willing, we will be in Khiva. For the first time in the capital of Khiva, Russians will pray loudly and sincerely for their tsar and homeland in front of an idol and a Russian Bible," his statement also shows that the intention to make the Khiva Khanate dependent on him is clear [5, p. 19].

"Taking into account the precarious political situation that was taking place in 1839–1840, Alloqli Khan marched on Khorasan, took 20 thousand Iranians captive, and with their help tried to strengthen the defense of the city of Khiva" [12, p. 55]. It is known from the information that this Perovsky expedition ended unsuccessfully.

Since the 1950s, with the intensification of the military operations of the Russian Empire in the Turan region, the issue of mutual assistance and cooperation in the fight against Russian troops in the nature of relations between the three khanates in Central Asia came to the fore [3, p. 444]. However, despite this, the rulers of the three khanates could not unite against a common enemy.

The fifth military expedition of the Russian Empire to the Khiva Khanate was the military expansion of the Russian Empire to the Khiva Khanate in 1873. During this period, the Khiva Khanate was ruled by Muhammad Rakhimkhan II (1864–1910). This time, the Russian attack was well-thought-out, had a clear strategy, and was carried out with conclusions from history. The idea of the Russian command was to attack Khiva with four detachments from Tashkent, Orenburg, the Mangyshlok Peninsula and Krasnovodsk. Of these, only the Tashkent and Orenburg directions successfully reached an army of 7.5 thousand

soldiers [7, p. 24].

“A total of 13 thousand soldiers were mobilized for the expedition to conquer the Khiva Khanate, consisting of 4 detachments – from Tashkent (adjutant general von Kaufman), Orenburg (general N.A. Veryovkin), Mangkshlok (colonel N.P. Lomakin) and Krasnovodsk (colonel V.I. Markozov) with 2–5 thousand soldiers each. At their disposal were 56 self-propelled guns, cannons, 4,600 horses and 20 thousand camels rented from the Kyrgyz (Kazakhs). Of these, only 7.5 thousand soldiers successfully arrived via the Tashkent and Orenburg routes [8, p. 24].

“Russia achieved a complete victory. On August 12, 1873, the Governor-General of Turkestan K.P. According to the terms of the Gandimyan peace treaty concluded by von Kaufman with the Khan of Khiva, Muhammad Rakhimkhan II, the Khiva Khanate passed under the protectorate of Russia and ceded to Russia the territory to the right of the Amu Darya, the river bank, Russian merchants received the right to trade duty-free in the Amu Darya, Khiva paid an indemnity of 2.2 million rubles. In 20-year payments” [15, p. 167–168].

Part of the lands on the right bank of the Amu Darya were incorporated into the Syrdarya region into a special administrative unit – the Amu Darya district (from 1874 the Amu Darya department). During the expedition, Russian troops gained experience in conducting combat operations, organizing and conducting long campaigns in the conditions of the sandy desert. Thus, Russia turned the Khiva Khanate into its colony.

Conclusion

The history and analysis of the expeditions prove that Russia was a strong military-imperialist state. The military expeditions to Khiva were carried out in different directions and by different rulers, for different purposes. In general, the conquest of Central Asia was very important for the industry and market of the Russian Empire, and in addition, the gradual attempts of other European countries to enter Central Asia through various routes accelerated the military campaign of Russia. It is worth noting that before the next military expedition, Governor-General von Kaufman sent a letter to the Emir of Bukhara and the Khan of Kokand in order to politically limit Khiva, warning them that if they helped the Khanate of Khiva, this would lead to bad consequences for themselves, as he wrote in his “Project Report of K.P. Kaufman for 1867 – 1881”, published in 1885. It is also known that the Russian emperors and governors-general carefully planned their last military expeditions to achieve their goals. Along with the Khiva Khanate, neighboring khanates also came under the control of the Russian Empire. The main mistakes of the Central Asian khanates are: lack of unity, that is, acting separately and not together; military backwardness; lack of development of science; poor diplomatic relations with foreign countries, as well as the poor living conditions of the local population.

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