

NORTHERN AFGHANISTAN AT THE END OF THE XIX CENTURY BORDER ISSUES

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Abstract

Northern Afghanistan at the end of the 19th century border issues, disputes between the cities and villages located in this area between the Bukhara Emirate and the Afghan Emirate, the issue of Central Asia becoming an international issue between the Russian Empire and the Kingdom of England will be included in the scientific discussion.

Keywords: Central Asia, Russia, England, colonial policy, Bukhara Emirate, Khanates, Afghanistan, Balkh, Maimana, Herat, Kunduz, Khoja Salih, Kelif, Murghab, Marv, territorial border.

At the end of the 19th century, Tsarist Russia's occupation of Central Asian khanates and Bukhara Emirate led to a number of disputes with the British kingdom on the issue of Central Asia. In particular, after Russia occupied Badakhshan and Wakhan regions in the south of Tajikistan, England's colonial policy in India began to be undermined [1]. Therefore, the Indian Department of the British Foreign Office began to strongly warn. In May 1870, the Indian government sent a letter to Duke Argalsky, minister of the Indian Department, with proposals for a new solution to the problem. In it, the question of the division of the border of Afghanistan and the political influence on Central Asia was raised. It seems that the issue of neutral territory has been abandoned in this name. At the suggestion of the Indian government, the territory of Dost Muhammad's time should be taken as the basis for demarcating the borders of Afghanistan. In the north, the main border was to be defined along the Amudarya in the west, Balkh in the east, and Badakhshan in the east[25].

In the north-west, the border was to pass between Khoja Salih and Kerki kechavs, and include Afghanistan's Balkh, Andkhai and Maymana and Herat, and the Herirud and Murghab rivers that enter it. In this agreement, the main focus is on the strategic point of Khoja Salih. A. Burns also noted the importance of the address. But Stremoukhov suspected him[12]. However, in the correspondence of the British government, Khoja Salih was asked to be included in Afghanistan, even if necessary, if necessary, he would make concessions to the Russians. The new proposals of the Government of India signaled a change in the policy of the British Government. The territory of Afghanistan should include all the provinces and the territory that was part of the Sherali Khan state during Dost Muhammad's time.



According to Buchanan, Stremoukhov admitted that the Russian government is not against the introduction of Khoja Salih into the territory of Afghanistan. It is only necessary to determine the area through which its border passes. It is noted that Turkmenistan and Marv have important trade value for Russia.

During this period, Russia lost time, Russian diplomats were never in a hurry. France was defeated by Germany[24]. Taking advantage of this favorable situation, Russia obtained the right to establish a military fleet in the Black Sea, obtaining the cancellation of the discriminatory treaty concluded in Paris. In addition, Russia strengthened its political position in Central Asia and began preparing for a military campaign to conquer the independent Khanate of Khiva[13].

British diplomats did not rush to quickly solve the border in Central Asia. But they began to squeeze Russia because of the danger of expanding its sphere of influence over the neighboring countries of Asia. British diplomats in London began to look at Russia's policy in Central Asia with suspicion and threaten it[26]. England began to emphasize that if the situation did not improve, it would quickly come to an agreement with Germany and Austria, or contact the rulers of Central Asia, and start a fight against Russia, and many problems would arise.

The Russian Ambassador to England admits to Foreign Minister Gorchakov that the current British government has increased its attention to the people's movements in Turkestan, Afghanistan, Iran, and the events around the Caspian Sea[14].

In September 1872, the new ambassador of England A. Loftus, who visited the exhibition in Moscow, met General Kaufman and quickly informed the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Grenville, asking him to come to Moscow and take advantage of this situation[23]. A. Loftus says in his memoirs that it is necessary to seriously determine the border of northern Afghanistan, that is, the bastion of India. And Lord Grenville believes that if the Russians march into Afghanistan, Sherali Khan has the right to fully protect the territory of Afghanistan along the Amudarya and Khoja Salih's lands. In fact, he proposes that Afghanistan's northern territorial boundary be as follows:

1. The territory of Badakhshan and Wakhan, from Sarikol in the south to the confluence of Kokcha and Panj in the Amudarya should be the border of northern Afghanistan[15].
2. Afghan Turkestan: Kunduz, Khulm, and Balkh, from the confluence of the Kokcha river to the Amudarya to the lands of Khoja Salih, that is, to the main road of Bukhara to Balkh, should be the border of northern Afghanistan. The Afghan emir has no right to claim the lands on the northern banks of the Amudarya.
3. Aqcha, Saripul, Maimana, Shibirgan, Andkhoy regions located on the north-western border of Afghanistan border the Turkmen deserts. On the western border of Afghanistan between Herat and Iran lies the province of Khorasan, and there is no need for a border[16].



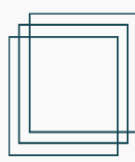
General Kaufman, in his document on the territory of Afghanistan, said that the Afghan rulers, including Dost Muhammad, were never the rulers of Badakhshan and Vakhani. These regions paid tribute to the ruler of Badakhshan, Jahandor Shah, the emir of Kabul, and gave Dost Muhammad ruby and lapis lazuli stones for the internal peace of the country. But the rulers of Badakhshan did not pay tribute, and after the death of Dostmuhammed, they decided to go under the rule of the emir of Bukhara, Muzaffariddin. At the same time, due to the invasion of the Russians, this action was not carried out. Kaufman writes that when Jahandor overthrew the king with the help of Sherali Khan, he felt the reality of a coup d'état within the country[22]. Because their nephews, Jahandor Shah, Mahmud Shah, and Mirzabshahs, who were paying tribute to the Afghan emir, did not pay any tribute when they recognized the supreme ruler because they were entrenched in Badakhshan[17].

In a letter written by General Kaufman to Prince Gorchakov on November 29, 1872, although he did not approach this issue very deeply, England wanted to use Badakhshan and Wakhan as a weapon against Russia's policy in Central Asia.

Rawlinson's comments published in the British "Times" newspaper, "Great Britain is actually more interested in Russia's operations on the Caspian coast and the Aral Sea than in neutralizing the border countries south of Bukhara," revealed England's political tricks.

As Kaufman noted, the development of demarcation in this way is dangerous for the Central Asian region, especially the annexation of Badakhshan and Wakhan to the territory of Sherali Khan would cause great problems[18]. The fact that the occupation of these two regions by General Kaufman was connected to the expansion of the lands of Bukhara, the territory of Karategin adjacent to the lands of the Kokand Khanate, and the fact that this territory was connected to Yakubbek's Kashgar property in the north-east indicated that the relations between England and Russia became more complicated. Therefore, he supported the possibility of these two regions being independent without being dependent on the Bukhara Emirate and the Kabul Emirate. At the same time, Kaufman did not oppose Grenville's proposal to extend the Afghan borders to the west of the Amudarya. Gorchakov was also satisfied with these arguments[19]. On October 17, 1872, he sent Brunov a letter from Kaufman, adding that it was the opinion of the Russian government. He drew four conclusions from Grenville's proposal:

1. He agrees that the northern border of Afghanistan should be taken along the course of Amudarya, but from the confluence of Kokcha to Khoja Salih.
2. At the same time, Gorchakov allowed the expansion of the Afghan territory to the confluence of the Kokcha River with the Amudarya, but considering the independence of Badakhshan and Vakhani, he resisted the inclusion of these two possessions in Afghanistan[20].



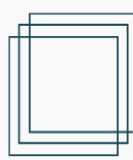
3. According to Gorchakov, the transfer of Badakhshan and Vakhani to Afghanistan caused many conflicts between Afghanistan and Bukhara Emirate. Ensuring the independence of these two states of Central Asia could become a guarantee of peace in this region.

4. Although Gorchakov agreed with Grenville's opinion about the reserves of Aqcha, Saripul, Maimana, Shibirgan and Andkhai, he doubted their entry into the ownership of the Afghan emir[21].

It is clear that the negotiations have reached an impasse. Both sides were firm in their opinions and did not give in to each other. New factors that appeared in Russia's foreign policy forced him to make concessions.

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