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THE EVIDENCES ON THE HISTORY OF KHIVA BY MUHAMMAD

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Аннотация. Ушбу мақолада XIX ўрталарида феодал жамиятнинг ижтимоий иқтисодий ва сиёсий инқирози оқибатида юз берган ҳодисалар ҳақида фикр юритилади. Сулолавий бошқарув оқибатида жамият ўзгармасдан инқироз кучаяди. Подшо Россияси бундай шароитдан фойдаланиб Хивани мустамлака қилгани ҳақида сўз юритилади.

Калит сўзлар. Сулолавий бошқарув, ижтимоий иқтисодий ва сиёсий инқироз, Девонбеги, меҳтар ва қушбеги, ясовулбоши, закот, Хива хони, аграр мамлакат, суғорма деҳқончилик

Аннотация: В статье речь идёт о событиях, произошедших в хивинском ханстве впоследствии общественно-политических и экономических кризисов в середине XIX века. Используя в последствии династического управления углублявшийся кризисом в обществе царская Россия Захватив ханства превратил его в свою колонию.

Ключевые слова. Династическое правление, социально-экономический и политический кризис, Девонбеги, Меҳтар и Қушбеги, Ясовулбоши, Закят, Хан Хивы, Аграрная страна, Орошаемое земледелие

Abstract: This article deals with the facts about Khiva Khanate in the 19th century on the eve of invasion of the country by Russian Empire given by Muhammad

Murad Devonbegi one of the administrative officials of the khanate. It reveals the cause of social and political crisis in the country.

Key words: Dynastic rule, socio-economic and political crisis, Devonbegi, mehtar and kushbegi, yasovulboshi, zakat, Khan of Khiva, agrarian country, irrigated land.

Introduction: The Khiva Khanate was still a medieval feudal monarchy ruled by the dynastic in Central Asia in the 19th century. The great philosopher Niccolo Machiavelli said the followings describing the ruler of the monarchy, "It was easy for the rulers to sit on the throne not by their own power but by the grace of fate, but it was difficult to hold it in their hands. They flew the long way to their destination as easily as a bird, but then they had to face a lot of difficulties. In such cases, kings were completely dependent on the will and mood of those who gave them power, that the king was between two ultimately unstable and whimsical forces"[1]. It was natural that due to the prevailing mood of peace and tranquility in the palace and in the country's administration, the majority of government officials in political power were representatives of the dynasty.

Literature review: In the 19th century, a similar political situation prevailed in the dynastic feudal state in Khiva. As the absolute ruler, the khan of Khiva had unlimited rights in governing the state. The chief officials of the state were devonbegi, mehtar and kushbegi. These officials controlled certain areas of the khanate or a specific area of public service. The khanate also experienced crises in political and social processes from the mid 19th century. During this period, the political activity of Muhammad Murad Devonbegi as the Prime Vizier of the khanate became obvious. As Prime Official, Muhammad Murad Devonbegi was one of the officials who said, "While considering the state affair above than everything else, the spirit of the ruler should be manifested at the highest level, and that person should serve for the state with high persistence, content and happiness." [2].

The oriental historian Agakhiy said "Muhammad Murad Devonbegi was the great pillar of the country, the honorable and loyal servant of the nobles; he was unparalleled in wealth and devotion to the king's service, as well as in the world. He

also built a madrasah at his own expense due to his maturity in theology, his mastery of companionship, and his desire to gain the approval of the Almighty.”[3].

Muhammad Murad Devonbegi was born in Afghanistan in the spring of 1830, and later, by fate he moved to Khorezm and settled in Khiva. Entering the service of the palace, he gradually rose to prominence, and on November 5, 1864, he was appointed as the devonbegi of the khanate. He held the post of devonbegi for 37 years. According to historical records, Muhammad Murad was from Afghanistan in birth and came to Khiva as a child [4]. Muhammad Murad rose from the ranks of civil service to the palace because of his tactfulness and wit. He distinguished himself from other officials as a close adviser to the ruler of Khiva, Sayyid Muhammad Rahim II, due to his extremely conservative position, typical of the feudal monarchy, among the state officials in the palace. The devonbegi was able to openly express his conservative radical views by the second half of the 19th century, in relations between Khiva and Russia. Therefore, Muhammad Murad devonbegi as a political figure became the closest person of khan in the palace of Khiva khanate.

After the invasion of Khiva by Tsarist Russian Empire in 1873, Muhammad Murad devonbegi and Rakhmatulla Yasavulboshi were exiled by Russian officials to Kursk on charges of being enemies of the tsarist government and theft of the khanate's state treasury. Y. Syrovatsky met with devonbegi. The Russian officer recorded valuable and interesting information about the history of Khiva during the conversation.” [5].

Research Methodology: It is distinct that tourists and researchers who visited Khiva got acquainted with the main income of the khanate and the production process in it, of course, as well as getting interested in the lifestyle of the population. Therefore, in an interview with Lieutenant Colonel Syrovatsky, devonbegi began his story on the history of Khiva with information about the annual income of the Khanate. According to his report, "The annual income in the country was 200,000 rubles on the eve of the Khiva invasion." As an agrarian country, the agriculture was predominant in the khanate, so the rural community paid land tax. In particular, 10 tanob landowners had to pay 3 gold pieces, 1 tanob land in the Khanate was equal to 1/3 of a tenth. The second

type of tax payment was received from domestic trade. The amount of collect money was from 20tiyins (coins) to 10 gold pieces of from each merchant's shop.

Analysis and results: According to devonbegi, zakat received from foreign trade was collected from each camel or 1/40 of the merchant's goods from Bukhara via the river Amudarya and 3 gold coins from Russian traders. Thus, due to trade between Bukhara and Khiva, the annual collected payment was in the amount of 2,000 gold pieces [6]. The annual income equal to 20,000 gold pieces was earned from the trade with neighboring pastoralists living around the khanate, including the Karakalpaks traders living in the lower reaches of the river Amudarya. The neighboring Kazakh traders who brought the livestock to the Khiva market paid 1 gold for 3 to 5 camels from each camel, or every 40-100 sheep, 2 gold for every 10 sheep, or (40) tiyn for each sheep.

In the Khiva region, the local Turkmen population gave gifts to tax collectors without paying cash. This has encouraged tax collectors to serve for their own interests rather than the interests of the state. Personally Muhammad Murad devonbegi, as a well-known figure, became a close companion of the ruler Said Muhammad Rahimkhan II. He also performed the private orders of the ruler in other emergencies perfectly in addition to his main duties. It should be noted that almost all the officials in the palace could not get out of the age-old traditions of the old administration, acting unilaterally in the domestic and foreign policy of the state. As the prime vizier of the khanate, Devonbegi led the old-fashioned "mold" of officials in the palace, so there was a sense of sanity, serenity, and red tape in the state administration. Devonbegi led that political sphere in particular. Devonbegi's calm and conciliated attitude towards governing the country was depicted in the Russian periodicals as in following "Muhammad Murad Devonbegi, a gentle and indecisive ruler who ruled the khanate without cruelty and ruthless faith, did not do anything without bribes." [7]. It was natural that such a disgusting way of governing a feudal monarchy would prevail in Khiva, a dynastic monarchy in nineteenth-century Central Asia, as the case at all levels of government. Therefore, in the activities of high-ranking government officials, the bribery, the bribery as a gift, giving presents as a gift was a common feature, even none of the



leaders of the religion dare say a word to reveal it to the public that this is not only a crime but also a grave sin.

The information given on the issue of family and marriage in the Khiva khanate by Muhammad Murad is even more interesting. The following fact is noteworthy in the matter of family and marriage based on the rules of the Muslim East Sharia. He described the activities of the Mullah in the matter of marriage as follows. When the mullah administered the marital state of a couple, the husband had to pay 1 gold piece for the marriage certificate. At the same time, the groom paid the bride-money to the bride's parents. The amount of the bride-money varies, and for the average family it has reached about 300 gold pieces. There was a fact that the khan of Khiva paid 15,000 gold coins. Thus he declared that the issues of family and marriage in the khanate were completely under the rule of religious Sharia law. The judge could sentence on divorce in the families based on the rules of Sharia only in cases when the wife claims in lawsuit that her husband had beaten her or that he could not provide her with the necessary living conditions, including, if the husband is unable to provide food, clothing, etc. or the husband may evict his evil wife, the exiled wife may return to her parents' house [8]. The judge had to consider the money provision for the divorced wife to live on. There were some difficult issues in the work of a judge, including: the debtor is unable to pay on time. In the case of an accident or having not enough money to pay at all, the judge has to force the plaintiff to wait until the debtor finds the money and then pay the debt sum at 1/20. If the debtor refuses to pay the debt, he ordered to hit him on the shoulder with a stick until he agrees to pay the debt. While giving interesting and important facts about the history of Khiva Muhammad Murad Devonbegi wrote the followings in case of theft “When it was determined with which hand he had committed the theft that very hand was cut off. A cruel punishment expected for the wife who was unfaithful to her husband. The woman who committed such a crime was shamelessly buried in the ground up to her chest and was stoned at. Introducing his interlocutor to the socio-political life of the khanate, The devonbegi gave interesting facts about the patriarchal slavery that existed in the khanate. On the eve of the invasion of Tsarist Russian Empire in the khanate there were about 58000 Iranian, Russian slaves [9]. He

also spoke about the established order of owning and governing the slaves. "A slave escaped from his owner was sentenced to eye-plucking, or the slave sentenced to death was hanged or handed over to an executioner for head execution. In this case, the type of punishment was determined by the khan of Khiva. The clothes of the executed man were handed over to the treasury or given to the executioner on the same day.

In his interview, Muhammad Murad devonbegi said, "Important court cases are decided by the Khiva khan himself. When there is a protest against the judge's decision, the plaintiff appeals to the higher court. And the khan had to decide and make sentence on the case."

Conclusion: In short, as a result of his conversation, devonbegi also provided interesting information about the sale of land property and its price. He pointed to the surroundings of Khiva as the khanate's most valuable lands. "Each acre of land was valued at between 200 and 300 gold coins, especially in the surrounding gardens of the khanate." As the destination moved further away from Khiva, the price of land became lower from 15 to 30 shillings for 1 *tosh* and 8 *versts* for the distance." Thus, the historical information provided by Muhammad Murad Devonbegi enriched the source of the database on the history of Khiva with valuable and interesting real facts and evidence.

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