

HISTORY OF RELATIONS BETWEEN BUKHARA AND AFGHANISTAN BEFORE THE RUSSIAN INVASION

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Abstract: This article provides a historical analysis of the relations between the Barakzai dynasty of Afghanistan and the Mangid dynasty of the Bukhara Emirate before the Russian invasion.

Keywords: Afghanistan, Barakzai, Mangids, Bukhara, communication, relationship, India, South Turkestan, Russia, principality.

The struggle between Amir Shah Murad and Timur Shah, while destroying South Turkestan, did not bring significant results for either country. The famous scholar and historian of Afghanistan, Y.V. Gankovsky, citing Abdul Karim Bukhari, who was an ambassador to Afghanistan, India, and Turkey on the orders of the Emir of Bukhara and witnessed the realities of that time, states that during the reign of Timur Shah, Rahmatullah Khan Afshor was the governor of Andkhoy, another important city of South Turkestan, and a sermon was read in the name of Timur Shah. He suggested that after Rahmatullah's death, his son Yulduz Khan, who ascended the throne, was completely independent. There is also information that in the South Turkestan region at the end of the 18th and beginning of the 19th centuries, the real power was in the hands of the ruler of Khulm, Kilich Arslan Khan [1]. From the above considerations, it can be concluded that although South Turkestan was devastated in the wars between Shah Murad and Timur Shah, the local beys successfully fought against both of them and tried to preserve their independence. Some beys even managed to accomplish this task.

Amir Shah Murad's next invasions of South Turkestan began after Timur Shah's death. During the reign of Timur Shah's successor, Zaman Shah (1792-1800), the situation became even more difficult as a result of the struggle for power of the Barakzai tribe in Afghanistan. A number of factors, such as rivalry with the Barakzai tribes and the attempts of the Iranian Qajars to subjugate the territories of Afghanistan, became the basis for the Afghan state to demand that the Bukhara emir Shah Murad renounce his claim to Balkh and its environs. There are various sources and literatures about this demand. A. Vamberi wrote that during the struggle between Shah Murad and Zaman Shah, Balkh was besieged and the Afghan commandant was captured, but he did not surrender, hoping for quick help from the besieged Afghan soldiers, and Zaman Shah agreed to Shah Murad's demand based on the internal and external situation. S.A. Shumov and A.R. Andreev mentioned that Emir Ma'sum (Shah Murad) besieged Balkh in the spring of 1793, but in 1794, after mutual struggles (although the struggles were not sufficiently disclosed), a truce was signed aimed at restoring the previous borders[2].

In short, at this time, neither the Bukhara state nor the Afghan state had any practical power, and the principalities of South Turkestan were able to survive independently.

Analysis of the information in historical literature can serve as a basis for concluding that there was indeed an agreement between Shah Murad and the Zamanshahs. Because, after Zamanshah's brother Mahmud Shah rebelled against his brother and was defeated, he fled to Bukhara in 1799. Zamanshah sent an ambassador and asked not to leave Mahmud in Bukhara, but to give him to him. Mahmud Shah, worried that he would be captured, was forced to leave for Khiva. Here he was warmly received by the Khan of Khiva, Muhammad Rahim Khan.[3] Dissatisfied with the fact that Mahmud Shah was not captured, Zamanshah caused him to form a military alliance with the Iranian Qajar dynasty in the fight against the Khanates of Bukhara and Khiva. This indicated a great danger for the states of Bukhara and Khiva. However, in 1799, a



conflict broke out between Zamon Shah and his minister, Sarofraz Khan, a Barakzai, and Sarofraz, a Barakzai, was executed. The rebellion of the Barakzai tribe, headed by Sarofraz Khan, against the central government led to the termination of the alliance with Iran. Mahmud Shah was recalled from Khiva, offering to become a leader and ruler in the fight against Zamon Shah. Soon, Mahmud Shah was enthroned and became the emir of Afghanistan. Zamon Shah, who was overthrown from the throne, was blinded[4]. Fearing for his future fate, Zamon Shah managed to escape to the territory of the Bukhara emirate and lived there until the end of his life[5]. After relations with Iran deteriorated, it is known that Prime Minister Fatt Khan (leader of the Barakzai) launched military campaigns against Iran in alliance with the Khan of Khiva[6].

In conclusion, the main factors that were noticeable in the political relations of the Bukhara-Afghan states that began in the middle of the 18th century can be considered as follows. First, the formation of an independent Afghan state and the beginning of an aggressive policy. Second, the change of dynasty in the Bukhara state and internal political chaos in the early period. Third, the emergence of political instability in Afghanistan at the end of the 18th century and the beginning of attempts to unify previously lost lands as a result of a certain process of centralization in Bukhara. This process remained the main cause of tensions throughout the 19th century.

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