

**AMIR HAYDAR AND AMIR HUSAYN: A LOOK AT THE HISTORY OF SUCCESSION AND INTERNAL CONFLICTS IN THE EMIRATE OF BUKHARA.****Ermat Tilayev**

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**Abstract:** This article analyzes the socio-political situation in the Bukhara Emirate at the beginning of the 19th century, specifically the processes of power transition during the reign of the Manghit dynasty representatives — Amir Haydar (1800–1826) and his successor, Amir Husayn. The study highlights the centralization of Amir Haydar's administrative system, his measures aimed at strengthening the state apparatus, and the impact of these reforms on social tensions. The article explores the political instability that emerged in the Emirate after the death of Amir Haydar, the struggle for the throne, and the crisis during the short-lived reign of Amir Husayn.

**Keywords:** Bukhara Emirate, Manghit dynasty, Amir Haydar, Amir Husayn, political stability, internal conflicts, succession of power, historiography, central administration.

**Аннотация:** В данной статье анализируется общественно-политическая ситуация, сложившаяся в Бухарском эмирате в начале XIX века, в частности процессы смены власти в период правления представителей династии Мангытов — эмира Хайдара (1800–1826) и его преемника эмира Хусейна. В исследовании освещаются централизация системы управления эмира Хайдара, его меры по укреплению государственного аппарата, а также влияние этих реформ на социальные противоречия в обществе. В статье рассматривается политическая нестабильность, возникшая в эмирате после смерти эмира Хайдара, борьба за престол и кризисная ситуация в период краткосрочного правления эмира Хусейна.

**Ключевые слова:** Бухарский эмират, династия Мангытов, эмир Хайдар, эмир Хусейн, политическая стабильность, внутренние противоречия, преемственность власти, историография, центральное управление.

**Introduction.** The Bukhara Emirate was one of the largest and most culturally rich regions in Central Asia, distinguished by its unique social, economic, and cultural life. In his work *Tarixi Nofeyi* (Useful History), the historian Muhammad Ali Baljuvoni provides the following information: "It should be known that this city is called the 'garden of knowledge.' The true meaning of the word 'Bukhara' is knowledge."

According to the historian Qahramon Rajabov: "Bukhara-i Sharif, being one of the oldest cities in the East, was not only in the past but also in the first quarter of the 20th century, a recognized center of Islamic jurisprudence."

Over the centuries, Bukhara was ruled by many dynasties. Among these, the very last dynasty to rule the Bukhara Emirate was the Manghit dynasty. The Manghit tribe was divided into branches such as the Oq Manghit (White Manghit), Qora Manghit (Black Manghit), and Toq Manghit (Pure/Solid Manghit). The Manghit dynasty, which ruled the Bukhara Emirate from



1756 to 1920, belonged to the Toq Manghit branch of the Manghit tribe.

**Tadqiqot Metodologiyasi (Methodology).** This study uses historical-comparative, systematic-structural, critical-analytical, and source studies methods.

**Tadqiqot Natijalari (Results).** The state administration of the Bukhara Emirate differed from that of the Khiva and Kokand Khanates, and the reason for this lies in the policies and reforms carried out by the rulers to develop the state. For this reason, it is important to shed light on the events during the reign of the Manghit ruler Amir Haydar. By the beginning of the 19th century, the Bukhara Emirate had become a large state that included not only the Zarafshan and Kashkadarya oases, but also densely populated principalities such as the Surkhan oasis, Hisor, Khujand, Uratapa, and Panjakent, as well as a large part of Southern Turkmenistan, including the territory from Chardjuy to the Murgab River.

The policy of Amir Haydar ibn Amir Shahmurad (1800-1826) was distinct in terms of centralization and ensuring the inviolability of state borders. In particular, the Grand Vizier of Amir Shahmurad, Utkir Qushbegi, played a significant role in Amir Haydar's accession to the throne. While Shahmurad was lying ill, he advised appointing Haydar as the heir to the throne, justifying it on one hand by the fact that Amir Haydar was the grandson of the Ashtarkhanid ruler Abulfayz Khan—born from the marriage of Abulfayz Khan's daughter, Yulduz Begim (Shamsiyabonu), and Amir Shahmurad—which established him as the legitimate ruler of the throne. On the other hand, he cited Haydar's high morality, alert spirit, and vigilance as reasons [1].

Amir Shahmurad appointed his eldest son, Haydar, as the governor of the Nasaf (Karshi) region, where the emirate's influence was growing. Following this, it became a tradition until the mid-19th century for the crown prince (heir) of the Bukhara Emirate to govern in Nasaf.

After the death of Amir Shahmurad (on November 30, 1800), his successor arrived from Nasaf and ascended the throne of the Bukhara Emirate on December 2, 1800, at the age of 22. In his work, Kashkuli Salimiy describes Amir Haydar's accession to the throne as follows: "In 1800, at the age of twenty-two, he came from the Karshi region and ascended the throne of the Bukhara Sultanate. The practice of bestowing the title of 'Sayyid' upon kings of the Manghit dynasty began during the reign of Amir Haydar. Sayyid Amir Haydar was talented in science and crafts. In some religious sciences, he would surpass other scholars" [2].

Amir Haydar received his education in the madrasas of Bukhara, where he thoroughly mastered the commentary of the Holy Quran and the sciences of Hadith. The historian of that era, Ahmad Donish, focuses specifically on Amir Haydar's personal virtues and character, noting his thirst for knowledge from a young age and his practice of fasting every other day. He mentions that during his reign, whenever free from military campaigns, the Amir would engage in debates and discussions with scholars at the Bukhara Ark. With some hyperbole, he states, "The period of Amir Haydar's rule was unprecedented and had not achieved such great successes before" [3].

Amir Haydar ruled the Bukhara Emirate for 26 years, and beginning with him, the title "Sayyid" was added before the names of the state's rulers. Under his decrees, Amir Haydar would affix his seal and signature as "Abul Fath Said Amir Haydar Bahodur Shah" [6].

He attempted to soften the tense political situation that had emerged in the Bukhara Emirate. At the same time, Amir Haydar was compelled to wage wars against the governors of Shahrizabz, Kitab, Urgut, Miankal, and Samarkand, who were displaying separatist tendencies and refusing to submit to the central authority of the Bukhara Emirate. In the struggle for political power



against local governors, he often chose the path of compromise and agreement to avoid unnecessary bloodshed of the common people. For example, in the early years of his reign, for the support shown in the war against the Kokand Khanate, Amir Haydar granted the Shahrissabz region as a domain to the local governor of Shahrissabz, Daniyori Valloma Niyozali oglu. As a result, the Shahrissabz oasis maintained semi-independent rule until 1858 [6].

**Analysis and Discussion.** At the beginning of the 19th century, Amir Haydar divided the military units into two sections: the regular army, known as *navkariya*, and the irregular army, known as *qoracherik*. The irregular part of the Bukhara Emir's military forces, referred to as *lashkar*, *cherik*, or *qoshin*, was recruited from the civilian population during military operations by the order of the supreme ruler. The Amir's heralds would announce the start of military campaigns in the markets. During military actions, as well as in the defense of the Emirate's military fortresses, *qoracherik* was utilized effectively [7].

Amir Haydar paid regular salaries to the soldiers in his army. Furthermore, in addition to allocating annual salaries to tax collectors in the country, he also distributed *sarupo* (robes of honor) to them twice a year. In turn, he allocated large sums of money every year to provide allowances for the poor, orphans, the destitute, dervishes, refugees, and mullahs. At the same time, he also supported 400 students [8]. Amir Haydar placed great importance on the education system in the country. He himself delivered lectures to 400–500 students in madrasas. He was also skilled in recitation and calligraphy, and even managed to have books brought from Turkey for his students.

Amir Haydar strictly adhered to the religious policy of his father, Amir Shah Murad, especially in his relations with scholars and intellectuals, and he consistently continued his foreign policy. To strengthen foreign political relations with the Ottoman Empire, he exchanged letters with Mahmud II in 1819. Anke von Kügelgen provides detailed information about this in her work [1].

A. D. Vasilyev states that in 1801, Amir Haydar's envoy, Mirza Khoja Sobir, was sent to Istanbul [4]. He sent *devonbegi* Eshmuhammad and *qorichiboshi* (chief of guards) Mirza Muhammad Yusuf to Istanbul as official representatives of the Bukhara Emirate. In the letters sent by Amir Haydar via the Bukhara Emirate's ambassador to the Ottoman Empire, Mirza Muhammad Yusuf, and after his death, via ambassador Mirza Muhammad Fozil, the focus was not on strengthening political relations, but rather on proposals regarding cultural and economic cooperation between the two states [5]. In 1815, the Bukhara ambassador, Muhammad Yusuf *devonbegi*, was sent to St. Petersburg to congratulate the Russian Emperor on the victory over Napoleon [4]. In 1819, the Amir sent envoys led by Mirza Muhammad to the Russian Tsar Alexander I. Their primary goal was to convey a complaint regarding attacks made by desert bandits on the caravans of the Bukhara Emirate [5].

Amir Haydar's authority began to weaken between 1820 and 1821, as all the regions under his control were engulfed in widespread unrest. These conspiracies were instigated by the Kitay-Kipchak community. Amir Haydar traveled to Qarshi to oversee the affairs of his second son, Nasrullah Khan, who was the governor there, and fell ill during his visit. Upon his return to Bukhara, his illness progressively worsened. Amir Haydar passed away in 1826 due to this illness [9]. Following his death, his younger son, Amir Husayn, initially ascended the throne of the Bukhara Emirate. After ruling for 78 days, he died suddenly on December 22, 1826. After Amir Husayn, Amir Umar, the eldest son of Amir Haydar, took the throne with the assistance of certain palace officials and military commanders. He reigned for four months. After Amir Nasrullah Khan ascended the throne of the Emirate in April 1827, he ruled Bukhara for a long



time.

**Conclusion.** In summary, Amir Haydar was an astute ruler and considered an enlightened figure of his time. Although his campaigns to centralize the state did not yield full results, he continued the traditions of his ancestors and pursued policies with determination. He implemented military reforms to improve the country's many military operations, as well as educational reforms. Nevertheless, his imposition of heavy taxes and obligations on the population to cover various expenses led to an increase in opposition against him. Amir Haydar was one of the first rulers of the Manghit dynasty to pay special attention to the systematization of state documents. Additionally, caution and vigilance are evident in the foreign policy and diplomacy of Amir Haydar's era.

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