

**DETAILS OF THE MISSION TO THE BUKHARA EMIRATE IN THE MEMOIRS
OF THE RUSSIAN ENVOY K.F. BUTENEV****Iskandarova Mahliyo**Second-Year Student, History Department University of Information Technologies and
Management

Abstract: This article examines, on the basis of reliable historical sources, the strengthening of relations between Russia and the Khanate of Bukhara as a result of the development of capitalist relations in Russia at the end of the seventeenth century. It also discusses the dispatch of a diplomatic mission to Bukhara by the Russian Empire under the leadership of engineer and lieutenant colonel K.F. Butenev, the objectives assigned to the envoys, and the activities of a group of specialists headed by Captain F. Bogoslovsky in searching for various mineral resources in the Zarafshan Mountains near Samarkand.

Keywords: topographer, imperial decree, Uzbek principalities, Russian fugitives, minerals, map of the Emirate of Bukhara, Russian consulate in Bukhara, British government, act.

From the second half of the eighteenth century, favorable conditions emerged for economic development in the Khanate of Bukhara. Although progress was relatively slow, productive forces expanded, urban life developed, economic ties between several provinces improved, the significance of international markets increased, and trade relations with Russia became more extensive. Due to the development of capitalist relations in Russia at the end of the seventeenth century, its interaction with the Khanate of Bukhara intensified.[1, p. 106]

In 1841, the Russian Empire sent an embassy to Bukhara under the leadership of engineer and lieutenant colonel Butenev. The mission departed from Orenburg on May 20, 1841, under the protection of 400 Ural Cossacks and 100 infantry soldiers commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Blaramberg and arrived in Bukhara on August 5 of the same year. In addition to two engineers and two craftsmen, the delegation included the orientalist N. Khanikov, the natural scientist Leman, and the topographer Yakovlev. Through the embassy, the Russian government delivered to the Emir an imperial charter, customary gifts, and letters from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs addressed to his ministers. Butenev was also provided with detailed instructions regarding a number of issues.

The envoys were warmly received in Bukhara. Butenev presented the Tsar's charter and gifts to Emir Nasrullah Khan, together with a letter and gifts sent on behalf of Count Nesselrode, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, and the Director of the Asian Department.

The Tsarist government assigned several important tasks to the mission. These included assisting, at the Emir's request, in identifying underground mineral resources; further improving trade and diplomatic relations; collecting comprehensive information about the Khanate of Bukhara, including its borders, population, agriculture, handicraft production, manufactured goods, political structure, armed forces, wealth, and revenues; gathering samples of local and European industrial products, including British goods imported into Bukhara through Kabul, and determining their prices; identifying the goods most in demand in local markets, particularly household and agricultural tools; establishing a Russian trade consulate in Bukhara; investigating British activities in the East and Central Asia and assessing the impact of the British invasion of Afghanistan on Bukhara; developing measures to displace British goods from Central Asia and the broader East through commercial competition; thoroughly studying the independent Uzbek principalities on the left bank of the Amu Darya, including Kunduz, Khulm, Khanabad, Andkhoy, and Mazar-i-Sharif; promoting economic and diplomatic relations with these territories; identifying routes leading toward Afghanistan and India; and facilitating the improvement of



relations between Bukhara and Khiva. In particular, the envoys were instructed to persuade the Emir to overlook the unlawful actions committed by the former ruler of Khiva.

Another important objective facing the embassy headed by Butenev was the conclusion of a formal agreement aimed at further developing relations between the Khanate of Bukhara and Russia. The draft treaty included several provisions: Bukhara was required not to act openly or secretly against Russia or its citizens; to return all Russian captives held in Bukhara; to refrain from purchasing Russian slaves in the future; and, if Russian captives were discovered in neighboring territories, to take all necessary measures for their liberation and provide them with essential supplies at the expense of the Russian state before sending them back to Russia. The Emirate was also obliged to gather Russian fugitives residing freely in Bukhara and hand them over to the Russian military detachment accompanying the embassy. Should additional Russian fugitives appear in the future, they were to be detained and returned to Russia at Russian state expense.

The treaty further stipulated that customs duties imposed on Russian merchants entering Bukhara for trade purposes should be equal to those imposed on local merchants. Russian trade caravans were to receive full protection throughout Bukhara's territories, and in the event of robbery, compensation equivalent to the value of the stolen goods was to be paid. Russian merchants wishing to travel beyond Bukhara to regions such as Kunduz, Khulm, Kabul, Kashmir, and other areas for commercial purposes were not to face any restrictions. Instead, they were to receive support and be allowed to travel without paying customs duties. Likewise, upon returning to Russia through Bukhara with various goods, they were to be exempt from duties and provided with safe passage. The security of Russian citizens engaged in trade within Bukhara, together with their property, was to be guaranteed. In the event of a merchant's death, his property was to be placed under state protection and transferred to Russian border authorities for return to his heirs. Finally, Russian merchants were to enjoy complete freedom of movement and commercial activity within the territories of Bukhara.[2, 103]

Should the Emir accept the above-mentioned obligations, the Russian state was prepared to undertake several commitments of its own. These included guaranteeing the personal security and property rights of Bukharan subjects within the Russian Empire; granting them access to commercial privileges throughout Russian territory; recovering property stolen from Bukharan caravans by Kazakh and Turkmen subjects of Russia; permitting Bukharan citizens to travel through Russian lands on pilgrimage to Mecca; and refraining from military action against Bukhara, provided that the Emirate itself did not engage in hostile acts against Russia.[3, 104]

Beginning on August 25, 1841, a group of specialists led by Captain F. Bogoslovsky conducted geological surveys in the Zarafshan Mountains near Samarkand in search of mineral resources. As a result, significant underground deposits were identified in the Upper Zarafshan region, including iron, copper, coal, lead, graphite, turquoise, and even gold and silver. The naturalist Leman studied the fauna of the Samarkand area and compiled a herbarium containing numerous plant species. The topographer Ya. Yakovlev prepared route maps of the mission's travels and compiled a map of the Emirate of Bukhara. However, the work of the expedition was hindered by the distrustful attitude of Yuzbashi Ramazon, who had been appointed by the Emir to supervise the exploration activities. Despite these obstacles, the expedition succeeded in identifying valuable mineral resources and produced significant scientific results.[4, 131]

Meanwhile, Butenev conducted negotiations with the Emir and court officials on the issues mentioned above. At the same time, at the request of the British government conveyed through the Russian Tsar, he sought the Emir's consent to release the British envoys Charles Stoddart and Arthur Conolly, who were being held in Bukhara under extremely harsh conditions, and to allow them to return to their homeland through Russian territory. Initially, the Emir agreed to this proposal. However, Britain's invasion of Afghanistan, together with Conolly's efforts to



encourage Khiva and Kokand to unite against Bukhara, compelled Emir Nasrullah to reverse his decision. As a result, the issue of releasing Stoddart and Conolly remained unresolved.

Likewise, several other matters remained unsettled until the proposed treaty could be signed. These included the repatriation of Russian captives and fugitives from Bukhara, the establishment of a customs duty of two and a half percent on Russian merchants based on the value of their goods, the establishment of a Russian consulate in Bukhara, and the opening of a Bukharan consulate in Orenburg.

The Emir emphasized that the proposal to equalize customs duties imposed on Russian merchants with those levied on local merchants could only be considered after customs duties imposed on Bukharan merchants in Russian territories had been reduced. In response to the envoys' demand that the draft treaty be signed and brought into force, Emir Nasrullah stated that the document required careful examination and that it would be more appropriate for the Russian Tsar to sign it first. Furthermore, the article of the proposed agreement concerning the return of Russian captives and fugitives residing in Bukhara to their homeland was also rejected.

During his negotiations with the Emir and court officials, Lieutenant Colonel Butenev sought to promote technical cooperation between Russia and Bukhara. He promised to arrange the delivery of various materials, skilled craftsmen, machinery, and machine operators from Russia. He also proposed sending a number of young people from Bukhara to Russia to receive vocational and technical training. However, Emir Nasrullah, together with court officials and religious leaders, declined this proposal because they were uncertain about Butenev's true intentions.

As a result, the embassy headed by Butenev failed to reach a final agreement with the Emir and his court on the issues under discussion and departed from Bukhara in April 1842. At the same time, Emir Nasrullah dispatched a delegation of twelve envoys led by Qoravulbegi Khudoyorbek and Qilichbiy to St. Petersburg, carrying letters and gifts addressed to the Tsar and his ministers. However, because the Emir had refused to sign the treaty presented by Butenev, the Russian government sent the Bukharan delegation back from Orenburg without allowing it to proceed further.

In conclusion, the critical study of primary historical sources, particularly the memoirs and reports of Russian envoys and travelers, is of great importance for understanding the social, political, economic, and cultural life of the Emirate of Bukhara during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Without a thorough examination of historical sources, it is impossible to arrive at accurate scholarly conclusions regarding past events. Only original sources provide an opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of the realities of a particular historical period.

The visit of the Russian envoy Butenev, accompanied by engineers, scholars, military officers, and other specialists, significantly expanded the amount of information collected about Central Asia and, in particular, the Emirate of Bukhara. Notably, in 1842 Butenev published several works, including "The Mineral Resources of Bukhara," "Observations on the Methods of Steel Tempering in Bukhara," and "On the Development of the Sale of Products from Russian Mining Enterprises in Bukhara." In 1843, N. Khanikov's book *Description of the Khanate of Bukhara* was also published.[5, 73] These works contain valuable information about the governmental system of the Emirate of Bukhara, its cities, economy, occupations of the population, and way of life. At the same time, it should be noted that the authors of these memoirs and reports occasionally demonstrated one-sided interpretations and elements of subjectivity. Therefore, as emphasized above, such sources should be used critically and compared with local historical materials before drawing scholarly conclusions.

REFERENCES

1. T. S. Saidqulov "O'rta Osiyo xalqlari tarixining tarixshunosligidan lavhalar" 1993 yil.
2. Sattorov, N. (2022, November). THE FORMATION PROCESSES OF ETHNOGENESIS OF THE UZBEK PEOPLE AND ITS DEVELOPMENT STAGES. In The 8th International



scientific and practical conference “Integration of scientific and modern ideas into practice”(November 15-18, 2022) Stockholm, Sweden. International Science Group. 2022. 844 p. (p. 218).

3. Sattorov, N. (2022). THE ATTITUDE TOWARDS ETHNIC THEORY WHICH EXISTS IN THE SIENCE OF MODERN ETHNOLOGY. EDITORIAL BOARD, 194.

4. Abdurazzoqovich, S. N. (2023). The Position of the Russian Government to the Anglo-bur War. International Journal on Economics, Finance and Sustainable Development, 2(1), 19-22.

5. Olim, B. (2025). THE FORMATION OF LITERATURE AND READING CULTURE IN QASHQADARYA REGION. SHOKH LIBRARY, 1(13).

6. Bo‘ronov, O. (2025). Uzbek QISHLOQ JOYLARDA TIBBIY PROFILAKTIKA VA SANITARIYA-EPIDEMIOLOGIK BARQARORLIKNI TA’MINLASH ISHI TARIXI. Journal of Social Sciences, 1(02).

7. Buronov, O. (2025). O ‘ZBEKISTONDA QISHLOQ AHOLISI SOG ‘LIQNI SAQLASH TIZIMI HUQUQIY ASOSLARINING SHAKLLANISHI VA SOHA MODDIY-TEXNIK BAZASINI MUSTAHKAMLASH MUAMMOLARI. Journal of Tamaddun Nuri, 12(75), 61-64.

8. Buronov, O., & Davronov, U. B. (2025). Administrative-territorial division and demographic indicators of Samarkand during the years of independence. International Journal of Artificial Intelligence, 1(1), 405-409.

9. Bo‘ronov, O. Qishloq joylarda tibbiy profilaktika va sanitariya-epidemiologik barqarorlikni ta’minlash ishi tarixi. Journal of Social Sciences, 1(02).

10. Murodullaevich, B. O. (2024). The fight against infectious diseases of Uzbekistan on experience. Western European Journal of Historical Events and Social Science, 2(4), 93-97.

11. Jalilov, I. (2021). National “Kurash”: History and Contemporary (On the Example of the Uzbek People). Procedia of Social Sciences and Humanities, 1, 360-363.

12. G‘aniyevich, J. I. (2025). O ‘ZBEKISTONDA MILLIY O ‘YINLARNING SHAKLLANISH TARIXI. Международный научный журнал, 2(1), 39-46.

13. Kholikov, G. (2021). Support of foreign countries in the Development of healthcare in uzbekistan, EPRA, “International Journal of Multidisciplinary” Research, 169-171.

14. Холиков, Г. (2025). ЎЗБЕКИСТОННИНГ ТИББИЁТ СОҶАСИ БЎЙИЧА ОСИЁ ДАВЛАТЛАРИ БИЛАН АЛОҚАЛАРИ. TANQIDIY NAZAR, TAHLILIY TAFAKKUR VA INNOVATSION G ‘OYALAR, 1(7), 45-49.

15. Roziqova, H., & Kholiqov, G. O. (2025). FORMATION AND EFFECTIVENESS OF SANITARY-EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SERVICES IN THE UZBEK SSR DURING THE 1970s–1980s. Journal of Applied Science and Social Science, 1(4), 552-556.

16. Golib, K. (2022). Uzbekistan's Cooperation with Foreign Countries in Protecting A Healthy Family and Its Results. Galaxy International Interdisciplinary

17. G‘olib, K. (2025). FACTORS IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN UZBEKISTAN AND GERMANY. SHOKH LIBRARY, 1(13).

18. Xoliqova R.E. XIX asr ikkinchi yarmi XX asr boshlarida Rossiya-Buxoro munosabatlar tarixi. Toshkent, 2005.

19. Muhammadjonov A. Rossiya va O‘rta Osiyo o‘rtasidagi karvon yo‘llari. Toshkent, 1959.

20. Ne‘matov. .T. N., “Buxoro va Xivaning Rossiya bilan munosabatlari tarixiga doir ba’zi manbalar”. T., 1957 yil.

