



MIR IZZATULLO'S JOURNEY TO CENTRAL ASIA AS AN IMPORTANT FOREIGN SOURCE ON THE HISTORY OF THE KOKAND KHANATE

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Abstract

In the first quarter of the 19th century, the Russian Empire and Great Britain became increasingly interested in Central Asia, as agents from both empires arrived in the region under different guises, collecting information for themselves and passing it on to their governments. This process will subsequently become a kind of race between the two imperialist states. The result was the political and diplomatic confrontation between Russia and Great Britain in the 1930s over the occupation of Afghanistan, Central and South Asia, known as the "Great Game".

INTRODUCTION.

It is no secret that the British East Indies trading company, operating in India, explored various regions under the pretense of trade. For example, the territory of India was of great benefit to Britain, during the policy of the "Great Game" the British secretly planned to occupy the khanates in Central Asia in order to create a buffer zone for themselves in order to protect their colonies from aggression from the Russian Empire. To this end, it was necessary to establish trade relations with these areas in order to facilitate the comprehensive study and occupation of these areas. The East India Trading Company also had administrative operations in India, along with trade, which was supported by the military. The trading company needed thoroughbreds and racehorses for the cavalry. At that time, the head of the

East India Company, Edward Parry, appointed the veterinarian William Murcroft (1767-1825) to supervise the British army barracks in Bengal.

Murcroff, who came to Calcutta in 1808, met and befriended Mir Izzatillo. Mir Izzatillo was his assistant and close friend. In 1812, Murcroft, as a representative of the British East Indies trading company, sent Mir Izzatillo to the Emirate of Bukhara to conclude an agreement on the sale of horses on the territory of the khanates. The answer to the question why Bukhara is this: Murcroft read about the sale of Turkmen horses in Bukhara in the works of Marco Polo, a famous tourist who lived 500 years before him. The "journey" of Mir Izzatillo to the Kokand and Bukhara emirates in Central Asia at the beginning of the 19th century is reflected by foreign and local historians, in particular, in his travel diaries. The British reconnaissance expedition to Central Asia was organized in 1812-1813. with the help of Mir Izzatullah, as mentioned above¹.

The daily records of a spy disguised as a merchant ("Izzat Allah Mir. A Journey Through Central Asia" by Meer Izzut Ullah) prove that he was an agent working for the British. "Who were the worlds? In an article titled "Yu. Dadaboev also tells about Mir Izzatillo, who "traveled" around Kokand and Bukhara in 1812-1813², he came from a Kashmir aristocratic family and could be called "Mir"³. This can be inferred from the fact that this historical figure was a believer in Islam and even a Sayyid, as evidenced by the fact that Mir Izzatullo used the word "Sayyid" before his name in his travel diary as evidence.

The East Indian agent Mir Izzatillo was also fluent in Persian and Arabic, according to an English translation of Mir Izzatillo's Travels in Central Asia by Mir Izzut Ulla, published in Calcutta, India, in 1872. Maybe. In it, the author writes the year and month of his Hijri journey. In particular, the preface to the aforementioned diary reads: "On the orders of Sayyid Izzatullah William Murcroft, he undertook the journey on April 20, 1812, in 1227 AH." Mir Izzatillo also notes that he included in his diary the questions and observations of Hafiz Fozilkhan, who was forced to entrust his visit to Bukhara. The fact that Hafiz Fozilkhan was inevitably deprived of the opportunity to travel in person was also reflected in the introduction of the spy diary. However, the reason for the cancellation was not disclosed.

The diary in our possession was translated from Persian into English by Captain Henderson, a British soldier attached to the Foreign Office of the Indian Government. In the preface, Captain Henderson writes: Nothing has changed in it since the author wrote it. From the above facts it is clear that this manuscript contains valuable information about the countries of Central Asia, and even the translation has not undergone the slightest change.

Also, when reading the translation of this manuscript, you will notice that the original document was written in Persian in Arabic script⁴.

The reason is that when translating from Persian to English, Captain Henderson uses double

¹ Julie G. Marshall. Britain and Tibet. A select and Annotated Bibliography of British Relations with Tibet and the Himalayan States including Nepal, Sikkim and Bhutan
 Revised and updated to 2003. (1756-1947.) – Publisher Routledge, 2004. – P.134.

² <https://azon.uz/content/views/mir-lar-kim-bulgan-edi>

³ Vanit Hari, Singh Nawla. "Chempion of the Khalsaji", (1791-1837). – Monohar, 2003. – P. 67.

⁴ Izzat Allāh (Mir.), Travels in Central Asia by Meer Izzut Oollah. – Calicutta: Foreign Department Press, 1872. – P.1

consonants (for example, he writes the letter 'ayn as GH) because he cannot find alternatives to Arabic letters in place names.

In his manuscript, Mir Izzatullouz recalls the cities and villages of the Kokand Khanate as follows:

“Namangan and Osh are cities of the Kokand Khanate: Kasan and Chust are one day away from Namangan, Andijan, Margilan, Kanibadam, Isfara and Khojent. All cities, except for Namangan and Chust, are located on the left bank of the Syr Darya (Sayhun). In the memoirs of Mir Izzat Ulla about Namangan, it also says: “If you walk two days northwest of Osh, you will reach the city of Namangan, which is famous for its fruits.”

This Indian spy not only gives a social description of the area, but also reviews the history of the area in some places and notes important aspects. In particular, the following comments about Andijan reflect this point of view.

“Tourist” writes about Andijan: “Andijan is the former capital of Ferghana, a three-day drive north of Osh. Umar Sheikh Mirza, the father of Emperor Babur, ruled over the region. But the city is not very popular right now.” “Mingtepa is a large village, the locals are Turks and Kipchaks. About 10-12 thousand families live here. The financial situation of the population is good. The men are handsome and well dressed, and they make good soldiers⁵.”

Mirza Izzatulla, who was in Margilan, one of the most famous and eternal cities of the Kokand Khanate and famous for his crafts, told the following about the city: “A six-hour drive west of Margilan is the village of Koprik. It is believed that the large city in Fergana, where the grave of a man named Alexander is located, belongs to Alexander the Great. The city is beautiful and the locals are very polite. The city is ruled by the son of the Kokand Khan. . An Indian merchant, who also drew attention to the economic life of Margila, wrote that a large amount of silk was grown here, as well as wool shawls, which were called "kurk" in Persian and "teibut" in Turkish. In addition, woolen shawls are said to be inferior in quality to Kashmiri shawls. At the same time, the spy said that Margilan had defensive walls, was built of clay and was on the verge of collapse, and there was a high observation tower in the center of the city.

After Margilan, he drives 5 hours west to a village called White Bek. He writes that there are still small villages around this village, but he crossed between the villages and walked 4 hours west to a village called Kurak Khutayi. The village has long been inhabited by Muslims. Two roads lead from Margilan to Kokand, one of which passes through this village, and Mir Izzatillo writes in his diary that he walked along this road.

Kokand is located 8 hours west of the village of Kurak Khutai. Kokand - Khokand is inscribed, this big city is not surrounded by defensive walls. It has been called a city since the time of Norbotab, before that it was a small village. Smaller canals flooded all the streets of the city. The current ruler is Amir Umarkhan. Two years ago, in 1228 AH, the brother of Amir Umarkhan Amir Alimkhan came to the throne. During the battle between Tashkent and the Kokand Khanate⁶, Alimkhan used his presence in Tashkent to elect Amir Umarkhan as Khan. After some time, Amir Alimkhan went alone to Kokand

⁵ Izzat Allāh (Mīr.), *Travels in Central Asia* by Meer Izzut Oollah. – Calicut: Foreign Department Press, 1872. – P.52

⁶

to capture Kokand without any resistance, but was killed before he captured Kokand,” Mir Izzatillo wrote. He added that Amir Alimkhan and his brother Amir Umarkhan were the sons of Norbootabi.

Mirza Izzatullah did not disregard the army of the khanate, its weapons and social structure. In particular, “Amir Umarkhan had 10,000 horsemen who stayed in the pastures, because it was impossible to keep them in one place. Ordinary soldiers returned home every two months. There is also a 30,000-strong Special Forces unit called the Ulus, whose troops can only return home for one month a year. He also writes about the composition of the army and its units: The soldiers were taken from the clans of the Kyrgyz, Kipchaks, Turkmens, Mines and Kuraks, most of the army was armed with spears, and the infantry division was armed with spears, armed with rifles⁷.

The “tourist” collected such information, of course, not in vain, because the mission entrusted to him was multidisciplinary, and as part of the military mission mentioned above, Mir Izzatullah transferred all the necessary information to the British government. Accordingly, the “tourist” created a unique sequence of military power in the regions. In particular, the army of the Kokand Khanate was the second largest in Central Asia after the Emirate of Bukhara, and Amir Khaidar (1800-1826) currently (1813) had a population of 100,000. He cites the facts of the existence of the cavalry⁸.

In conclusion, it should be noted that the Indian “merchant” sent by the British did an excellent job. His manuscript contains detailed information about the cities and population of the Central Asian khanates, in particular the Kokand Khanate, the toponymy of the villages, defensive structures, the organization of the army and weapons. Although this information was not subsequently used effectively, this diary reveals abstract mysteries about the countries of Central Asia that are still unknown to the British.

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⁷ Izzat Allāh (Mīr.), Travels in Central Asia by Meer Izzut Oollah. – Calicutta: Foreign Department Press, 1872. – P.53

⁸ Izzat Allāh (Mīr.), Travels in Central Asia by Meer Izzut Oollah... – P. 50.