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ISKHAK-KHAN - LIFE IN SAMARKAND (ACCORDING TO THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR- GENERAL OF TURKESTAN)

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Abstract. The article is devoted to the history of the Russian Empire's diplomatic activity in Turkestan in the second half of XIX - beginning of XX centuries. The main object of the research is the study of the history of relations between the Governor-General of Turkestan and Afghanistan international relations. The subject is the study of the history of Afghan citizens in Iskhak-Khan, the representative of the Afghan ruling dynasty, who, due to domestic political events, ended up in Turkestan's territory. The primary sources for the article were the case of the Turkestan governorate general's office. The materials of the Central State Archive served as a proof base for disclosing the social and domestic lives of Afghans in Turkestan.

Keywords. Turkestan, office, records management, Afghans, Iskhak-Khan, history, revolution.

INTRODUCTION

As a result of the collapse of the state of Nadirshah (1747) in Iran, a new state of Afghanistan was formed, which during the XIX century became an arena of mutual influence of interests of capitalistically developed England and growing capitalism of Russia.

Along with the penetration of the West into the countries of the East, these states were characterized by national political events. Including Afghanistan, which was inhabited by numerous peoples. The country had an

unstable central power, concentrated in Kabul. However its influence was weakening as it moved away from the capital, as each nation living in Afghanistan tried to exist independently.

The domestic political situation worsened after the death of the Afghan emir Dust-Muhammed Khan in 1863. A fierce fight for the throne began, in which the son of the deceased emir, Sher Ali Khan, won. Among those who claimed the Afghan throne was Sher Ali Khan's relative, his nephew Abdurahman-Khan. In early 1870, after his defeat in the struggle for the throne, he was granted a seat in Turkestan with the permission of the Russian Emperor. Abdurahman-Khan and his entourage were initially settled in Samarkand. According to Sharipov S.I, a leading teacher in the "History of Uzbekistan" department, a great historical expert on Samarkand, the place where Afghan representatives, including Abdurahman-Khan, Iskhak-Khan, Ismail-Khan, lived and settled was called the "*Bogi afgoni*" (Afghan garden) by the local population. Even at that time, this territory belonged to the *mahallya* called "*Kavarzor*". Nowadays, this place is called "*Ovoshnaya baza*." The exact place of residence of Afghans and their relatives in Samarkand requires additional work with sources.

Under the tsarist government's decision, Abdurahman-Khan began to receive from Turkestan Governorate-General the governmental "allowance" at a rate of 25 000 rubles a year [1].

MAIN BODY

After the English invasion of 1878 and the treaty of Gandamak (1879), a bonded agreement for Afghanistan, and the death of Sher Ali Khan, tensions increased. According to the "Kaufman Collection," the Tsarist government, using the situation in Afghanistan to strengthen its position, "initiated" the escape of Abdurahman-Khan to his homeland." [2] Having strengthened himself in the north of Afghanistan, Abdurahman-Khan soon (in 1880) seized Kabul and was proclaimed emir of the state.

Initially, Abdurahman-Khan began to consolidate his power vigorously. The main goal of the new emir was to form a centralized state.

For this purpose, he decided to conspire with England, abandoning foreign policy issues and giving them to the British government. He renounced his claim to the Afghan territories previously conquered by the British and attached to the "East India" - the Peshawar areas, where Britain subsidized his annual "allowance" of 1 million 800 thousand rupees. In relations with Russia, Abdurahman-Khan relied on the agreement of 1872–1873 between England and Russia, the essence of which, according to the Russian Foreign Minister Nikolay Girs [3], was the non-interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan by Russia. Having reliable guarantees from the north, Abdurahman-Khan began to work vigorously for the benefit of independent Afghanistan. He relied on the established reliable coercive apparatus in the state machine: army, police, court, and extensive

administrative apparatus, violently suppressed anti-government popular uprisings and feudal rebellions. [4]

South Turkestan has long been economically and politically drawn to the Emirate of Bukhara. From the middle of the XIX century, this territory was captured by Afghan feudal, and Afghan emir Dust Muhammed-Khan included them into his state. The Afghan population in the occupied territories was tiny. Thus, according to "*Turkestanskije vedomosti*," in 1888, there were 11750 Afghans for 640000 Uzbeks, Turkmens, and Tajiks, and they were soldiers of Afghan garrisons to suppress the complaints of the population of southern Turkestan [5].

Sources from this period provide numerous reports of widespread unrest in South Turkestan, which resulted in increased emigration processes to the Turkestan Governorate-General and the Emirate of Bukhara.

The country's tense situation decided to take advantage of the grandson of former emir Dust Muhammed-Khan, ruler of *Char viloyat* (Four district) – Muhammed Iskhak-Khan. The name "*Char viloyat*" refers to the territories of four districts - *Mazari-Sharif, Sarykul, Shabirgan, and Andhoj* [6].

Knowing the separatist sentiments of his cousin Iskhak-Khan, Abdurahman Khan repeatedly tried to deprive him of his post. Moreover, he avoided inviting Iskhak-Khan to the capital. At the beginning of 1888 in Afghanistan, it became known that Abdurahman-Khan dislodged his brother and sent instead of him his son - Habibulla-Khan, who shortly before that was declared heir to the throne.

Iskhak-Khan started his fight against Abdurahman-Khan by appealing for support from Russia. For this purpose, he sent his envoy General Ahmed-Khan to the city of Kerki in spring 1888. After "high" permission from the Tsarist government, Ahmed-Khan settled in Samarkand. The representative of the Tsarist political agency in Bukhara, diplomat N.V.Charykov during a conversation with Ahmed-Khan, learns about Afghanistan's internal situation. He also analyzed the situation on June 26, 1888, and recommended the Governor-General of Turkestan - N.O.Rosenbach to "maintain calm and order at the border" [7].

Iskhak-khan was in constant contact with his messenger Ahmed-khan. At the insistence of his lord, Ahmed-khan provided wrong information that Iskhak-khan was supported by all provinces of the north, to which he assured the acting military Governor of Samarkand region, Colonel Pukalov.

Tsarism, in connection with the events that have been growing in northern Afghanistan, has taken "a neutral position because of the Afghan events." It was stated in the telegram of the Minister of Foreign Affairs N.K.Girs from August 16, 1888, to the Governor-General of Turkestan N.O.Rozenbah [8].

The rebellion of Iskhak-Khan started on July 18, 1888, in *Mazari-Sharif*. The center of the uprising was chosen as the area of Kalya-Minor. Iskhak-khan appointed his son Ismail-Khan as the commander-in-chief of his army.

By that time, concerning Iskhak-Khan's message to the Tsarist government on rendering assistance with weapons and troops, on August 1, 1888, two telegrams arrived in Tashkent: one - from the Minister of Foreign Affairs N.K.Girs, the second - from the war minister Petr Semyonovich Vannovskij, where they suggest "to take a waiting position for freedom of action in the future" [9].

The Governor-General of Turkestan, relying on instructions from St. Petersburg and considering the situation concerning England, refused to support Iskhak-Khan in an armed rebellion against Afghanistan's central government. Iskhak-Khan's rebellion was considered at the special meeting in St.-Petersburg on August 17, 1888, which has offered the Turkestan Governor-general to strengthen armies on the border with Afghanistan.

The rebellion of Iskhak-Khan, not supported by people, was defeated. After defeating near Maimen, Iskhak-Khan and his son Ismail-Khan fled to the territory of Turkestan Governorate-General [10]. Together with it has arrived about two thousand soldiers and officers and members of their families. On September 22, 1888, war minister P.S. Vannovskij in the telegram to the Turkestan Governor-General, offered the possibility of granting Iskhak-Khan "asylum in Russia" [11]. Iskhak-Khan, together with his family and relatives, was offered to settle in Samarkand with an annual subsidy of 10 thousand rubles. It was a pledge to the Tsarist government to abstain from all political activities. Further destiny of Iskhak-Khan till his death was connected with Samarkand.

Many archive materials of the Turkestan Governor General's Office testify to the life of Iskhak-Khan in Samarkand.

According to the available materials at the moment, it should be noted that some of the people who arrived with Iskhak-Khan already from the middle of 1889 began to submit various petitions from departure to their homeland. As they were political refugees who lived on Russia's territory, they had to coordinate all issues related to their movements with the administration of the Turkestan Governorate-General. For example, an authorized representative of Iskhak-Khan at the initial negotiations with representatives of the Turkestan Governorate-General – Ahmet Alikhan expressed his desire to move to Persia. Based on the petition of the acting military Governor of Samarkand region colonel M.P.Pukalov of July 7, 1889, the Governor-General allowed Ahmet Alikhan to "travel unimpeded to Bukhara, Trans-Caspian region and Persia." For this purpose, the Samarkand District Treasury allocated 100 rubles [12]. This document was registered in office No – 552 of July 17 1889.

Also, some employees of Iskhak-Khan's asked to be reunited with his family. So the servant of Iskhak-Khan, Muhammed Yusuf Muhammed Yakubov, has expressed a desire to bring the wife living in Kobodian district (*Kobodianskom bekstve*), the Bukhara Khanate, Iskhak-Khan requested it. His request was satisfied; it happened in May 1907. [13] The given two documents, dated 1889 and 1907, testified that from Turkestan Governorate-

General's side the questions, concerning the request for departure or reunion with relatives and close people were satisfied, even travel expenses were financed. The issue of inheritance was also resolved with the permission of the military Governor. Thus, Iskhak-Khan, in his letter of April 26, 1895, asked to permit Muhammed Kasimhan Sultanhanov, who had Kazi identification documents for the inheritance of a relative of Gulyam Hasan Muhammed Zamanov who died in Kerki. Permission to travel should have been obtained from a Political Agent in Bukhara [14]. This issue was also resolved favorably.

A photograph taken in 1888 after his arrival to Samarkand testifies to his entourage. This photograph, taken by photographer Arshaulov, shows nine people, together with Iskhak-Khan himself [15].

Above, it was said that the Tsarist government funded the maintenance of the Iskhak-Khan with an annual allowance of 10,000 rubles. About it, the decision of Turkestan Governor-General from February 21, 1889, has been accepted [16].

Based on this decision, the Samarkand Regional Military Governor was given instruction, according to which one can find out the following: the Military Ministry asks the Ministry of Finance for subsidies after the decision is taken the Governor-General of Turkestan is notified, then the Treasury Chamber adopts a decision on the issue of money, after which the Samarkand Regional Department of the Bank allocates the appropriate amount. His proxy receives the money allocated to Iskhak-Khan. In the first stages, this person was Abdul Azim Khan Nazhmitdin-khanov [17].

Judging by the assimilation documents, the amount was paid out monthly in the average amount of 833 rubles. 33 kopeck (kopeek) was observed until the death of Iskhak-Khan, i.e., until 1909. The process of a monthly payment of money to him was supervised by the Ministry of Finance and the State Bank, also a delicate part and the Turkestan Governor-General's office.

Considering documents of assimilation of the State Treasury department from 1907, it became known that in the beginning, the trusted representative of Iskhak-Khan for the reception of money was Muhammed Sarvar Mirza Muhsinov. [19] On August 9, 1907, Iskhak-Khan wrote the letter to the military Governor of the Samarkand area, informing that money was paid out accurately on the 20th of each month. However, in the future, he asks to be considered a representative for receiving subsidies from his son Muhammed Shahibhan, who later began to receive the funds [20].

According to the documents, there were several controversial questions about obtaining an "allowance" from Iskhak-Khan and his entourage. Thus, the office of the Governor-General of Turkestan from July 26, 1902, informs the military Governor of Samarkand region that Iskhak-Khan asked to increase the number of subsidies received, he also asked for an annual subsidy for his son Ismail-Khan. St. Petersburg rejected this request [21]. In my opinion, Iskhak-Khan's appeal is a desire to know the reaction of

the Tsarist government because in early October 1901, after the death of Abdurahman-Khan, the reaction of the Tsarist government because in early October 1901, after the death of Abdurahman-Khan, his son Habibulla-Khan ascended the Afghan throne. That is why he decided to check the reaction of the Governor-General of Turkestan by asking for an increase in allocations. The answer surely satisfied him, as the sum of appropriations at a rate of 10000 rubles remained invariable. Subsequently, in letters of sons Iskhak-Khan, it is told that the above-stated sum of their family quite satisfied [22].

The Samarkand military governorate facilitated the trip of Ismail-Khan to the Caucasian mineral waters (*Pyatigorsk*). Ismail-Khan, under the supervision of Mirza Yakub Kamil Aminov, the *Siabskij* Governor of Samarkand district, made a trip in 1902 [23].

The issue of family financing was also raised after Iskhak-Khan's death. This issue will be considered a little later.

In 1902 Iskhak-Khan has submitted the petition to the Governor-General of Turkestan on granting him the land. The military Governor of Samarkand V.N.Medinskij reported the following in his report dated October 29 1902: "... that in the Samarkand district and in general in the area free for assignment of Iskhak-Khan the grounds are not present, and on those grounds which can be orated, it is necessary to keep for the arrangement on them formations of Russian settlements " [24]. About it, the military Governor in August 1902 has also informed Iskhak-Khan.

In 1907 the governor-general of Turkestan, with the purpose of replenishment of the Turkestan museum's funds, wished to have a portrait of Iskhak-Khan. On February 14, 1907, Manager of the Office V. Mustafin requested the assistance of the military Governor of Samarkand region, S.D. Gesket. Already on February 23, the Manager of the Office requested Iskhak-Khan, if he had any items belonging to the former emirs of Afghanistan: Sher Ali Khan and Abdurahman-Khan.

On March 12, 1907, the Military Governor of Samarkand region S.D. Gesket informed the Turkish Governor-General's office that: "According to Iskhak-Khan, with whom I spoke personally, he did not have any things that belonged to Sher Ali Khan and Abdurahman-Khan, in previous times the dagger of Abdurakhman-Khan, was lost by his son Ismail-Khan" [25]. It is also reported that Iskhak-Khan sent his portraits - one for the museum, the other for the Governor-General of Grodekovo.

After a while, it was decided to seize the weapons from the retinue of Iskhak-Khan. 63 Afghan-made checkers were sent to St. Petersburg to Prince Oldenburg and Colonel Vernov [26].

In early 1909, 69-year-old Iskhak-Khan, son of the former emir of Afghanistan Mohammed Azam-Khan, died in Samarkand. He was buried in the Khoja-Ahror cemetery, whereby the way Emir Habibulla-Khan, son of Abdurakhman-Khan, was also buried. Ahmad-khan, an employee at the Samarkand Regional Museum-Reserve, said many Afghan rulers wanted to be

buried alongside such great Islamic holy preachers as Khoja-Akhrori Vali and Makhdumi Azam.

After the death of Iskhak-Khan, some family members and retinue who had arrived earlier, with the permission of Emir Habibulla-Khan, began moving to their homeland. Even before Iskhak-Khan's death, some Afghans had expressed their desire to return to Afghanistan. Thus, on December 1, 1908, the Imperial Political Agency in Bukhara reported to a diplomatic official at the Turkish Governorate General P.I.Lishenko that an Afghan native Muhammad Hashim Khan, who served as Emir of Bukhara and was awarded the title of *"eshik-agabashi"* living in Dushanbe, requested permission to move to his homeland [27]. Later, judging by materials of the Turkestan Governor-General's office, the number of close supporters of Iskhak-Khan returning to their homeland began to increase. So, on May 22, 1911, the headquarters of Turkestan military district in the report "About return of Iskhak-Khan's people from Russian possessions to Afghanistan" informs: "Recently more than 150 people have gone to Kabul in separate small parties" [28].

After his death, the Iskhak-Khan's family began to receive an allowance of 3,000 rubles. In these connection sons of Iskhak-Khan regularly addressed to the Turkestan governor-general with the request for an increase of grants as the 10 thousand rubles allocated at the life of Iskhak-Khan of annual allowances quite sufficed for the maintenance of the family. Nevertheless, after the death of Iskhak-Khan, the allocated sum did not satisfy the requirements of their families because sons with the families lived separately, and each of them would like to have a separate raised sum. It should also be noted that the son of Iskhak-Khan Muhammad Ibrahim-Khan, who wrote on behalf of 11 people, confesses that they are entirely incapable of personal work and asks for the allocation of money [29]. The Afghan emir Habibullah-Khan, according to the military Governor of Samarkand region, on December 5, 1911, allowed returning to all Iskhak-Khan's people except two sons of Iskhak-Khan: the son of the Afghan princess Ismail-Khan and the son of Ibrahim-Khan born of his wife Imir Khanum were refused to return to their homeland [30].

Ismail-khan was denied because he was appointed commander-in-chief of the Iskhak-Khan's army and conducted military operations against Abdurakhman-Khan. Furthermore, the refusal of the second son, Muhammad Ibrahim-khan, is still unknown to the author.

As for other members of Iskhak-Khan's family, mainly daughters, if we take into account Muslim customs of that period of early marriage, many of them remained in Samarkand, and according to A. Oblakulova, an employee of the regional museum of the reserve, Iskhak-Khan's descendants are still living in Samarkand.

CONCLUSION

Having studied the sources about Iskhak-Khan, we should draw some conclusions:

- For a long time, the royal government spent much money supporting Iskhak-Khan's family and environment. The diplomatic officials, taking into account the origin of Iskhak-Khan, i.e., his belonging to Afghanistan's emirs, considered it possible in case of unforeseen circumstances to return him to his homeland and ascend to the throne, further strengthening his position in Afghanistan. Russian diplomacy had such work experience, as the Tsar also protected Abdurakhman-Khan for more than ten years. Iskhak-Khan was probably kept as a reserve, so considerable funds were spent to support his family.
- Studying the Turkestan Governor-General's Office documents, one can learn about the policy of Emir Abdurakhman-Khan towards Russia. In our view, this policy suited the Tsarism, as Abdurakhman-Khan did not create barriers to the penetration of Russian manufactured goods, because the demand for these goods was very high in Afghanistan.
- The question of Iskhak-Khan's family members and relatives, their fate requires further study. Thus, during their stay in Samarkand, Iskhak-Khan established kinship relations with the most influential people of Samarkand. So far, some residents of the city and its environs say that they are Afghans by birth or have relatives.
- It should be understood that there are enough sacred sites in Afghanistan itself, and not only would the rulers of Afghanistan want to be buried in Samarkand. Therefore, it should be understood that these are mainly those that, due to the political situation, found themselves in Samarkand and unable to return to their homeland.
- The prominent historian N.A.Khalfin, in 1955, wrote a scientific article about Iskhak-Khan's rebellion. Having acquainted with this article, the following question remains unclear: in 1869, Abdurakhman-Khan and his cousin Iskhak-Khan moved to Turkestan Governorate General. The fate of Iskhak-Khan from 1869 to 1880 remains unclear [31].
- Until the data on the employment of the Iskhak-Khan's family members were found, it seems that the families existed only at the expense of the money allocated by the tsarist government. By their admission, they were not adapted to work. The sons of Iskhak-Khan, demanding to meet with Turkestan and the Bukhara Khanate, wanted to be treated as high-ranking government officials.
- Having acquainted themselves with the activities of the diplomatic agencies, it should be concluded that when the rebellion of Iskhak-Khan started, they did the right thing, as a military intervention would have aggravated the influence of Tsarism in Turkestan.

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