

REFLECTION OF CAPTAIN N. N. MURAVYOV'S DIPLOMATIC MISSION IN 1819 IN HISTORICAL SOURCES

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Abstract:

This article describes the diplomatic mission of the Russian officer Captain N.N. Muravyov, who came to the Khiva Khanate in 1819 to restore diplomatic relations between Khiva and Russia, in various historical sources, including local historians Ogakhi, T.Nematov and foreign historians N.Veselovsky, E.Bunakov, V.Zhukovsky, L.Meyer's works will be quoted and how they will be interpreted. Information about the work written by N. N. Muravyov about travel impressions is provided.

Keywords: Khiva Khanate, Russian officer N.N. Muravyov, Ogakhi, T.Nematov, N.Veselovsky, E.Bunakov, V.Zhukovsky, L.Meyer.

Introduction

The facts presented in the works of Munis, Ogakhi and Bayani are undoubtedly of great importance in the study of the history of diplomatic relations between Central Asian states. In these works, the arrival of ambassadors from surrounding khanates and foreign countries to the Khanate of Khiva and who they are are shown, but they do not give full information about the purpose of the arrival of these ambassadors and what issues were discussed.

Khorezm historians in their works talk not only about the diplomatic relations of Khiva Khanate with Central Asian khanates and Iran, but also about diplomatic relations with Russia. Of course, diplomatic relations with Russia in the works of N. Muravyov, N.I. Danilevsky, N.I. Veselovsky and other authors, it is more completely and perfectly covered than in the works of Munis, Ogakhi and Bayaniy.

However, in the works of Khorezm historians, the diplomatic relations of Khiva khanate with Central Asian khanates, Russia, Khorasan and other countries. It is described in more detail than in N.I. Veselovsky.

Research Methodology

In the year 1235 (1819 - 1820), «on Tuesday in the month of Mukharram, Russian ambassador Nikolay Nikolaevich came to Khiva on behalf of Alexei Petrovich, governor of Georgia and Tiflis. Muhammed Rakhim received the Russian ambassador on Friday night and sent Yaqubboy and Eshnazar Shobirgan to him under the guise of an ambassador» [1]. N.N. Muravyov's work is dedicated to this diplomatic mission [2]. N.I. Veselovsky speaking about the era of Muhammad Rakhimkhan I, N. Muravyov's arrival in Khiva is full of history. However, he does not provide any information about the ambassadors sent from Khiva to Russia with him. T. Nematov in the



first chapter of his work he talks in detail about N. Muravyov's arrival in Khiva and the work he wrote about the Khanate of Khiva [3]. He writes, among other things: "At the end of the 18th century and the beginning of the 19th century, relations between Russia and the Khanate of Khiva developed somewhat compared to the previous ones. Russia's entry into the deserts of Siberia and Kazakhstan and the elimination of small hordes in these lands eased its connection with the Central Asian khanates. One of the main reasons for the development of trade relations between Russia and the Khanate of Khiva was that the textile industry in Russia was developing and the demand for its raw materials was increasing day by day. In the Khiva khanate, the desire to unify the country politically and develop trade with Russia was increasing day by day. The growth of trade relations between Russia and the Khiva Khanate linked the economy of the Khiva Khanate to the Russian market, as Russia was entering the stage of capitalist development at this time. The Khanate of Khiva was a backward feudal state. Although the Khanate of Khiva had trade relations with its neighbors Bukhara, Kokand Khanate, Iran, Afghanistan and other countries, the most convenient and profitable trade for it was trade with Russia. Russia supplied Khiva with leather, thread and silk gauze, wool, sugar, metal and other industrial goods. Khiva produced cotton, thread, marena, coarse textile goods, and fruit from its own raw materials to the Russian bazaar" [3]. According to N. Muravyov, Khiva merchants sold part of the goods they received from the Bukhara Khanate and exported the rest to Russia [2].

During these times, the Khanate of Khiva conducted trade with Russia, mainly through Orenburg and Astrakhan, and trade transactions were often barter. From 1787 to 1797, goods worth 4,182,000 soums were exported from Russia to Khiva through Orenburg, while goods worth 4,615,000 soums were imported from Khiva to Russia. The Russian merchants had a profit of about 50 thousand soums in this short period [4]. At the end of the 18th century, goods imported from Khiva to Russia through the city of Astrakhan ranged from 200,000 to 500,000 soums, and from Russia to Khiva from 100,000 to 300,000 soums. Here the trade was not in the nature of barter. Due to the ban on the export of metal and grain from Russia, these goods were secretly brought to Khiva by Khiva merchants [4]. In the study of mutual trade and diplomatic relations between the Khanate of Khiva and Russia in 1819-1820, the commander-in-chief of the Caucasian army A.P. Yermolov Major M.M. Ponomarev and captain N.N. Muravyov were sent by Yermolov as ambassadors to the Khanate of Khiva and the Turkmen tribes living on the eastern coast of the Caspian Sea, as a result of which N. Muravyov wrote on the basis of the information he saw with his own eyes in the Khiva Khanate and learned from Turkmen and Russian prisoners of the Khanate «Journey to Turkmenistan and Khiva in 1819 and 1820 Guards General Staff Captain Nikolai Muravyov, sent to this country for negotiations» his book serves as the main source for elucidating the diplomatic and trade relations between the Khanate of Khiva and the Turkmen tribes living on the eastern coast of the Caspian Sea in the 20s of the 19th century.

N. Muravyov's three-part work of more than 300 pages was published in Moscow in 1822. After a short introduction, in the first part of the book, the author gives a lot of interesting information about his arrival to the Eastern coast of the Caspian Sea and the Khanate of Khiva, his negotiations with the chiefs of the Turkmen tribes and the Khan of Khiva, the paths he traveled, the life of the Turkmen tribes and their customs. In the second part of the work, the author describes the borders of the Khiva Khanate, mountains, minerals, flora and fauna, customs of



the peoples living in the Khanate, slaves, cities and villages in it, mutual wars in the Khiva Khanate at the end of the 18th and early 19th centuries, the rise to power of the Khiva dynasty, He talks about the way of administration of the state in Khiva Khanate, relations with neighboring countries, internal and external trade. The third part of the work contains drawings, pictures and cards. This work of N. Muravyov introduced Russian Orientalists for the first time to the real situation of the Khiva Khanate during the specified period. His information about the Khanate of Khiva is correct, and in many respects it is very consistent with the information given in local sources written by Munis and Ogakhi [5], Abdulkarim Bukhari. However, as the authors of local sources are palace historians, they give little information about the economic situation of the country and the life of the people. Although Munis and Ogakhi give very little information about the issue we are interested in, that is, trade and diplomatic relations of the Khanate of Khiva with Russia, Abdulkarim Bukhari does not write anything about this important issue.

In his work, N.N. Muravyov provides the following interesting and important information about the location, lifestyle, and economic activities of the Turkmen tribes who moved to the territory of the Khiva Khanate:

“The main occupation of the Turkmens was cattle breeding and partly agriculture. N. Muravyov, who visited the Khiva Khanate in 1819, speaking about the Turkmens, notes that «nowadays, most of them are engaged in agriculture and settle in villages». It is very possible that we are talking about that part of the Turkmen who, shortly before Muravyov’s arrival, moved to the territory of the Khanate, having lost most of their livestock as a result of long wanderings through the deserts. It is quite clear that these Turkmens did not have the opportunity to roam and were forced to engage in agriculture. However, a detailed acquaintance with the Khiva sources of this time shows that the mass transition of the Turkmen to sedentism during the first two decades of the 19th century. was not observed, although agriculture still played a certain role here. N. Muravyov also notes that the Turkmens “settle in the Khanate and leave again,” from which we can conclude that we are talking about semi-nomads who viewed agriculture as a secondary and temporary occupation, which they abandoned as soon as the slightest opportunity presented itself. One of the main reasons for the slow transition of the Turkmens to sedentary life is the lack of irrigated land. The lands provided to the Turkmen were located in the lower reaches of the canals, and therefore often suffered from lack of water” [2].

In addition, the work contains necessary information about the population of the Khiva Khanate, city life, important cities in the Khanate and their location. Below we provide this information:

“The total population of the Khiva Khanate was determined by N. Muravyov in 1819 at 300 thousand people, although the same author notes that this figure is constantly increasing due to the conquest of new lands. Urban life in Khiva was extremely poorly developed, as evidenced by the insignificant population figures in the most important urban centers. It is enough to point out that in the capital of the Khanate, Khiva, there were in the first quarter of the 19th century. only about 3 thousand houses.

Another significant city of the Khanate was New Urgench, located on the left bank of the Amu Darya, 30 kilometers east of the capital. N. Muravyov, N. Danilevsky and other travelers of the first half of the 19th century. indicate that New Urgench was at that time the largest trading center of the Khanate. Information about the population of the city in the first (half of the 19th century) is extremely contradictory. N. Muravyov was inclined to claim that the number of



inhabitants here was over 5 thousand people, while N. Danilevsky numbered no more than 2 thousand people here. Of the other cities of the Khanate, the most famous used by Khazarasp, Mangyt, Gurlen with a population of several hundred to a thousand people. Most of the local cities and villages were bazaars, where trade was concentrated between the settled population of the Khanate and the surrounding nomads. These cities lived their busiest lives on so-called market days, usually twice a week, when a large number of surrounding residents and merchants came here to trade. On other days the city seemed deserted.

Cities and significant settlements were surrounded by high adobe walls, under the protection of which the entire surrounding population gathered in times of military danger. The Khiva cities, especially the capital of the Khanate, were also large religious, educational and cultural centers, the influence of which affected far beyond the borders of the Khanate” [2].

Analysis and results

The government of Khiva is extremely suspicious of the Russian ambassador N. Muravyov, thinking that he sent him to scout the Khiva Khanate, particularly to free the Russian captives in the Khiva Khanate. N. Muravyov is kept under strict surveillance for 45 days without any reason in Elgeldi fortress. Russian prisoners of the Khiva Khanate were forbidden to meet N. Muravyov under threat of death. Nothing is provided for his needs, and he is prevented from buying anything even from the bazaar [6]. As a result, rumors spread that Khiva was killed by Khan N. Muravyov. Finally, after waiting for 45 days, on November 20, N. Muravyov met Khan and handed him gifts sent by the Russian government. According to N. Muravyov, a day later, on November 21, there was an official reception ceremony, Khudash Mahram and Yusuf Mekhtar, one of the Khan's officials, took part in the reception. After official proposals, N. Muravyov explained the task assigned to him, read the letter, and the commander-in-chief of the Caucasian army on behalf of A.P. Yermolov, he proposes to establish close relations with Russia and to conduct trade relations through Krasnovodsk instead of through Manqishlaq. Because the caravan route through Manqishlaq was considered a difficult route and it was necessary to pass through deserts without water for 30 days. The second route proposed by N. Muravyov was a 17-day route, in which Khiva merchants could obtain the goods they needed from ships coming from Astrakhan or barter for them [2]. Muhammad Rakhimkhan I accepted N. Muravyov's first offer and promised to send one of his trusted men with him to the commander-in-chief. He rejected the second offer. As an excuse for this, he argued that most of the Yavmuts living on this road serve the Hagars, so the merchants of Khiva would be in danger. The proposal of the Russian government to the government of Khiva to conduct trade between the two countries by sea, that is, through the port of Krasnovodsk, was a very good and profitable proposal for Khiva. However, Khan of Khiva Muhammad Rakhimkhan I did not accept this proposal of Russia and pursued a reactionary policy towards the Russian government. He tried to keep the Khanate of Khiva in a feudal state and prevent the movement of large-scale contacts with Russia. After the meeting ceremony is over, N. Muravyov is given the gifts of the khan and is allowed to return to his homeland. On November 27, Khiva ambassadors appointed by N. Muravyov and the Khan: centurion Eshnazar and Yaqubboy leave Khiva.

N.Veselovsky [6] and V.Zhukovsky [7] in their writings, they dwell on the arrival of N. Muravyov as an ambassador to the Khanate of Khiva, and write that the sending of N. Muravyov to Khiva did not bring the expected beneficial results, but only expressed friendship and trust to



each other. Although N. Muravyov was unable to fulfill almost all of the tasks assigned to him in his negotiations with Khan of Khiva Muhammad Rakhimkhan I, it is completely wrong to say that he was content with establishing friendship and trusting each other, as stated by the above authors. Because, Khan of Khiva, not daring to be openly hostile towards N. Muravyov, accepted him and expressed his approval of his proposal to have close relations with Russia, N. Muravyov and sending an ambassador to Russia was one of the significant results in the history of relations between Russia and Khiva. Even N. Muravyov's safe journey to Khiva, behind the goodwill of the Turkmen tribes living around the Caspian Sea towards Russia, made Muhammad Rakhimkhan I very worried. Khan said in a secret council with the participation of his official about accepting N. Muravyov: «It would have been better if the Turkmen had killed the ambassador on the way, but now he has arrived in Khiva, it is necessary to accept him» [2]. As we mentioned above, this work of N. Muravyov provides a lot of information about the trade relations of the Khiva Khanate with Russia and other neighboring countries in the first quarter of the 19th century. Speaking about the trade between Khiva and Russia in his work, N. Muravyov attaches great importance to the trade relations between Russia and the Khanate of Khiva through the deserts of Kazakhstan and says: «If a solid order is established in these deserts and the safety of trade caravans from the attacks of robbers here is ensured, then It would be possible to direct the trade of India, including the whole of the East, to the North» [2]. This opinion of N. Muravyov is completely correct, if the chaos in the Kazakh deserts is stopped, if the safety of trade caravans is ensured, then the trade relations between Russia and the East, and vice versa, the trade relations between Russia and Russia, would develop further. However, the looting of trade caravans by the nomadic Khiva and Kazakh tribes hindered the development of trade. At the beginning of the 19th century, the goods of Russian merchants worth 178,127 soums were looted by the above mobs [8]. In his work, N. Muravyov also provides a lot of information about the trade routes of Khiva Khanate with Russia. Road I. A trade route passed through the Kazakh steppes to Orenburg. This road was considered the main trade route, and trade caravans from Urganch reached Orenburg in 33 days. Road II. A trade route passed through Manqishlaq to Astrakhan. In order to trade through this route, at a certain time, Russian merchants would come to Manqishlaq by steamboat from Astrakhan across the Caspian Sea. Merchants of Khiva also gathered in Manqishlaq to trade with the Russians.

According to N. Muravyov, merchants of Khiva exchanged their goods for Russian goods here, and in some cases agreed with Russian merchants and took their goods to Astrakhan on their steamers [2].

It was a trade route through Krasnovodsk wharf offered by N. Muravyov to Khan Khiva. Compared to the above two routes, the trade route through the Krasnovodsk wharf was considered a very convenient and close route for trade with Russia. The main purpose of sending N. Muravyov to the Khanate of Khiva was to persuade the government of Khiva to conduct trade between the two countries through this Krasnovodsk. Although N. Muravyov's proposal was very useful for the government of Khiva, Muhammad Rakhimkhan I did not accept it with unreasonable excuses. If the government of Khiva had accepted the Russian proposal, the eastern coast of the Caspian Sea and the port of Krasnovodsk would have become the center of trade between Russia, Khiva, the Caucasus and Iran through the Caspian Sea. However, the non-acceptance of the Russian proposal by the government of Khiva depended on the fact that the



Krasnovodsk region was under the control of the Turkmen tribes. Because the Russian influence was strong among the Turkmen tribes who lived here under the oppression, oppression and demands of the governments of Khiva and Iran, and the influence of the Khanate of Khiva was strong in Manqishlaq. Khiva's government did not accept the Russian proposal, fearing to give away its trade monopoly with the increase of Russian influence here, when trade communication was carried out through Krasnovodsk wharf. In his work, N. Muravyov does not dwell on the history of Khorezm's trade relations with Russia. It also does not write anything about the goods exported from Khiva to Russia. According to him, the internal and external trade of the Khiva khanate is in the hands of the sarts, and Khiva merchants bring from Bukhara: spun yarn, all kinds of flower-printed wool, various types of yarn and silk fabrics, Kashmiri rice, Chinese porcelain, tea, royal belts, wool, black leather and other goods. they took and sold part of the goods in Khiva and took the rest to Russia [2].

Conclusion

The special value of N. Muravyov's work is that it contains valuable information about the internal and external history of the Khiva Khanate, as well as trade and diplomatic relations with Russia, trade routes, and trade goods during the specified period.

N. Muravyov's work, despite some of its shortcomings, as we mentioned above, is the only source written in Russian for the study of the history of the Khiva Khanate and its relations with Russia in the first quarter of the 19th century, and provides our historians with many interesting and valuable materials. The materials given in the work about the history of the Khanate of Khiva and its economic and political relations with Russia, with their fullness and interest, occupy an extremely important place among the information provided by travelers who were in Khiva before N. Muravyov. For example, the trade routes described by N. Muravyov have not been so completely and perfectly described by any Russian tourist. Although N. Muravyov's journey is not extensive, it is of great importance. The investigation of the Turkmen deserts after Bekovich-Cherkassky (1717) is also associated with the name of N. Muravyov. After the publication of this work of N. Muravyov, it was enthusiastically received by a wide readership. As soon as he returned to Russia, many people were very interested in getting information about the country he was in and the impressions he got from the trip. N. Muravyov himself writes the following about this: «My writings were intended only for reading to my relatives and partly to my friends, and were not organized yet. However, after many people expressed their desire to see these records in print, I decided to publish my own» [2]. Based on these, this book was published in Moscow in 1822. A year later, it will be translated into English, then French and German.

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