

Discourses on the History of Uzbek Principalities of Southern Turkestan in the First Half of the 19th Century

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Annotatsiya: After the Ashtarkhanid Khanate in Bukhara fell into crisis, the Mangid dynasty came to power. During the period of dynastic change, the Uzbek principalities in South Turkestan, which were subordinate to the Bukhara Khanate, were conquered by the Afghan state founded by Ahmad Shah Durrani, which arose at the same time as the Mangit dynasty. After the death of Ahmad Shah Durrani, the Uzbek principalities were officially considered dependent on Kabul, but in practice they gained independence. In the Bukhara Emirate, Shah Murad tried to establish some internal order and integrate the principalities of South Turkestan into the Bukhara Emirate. During the reign of his successors, Emir Haidar and Emir Nasrullah, some principalities obeyed the Bukhara Emirate. However, with the rise to power of Dost Muhammad Khan, a Barakzai, in Afghanistan, struggles for centralization began. During the First Anglo-Afghan War, the Uzbek principalities in South Turkestan resisted the British's advance into Central Asia through the Hindu Kush Mountains and even defeated the British troops. After the Anglo-Afghan War, Dostmuhammad Khan, with military support from the British, began to subjugate the Uzbek principalities in South Turkestan in the 50s of the 19th century. He united the conquered territories and named them Chahorvilayat (Four provinces) and appointed his eldest son Muhammad Afzal Khan as the governor.

Kalit so'zlar: Emirate, principality, independence, vassal, tribute, invasion, malaria, swamp, tribe, dynasty, South Turkestan, Hindu Kush, espionage

Introduction. The 19th century was a period of distinctive transformations in world history, during which capitalist way of production was developing, and developed states were engaged in dividing the world and turning economically, politically, and economically underdeveloped countries into colonies. Once a bridge between East and West and one of the centers of world civilization, the region of Turkestan was experiencing a period of general decline. During this time, Eastern Turkestan fell under Chinese influence, Western Turkestan under Russian control, and Southern Turkestan came under the influence of Afghanistan, which was supported by Britain. This article analyzes the processes by which the Uzbek principalities of Southern Turkestan came under the influence of the Afghan state, based on information from historical sources and scholarly literature.

Literature review. In covering this article, we have conditionally divided the literature used into three groups: first, primary sources and works of source-based significance; second, literature produced during the former Soviet period; and third, works created during the period of independence. As the main source, we included articles from the volumes of "Turkestanskiy sbornik"

("Turkestan Collection") published between 1867 and 1917, which contain travelers' accounts, spies' memoirs, and analytical perspectives. In particular, the memoirs of the British spy Alexander Burnes (1805-1841), presented in volumes 38 and 39 of "Turkestan collection" and the analysis of these travels in volume 243, have been extensively used. Additionally, M.A. Terentyev's analytical article on the rivalry between Russia and England in Central Asia, featured in volume 93 of "Turkestanskiy sbornik", is noteworthy. Among the works of source-based significance, N. Khannikov's study identifies which of the Southern Turkestan principalities were vassals of Bukhara. In S.A. Shumov's work, the history of Afghanistan is examined and edited on the basis of primary sources and historical documents. In the course of describing the history of the Manghit amirs, Mirza Abdulazim Somiy also, albeit briefly, touches upon the policy pursued by the amirs toward the principalities of Southern Turkestan. In works produced during the Soviet period, a class-based approach is clearly evident. Nevertheless, the manner in which historical events are presented stands out for its distinctiveness. In A.Kh. Babakhodjayev's work, British imperialism is primarily condemned and portrayed as the main threat to the peoples of Afghanistan and Central Asia. Works in this field also include the studies of N.A. Khalfin. While V.V. Bartold's research was mainly of a historical-geographical nature, P.P. Ivanov, being a representative of the military sphere, focused primarily on routes and political processes.

A. Shokhumorov paid particular attention to Badakhshan's division under Russian and British influence and to the fate of its population, the majority of whom were Ismailis. K.M. Yuldashev, on the other hand, focused on the issues of the formation of modern diplomacy in the Afghan state and its initial involvement in diplomatic processes. After the collapse of the former USSR, a number of scholarly studies on this topic were published. For example, A.V. Postnikov analyzed the history of struggles for the "Roof of the World" (Pamir) based on documents, while a publication by the MITSAI Institute included an analysis of diplomatic relations between the states and principalities of Central Asia and the Ottoman Empire. Anke von Kügelgen examined the history of the Manghit amirs and analyzed their relations with the principalities of Southern Turkestan, whereas M.Z. Orziyev and U.B. Sobirov focused on the historiographical aspects of the issue.

Natija va mulohazalar. At the beginning of the 19th century, tensions between the Sadazai (Durrani) and Barakzai clans in Afghanistan created a volatile situation in the country. As a result, the Uzbek principalities in Southern Turkestan that had been invaded increasingly sought independence. In the 1820s-1830s, the struggle for the throne between the Barakzai and Popalzai in Afghanistan intensified. During this period, some of the principalities in Southern Turkestan became vassals of the Bukhara Emirate, others owed allegiance to Kamran, the last ruler of the Sadazai dynasty in Herat, some to Dost Muhammad Khan of the Barakzai dynasty in Kabul, while others managed to become fully independent states [25, 80]. In reality, this vassalage was largely nominal, and as a result of political fragmentation in the Afghan state, the Uzbek principalities gained full independence. These views are also confirmed by P.P. Ivanov's research, which asserts that in the first half of the 19th century, the Uzbek principalities in Afghan Turkestan were fully independent [5, 141]. This was because, in the first half of the 19th century, the struggle between the Sadazai and Barakzai clans had weakened central authority. Taking advantage of the situation, the Emirs of Bukhara also sought to bring the principalities of Southern Turkestan back under their state's control. During the reign of Amir Haydar (1778–1826), a military campaign was organized in 1817 targeting Southern Turkestan. From the first quarter of the 19th century, Balkh became the main strategic stronghold of the Bukhara Emirate in the struggles for Southern Turkestan. Additionally, until the 1850s, the region was recorded as a territory under the Bukhara Emirate [9,89]. After the occupation of Balkh, several principalities in Southern Turkestan, including the Uzbek principalities of Maymana, Kunduz, and Badakhshan, recognized the Bukhara Emir as their suzerain and paid annual tribute [4, 31].

At the beginning of the 19th century, the struggle for power between the Barakzai and Sadazai (known as Durrani) clans intensified, and in 1826 the Barakzai seized control of power in Afghanistan. The first ruler from the Barakzai, Dost Muhammad Khan, succeeded in fully unifying the country in 1836. The contested capture of Herat from Iran occurred later, in 1863. During this period, it can be concluded that the principalities of Southern Turkestan remained independent. In

the first half of the 19th century, Southern Turkestan was unified by Khulm (Tashqurgan) ruler Qilich Alikhon. During Qilich Alikhon's reign, Afghan Turkestan flourished, thanks to economic reforms that ensured the safety of trade caravans passing through Southern Turkestan and abolished the tolls previously collected from them. After Qilich Alikhon's death in 1822, his former vassal, the ruler of Kunduz, Murodbek, invaded Khulm. The demands of Khulm and Balkh forced much of the population to be relocated to the Kunduz marshlands, where a large number of people perished [15, 137]. Those unaccustomed to life in the marshes quickly fell victim to malaria.

The governor of Khulm, Qilich Ogha, ensured peace and stability in Southern Turkestan for fifteen years. Shortly before his death, he bequeathed to his two sons the instruction to obey the Emir of Bukhara, but his sons did not follow his will. One year after the death of Qilich Alikhan (at the end of 1820), an attack took place by the Qataghan beg (Muradbek, who was from the Qunduz Qataghan tribe). In Southern Turkestan, the main ally and vassal of Qilich Alikhan was the ruler of Qunduz, Muradbek Qataghan, later, in the struggle for regional leadership, Muradbek fought against the sons of his former ally [11, 79]. Muradbek of Qunduz was unable to fully subjugate the Uzbek principalities in Southern Turkestan. Until the mid-19th century, the principalities of Afghan Turkestan that were vassals of the Bukhara Emirate included Maymana, Saripul, Andkhoy, and Shibirghan [15, 137]. Therefore, it can be concluded that in Southern Turkestan, Muradbek of Qunduz struggled with the Emirs of Bukhara for supremacy. However, some principalities, nominally vassals of Bukhara, can be said to have submitted to the Emir out of fear of being conquered by Muradbek [23, 3]. It is clear that at the beginning of the 19th century, almost all the principalities of Southern Turkestan pursued independent policies.

In the 1830s-1840s, English intelligence reports indicate that the main ruler in Southern Turkestan was Muradbek Qataghan, the beg of Qunduz. These reports note that in the struggles for control over Southern Turkestan, Bukhara's strongest rival was not the Afghans, but Muradbek Qataghan, the mir of Qunduz [18, 490]. A. Burnes recorded that Muradbek's influence extended to the villages of Seygan and Kamard near Kabul. He noted that the ruler of Seygan, Muhammad Alibek, at times submitted to Kabul and at other times to Qunduz; he won the favor of the Kabul emir with horses and that of the Qunduz governor with beautiful Hazara girls taken captive. Additionally, the ruler of Kamard, Rahmatullo, a Tajik, was a tribute-payer to Muhammad Muradbek, the governor of Qunduz [15, 137]. The analysis of A. Burnes's data indicates that some of the Uzbek principalities in Afghan Turkestan were still part of the Bukhara Emirate. In his reports, he noted that the regular army of Bukhara numbered 20,000, while in wartime the militia, known as the Eljari, could reach 50,000, of which 10,000 were supplied by the principalities south of the Amu Darya [17, 483]. From this information, it can be inferred that during the 1840s-1850s, a portion of the principalities in Afghan Turkestan remained subordinate to Bukhara.

In the first half of the 19th century, the English began sending numerous envoys and spies into the territories of the Uzbek principalities. In many cases, these agents came incognito, disguised as Muslim pilgrims or merchants, but they were unable to establish close relations with the local rulers. The first official envoys to Badakhshan, Dr. Lord and Captain Woodlar, arrived in 1837 for two purposes: first, to reach an agreement with Muradbek, the ruler of Qunduz, on matters concerning Afghanistan, and second, to survey the upper reaches of the Amu Darya [23, 15]. At that time, the English had begun preparing to invade Afghanistan. The warm reception of Dost Muhammad Khan's Russian envoy, Yan Vitkevich, caused concern among the British. Relying on intelligence gathered by their agents during the early phase of the First Anglo-Afghan War, the head of the British administration in India, Sir Auckland, reported in a letter dated March 13, 1839, to the secret council of the East India Company that there was hope of gaining support from the Qunduz principality for the Sadazai dynasty, which had been restored in Afghanistan against the Barakzais [22, 18]. These reports were later confirmed to be accurate.

During the First Anglo-Afghan War, the Afghan army, technologically and tactically inferior to the British, was quickly defeated. The defeated Dost Muhammad Khan fled in August 1839 to Muhammad Aminbek, the governor of Khulm (Tashqurgan). There, despite personally traveling to seek assistance from the ruler of Qunduz, Muradbek, while also requesting help from Bukhara and Iran, he was unable to achieve any practical results. After the Emir of Bukhara, Nasrullo Khan, sent

an envoy offering Dost Muhammad Khan refuge and support, Dost Muhammad Khan set out for Bukhara [10, 198]. Historical sources indicate that Dost Muhammad Khan was treated like a captive upon his arrival in Bukhara. Risking his life, he was forced to flee from Bukhara and, after great hardship, finally reached the territory of Southern Turkestan [14,136]. Upon reaching Khulm (Tashqurgan), Dost Muhammad Khan, with the support of the Turkestan principalities, gathered an army of around 8,000 to fight against the British. Upon arriving in Khulm (Tashqurgan), Dost Muhammad Khan, with the support of the Turkestan principalities, gathered an army of around 8,000 to fight against the British. This army won a victory over the British at Bamiyan on September 17, 1840, and captured Bajgah and Saygan; however, they were ultimately forced to make peace with the British. Under this agreement, the governor of Khulm was not to provide Dost Muhammad Khan with refuge or assistance [10, 203]. It can be concluded that, although the Uzbek principalities achieved victory, they were forced to make peace with the British due to heavy losses. Regarding the struggle between the Uzbeks and the British, according to A. Kh. Babakhodjajev, Muhammad Amin and Dost Muhammad Khan's army of 8,000 engaged the British in battle at Parwan Darah. In this battle, the British suffered a crushing defeat, with prominent officials such as General Sale, the commander of their forces, and Dr. Lord, their political agent in the Hindu Kush, being killed. Although the Uzbeks also suffered heavy losses and were forced to make peace with the British, after this battle the British did not attempt again to advance into Central Asia through the Hindu Kush [1, 12]. It can be concluded that this battle was, above all, of great significance for the political history of the Bukhara Emirate.

The British pressure preventing Dost Muhammad from receiving support and refuge meant that he could no longer resist them, and Dost Muhammad Khan ultimately surrendered to the British. The beginning of a new struggle against the invaders is associated with Dost Muhammad Khan's son, Muhammad Akbar Khan. When Dost Muhammad Khan fled from Bukhara, Akbar Khan was imprisoned by Emir Nasrullo Khan. Following the events in Afghanistan, the Islamic clergy in Bukhara began to exert pressure the Emir, and at their request, Muhammad Akbar Khan was released. When Akbar Khan arrived in Balkh, he was warmly received by the general populace, and six thousand cavalymen began to support him [3, 88]. The second phase of the struggle against the British also saw active participation from the populations of the Uzbek principalities. Between 1838 and 1842, the national liberation movement of the peoples of Afghanistan culminated in the complete expulsion of the British. However, it was still impossible to completely rid themselves of British influence. On March 30, 1855, Dost Muhammad Khan reached an agreement with the British, which stipulated that he would be "friend to the British and enemy to their enemies." According to the 1857 treaty, in exchange for military and financial assistance, control over foreign policy passed entirely into British hands [26, 29].

Having consolidated his rule in Afghanistan, Dost Muhammad Khan began campaigns to occupy Southern Turkestan around the 1850s. During this period, Balkh was captured, and the territories in Southern Turkestan that were subordinate to Afghanistan were placed under the administration of his then-living son, Muhammad Afzal Khan. Although Afzal Khan launched several military campaigns against Qunduz and Badakhshan, he was unable to fully subjugate them [24, 23]. According to some historical sources, in 1850 Dost Muhammad Khan sent his third son, Muhammad Akram Khan, with a large army to occupy Little Turkestan. After the Balkh principality was conquered, the rulers of the principalities of Aqcha, Shibirghan, Andkhoy, Khulm, Saripul, and Qataghan recognized Afghan suzerainty. During the 1850s, the newly subjugated Afghan Turkestan, known as the Chahar Wilayat, was established [10, 223]. Initially, in the 1850s, the province of Afghan Turkestan was established, later also known as the Chahar Wilayat. Dost Muhammad Khan appointed his eldest son, Afzal Khan, as its governor [6, 153]. Nevertheless, historical sources note that several principalities continued to pursue independent policies. Ottoman archives record that in 1851 envoys from Central Asian rulers visited Istanbul, and among them was the envoy from the Andkhoy principality [7, 178]. Thus, it is evident that in the 1850s, Andkhoy pursued an independent policy.

By the 1850s, a number of Uzbek principalities conducted entirely independent policies. Furthermore, the principalities of Balkh, Shibirghan, Qunduz, Maymana, Mazar-i-Sharif, Andkhoy,

and Khulm exchanged envoys with each other, considering themselves equal in status to Dost Muhammad Khan [13, 10]. According to information on the political status of the 1840s-1850s, the ruler of the Khulm principality, Mir Muhammad Amin, held the title of vali (deputy) until 1836 and paid tribute to the Qunduz principality. Due to its small population, Balkh only became independent in the 1840s. While the ruler of Mazar-i-Sharif, Eshon Shujaiddin, was also an independent ruler, the ruler of Aqcha, Eshon Oraq, remained a vassal of the Emir of Bukhara [15, 139].

The subjugation of the Uzbek principalities in Southern Turkestan to Afghanistan began between 1849 and 1851. After a brief period of independence, Balkh was first brought under control, followed by the principalities of Khulm and Aqcha. In 1858, the Qunduz principality acknowledged Afghan suzerainty, and in 1859, Badakhshan declared its vassalage to Dost Muhammad Khan, the ruler of Afghanistan [8, 20]. However, the complete subjugation of Badakhshan was achieved only in the 1870s. Historical sources provide varying accounts of how the Uzbek principalities were brought under control. According to S. A. Shumov and A. R. Andreyev, differing from the views mentioned above, Dost Muhammad Khan subjugated the Uzbek principalities in Southern Turkestan in the following chronological order. Here it is mentioned that in 1856, the Balkh and Khulm districts, in 1858, the Oqcha, Shibirgon, and Andkhoy districts, and in 1861, the Qunduz and Badakhshan districts were subordinated to Afghanistan as vassals [25, 47]. The lands on the right bank of the Amu Darya, belonging to the Bukhara Emirate, were seized in the mid-19th century, which led to a sharp deterioration in relations with the Bukhara Emirate. However, there are no specific historical records in the literature regarding Nasrullo Khan's active struggle against Dost Mohammad Khan. Mirza Abdulazim Somiy mentions that there was a struggle between the two sides, but without going into the details of the battle. He notes that in 1859, a peace treaty was signed, according to which the border between the two states was agreed to be the Amu Darya. During this period, the Uzbek beks of Maymana, Aqcha, and Balkh, which had not yet been subjugated by the Afghans, were handed over to Dost Mohammad Khan. It is also mentioned that these beks were eventually subdued by Sherali Khan after intense efforts over 60-70 years. [12, 155]

During the reign of Dost Mohammad Khan, the vassalage of the Uzbek beks to Afghanistan was limited to certain payments, and the terms of vassalage of some of these beks are described in historical literature. For example, the principality of Badakhshan annually sent two rupees' worth of rubies from each household to the treasury in Kabul. After the death of Dost Mohammad Khan, Badakhshan paid 15,000 rupees (9,000 rubles) and transferred to the vassalage of Bukhara [20, 121]. That is, it passed from Afghanistan into the possession of the Bukhara Emirate. Even during the period when Russian and Afghan conquests of Turkestan were ongoing, no unification among the principalities was observed. During the time of Vambéry's travels, the small Principality of Maymana alone waged a heroic struggle against the Afghans. Hermann Vambéry wrote that legends were composed about the bravery of the people of Maymana, and that in 1862 the Afghans, even together with the rulers of Andkhoy and Balkh from among the Uzbek principalities, were unable to subdue Maymana. He also recorded that the Emir of Bukhara supported the ruler of Maymana, Hikmat Khan, and after his death, his son Husayn Khan, providing Husayn Khan with financial assistance amounting to 10,000 gold coins [15, 139].

According to Russian intelligence reports of 1873, the Afghans captured Balkh and Andkhoy in 1854, but were unable to subdue Maymana [21, 93]. In addition, materials from the Turkiston to'plami note that during the reign of Dost Mohammad Khan, the ruler (beg) of Kunduz, Murodbek of Qataghan, managed to preserve his independence [15, 138]. The ruler (beg) of Kunduz, Murodbek Qataghan, not only preserved his independence but even laid claim to the territories of the Bukhara Emirate on the right bank of the Amu Darya. His army reportedly consisted of 30,000 cavalry and 6 cannons, and the regions of Roshan and Shughnan, located north of the Amu Darya, were compelled to pay tribute to Murodbek.

Muradbek was unable to subdue Darwaz, primarily because the narrow mountain passes made it impossible to move large numbers of troops into the region [16, 139]. Muradbek Qataghan also implemented a number of measures aimed at preserving the independence of his state. One of these was gathering intelligence through spies, using payments and bribes to obtain information. An article

Journal of Innovation in Education and Social Research, Volume: 4 Issue: 3 Year: 2026, ISSN: 2992-894X published in issue No. 48 of November 26, 1878, of the newspaper Nedelya reports that during his travels, Alexander Burnes encountered a spy of Murodbek, the ruler of Kunduz, in Kabul [19, 201a]. This serves to confirm the points mentioned above.

In conclusion, the early 19th century marked a period of independence for the beks of Southern Turkestan, providing them with an opportunity to unite and potentially develop as a cohesive political, historical, and cultural entity. However, internal disagreements, the intensity of socio-economic relations, and the limitations of the domestic market prevented such unification. From the mid-19th century onwards, the threat of Afghan invasions increased, and Dost Mohammad Khan's aggression toward Southern Turkestan intensified. Nevertheless, the complete subjugation of Southern Turkestan ultimately fell to his successor, Sherali Khan.

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