

Mapping Diplomacy: Khanate of Khiva and Russian Empire Relations in Focus

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Abstract: This article explores the unique aspects of the relationship between the Khanate of Khiva and the Russian Empire during the period when Khiva was a vassal state. It examines the diplomatic institutions, positions, and individuals involved in managing this relationship. The article highlights the specific duties and activities of these key figures and institutions, shedding light on the nature of Khiva's dependence on the Russian Empire. Through this analysis, it provides a comprehensive understanding of the diplomatic dynamics and the roles played by various actors in maintaining the vassalage. This study offers valuable insights into the historical interactions between the Khanate of Khiva and the Russian Empire, contributing to the broader knowledge of imperial and vassal state relationships in the region.

1 INTRODUCTION

Following its subjugation by the Russian Empire in 1873, the Khanate of Khiva entered into a state of vassalage as stipulated by the Gandimyan Treaty, effectively becoming a protectorate. This resulted in a significant diminution of its area as the Russian Empire absorbed the annexated provinces, engulfing the Khanate under its sphere of influence. Along with the loss of political autonomy, Khiva also saw its economic independence erode with the abolition of its currency, the introduction of the Russian ruble, and its integration into the imperial customs system in 1895. In response to these changes, specialized diplomatic entities were established to manage bilateral relations, and their roles and functions are for the first time documented and analyzed here for academic scrutiny. It is noteworthy that the Russian Empire's policing and judicial mechanisms were extended to protect its subjects within Khiva's domain. Alongside, the Khan introduced the role of “Aksakal” — the respected elder — to advocate for and safeguard the interests of Khivan inhabitants in the territories adjoining the Khanate, illustrating the complex layers of socio-political interactions characteristic of the era.

2 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The object of the research is Khiva – Russia relations during the period of vassalage (1873 – 1917), the tasks of the agencies responsible for conducting mutual relations, activities of the persons who worked there. Historical–chronological analysis, systematic analysis, comparison, and generalization methods were used in the research. In previous studies, historical data were merely reported without analysis.

3 ANALYSIS

For the first time, information is given about the subtle aspects, tasks, and diplomats who worked there during the period of vassalage (protectorate) between the Khanate of Khiva and the Russian Empire. Also, the legal bases of the police and judicial system of the Russians operating in the territory of the khanate, as well as the conflicting situations in bilateral relations in this regard, have been revealed.

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4 DISCUSSION

After 1873, Russia occupied the Khanate of Khiva and pursued a policy of introducing colonial procedures that suited its interests. First of all, it was necessary to sign an agreement defining bilateral relations, primarily serving Russian interests. The treaty between the Russian Empire and the Khanate of Khiva was signed on August 12, 1873, in Gandimyan Park near the city of Khiva by Khan of Khiva Mohammad Rakhim Khan (1864 – 1910) and Governor General von Kaufman of Turkestan. Therefore, this agreement entered history under the name “Gandimyan Agreement”.

The first clause of the agreement stated that Sayyed Mohammad Rakhim Bakhadirkhan considered himself a servant of the Russian motherland, meaning that the Khanate of Khiva had been totally bereft of its political independence. He attempts to establish blood and other agreements with the neighboring governors and khans, stays in touch with them through correspondence, and avoids inciting conflict with the great Russian ruler who lives in Mawarannah (Transoxiana) and the neighboring provinces without permission or response.

The right bank of the Amu Darya (Oxus), where the Karakalpaks resided, as well as the Karakum desert, which was home to Turkmen tribes, were all included into the Russian Empire.

These circumstances were legally confirmed in the second, third, and fourth articles of this contract. In addition, the Khan was entrusted with the obligation to allocate land from the left bank of the river to the owners of the lands on the right bank of the Amu Darya. As a result, the territory of the Khanate of Khiva was reduced several times, and according to the contract, it was only 54 thousand square versts (that is, 73 thousand km²). According to another source, the territory of the Khanate of Khiva was 59,250 versts by 1913. Administrative – territorial departments of the empire's management system were created directly in the properties forcibly transferred to Russia. On the lands of the Turkmen tribes, the Transcaspien region was established, and on the right bank of the Amu Darya, the Amu Darya branch of the Turkestan general governorship under the Syr Darya (Jaxartes) region was established.

Furthermore, the Russian administration, which sought to establish a persistent area of contention with the adjacent Bukhara Emirate, resolved to cede a swath of territory on the right bank of the Amu Darya – from Mishogli to Kogartli – on the Emirate's control. This transfer aimed to endow the Bukhara

Emirate with the responsibility of safeguarding the trade corridors traversing these lands. “These lands are hereby conferred to the Emir of Bukhara, who shall assume all obligations and responsibilities for the security of the trade routes crucial for Russia in the Amu Darya basin,” documented Colonel Glukhovsky.

The peace agreement also mentions the decree issued by Sayyed Mohammad Rakhim Bakhadurkhan on June 12, 1873, to release all captives in the Khanate, to end slavery and human trafficking forever. The slaves were set free as soon as the Khan's authorities put this proclamation into effect. During the occupation of the Khanate of Khiva by Russian troops, on the initiative of von Kaufman, a “charter” with 15 articles was developed on the management of the country. In accordance with the stipulations set forth in the fourth article of the charter, a seven-member advisory council, known as the “Devon,” was to be established under the leadership of the Khan to administer state affairs. This council was to be a bipartite body with appointments made both by the Russians and the Khiva Khanate. The Russian Empire's representation included four individuals: Pozharov, a lieutenant colonel on the main staff of the Russian troops in Turkestan; Ivanov, a lieutenant colonel of the artillery; Khoroshkin, an officer from the Ural contingent; and Altinbayev, a merchant from Tashkent. From the Khiva Khanate, the appointees to the ‘Devon’ included Matniyaz devanbegi—essentially the chief minister responsible for state affairs; Eltuzar Inók, a tribal leader holding sway over local clan matters; and Abdallahbey Mehtar, the treasury head in charge of the Khanate's financial management. Oversight of the ‘Devon's’ resolutions was entrusted to the Governor General of Turkestan, who retained the authority to appoint or dismiss members of the council.

The August 12, 1873, agreement precipitated the excision of territories on the right bank of the Amu Darya from the Khiva Khanate, resulting in the establishment of the Amu Darya Department within the Syr Darya Region, subordinate to the Turkestan General Governorate. The 1886 ‘Regulation on the Administration of the Turkestan Territory’, enacted by the Russian Empire, endowed the head of the Amu Darya Department with extensive administrative powers over the Khiva Khanate and bestowed the dual role of the Empire's diplomatic representative to the Khanate. The head of the Amu Darya department was directly subordinate to the governor-general of Turkestan, in violation of established procedures in the empire, and had extensive powers. The head of this administrative department was the only person

with direct authority over any relations with the Khanate of Khiva. Since the Amu Darya department was defined as a component of the Syr Darya region and its head had to report to the head of the area, as per the "Regulation on the Administration of Turkestan Territory" that Emperor Alexander III (1881–1894) adopted in 1886. It may be argued that the Russian authorities were happy since they gave their dealings with the Khanate of Khiva more consideration and responsibility.

The city of Petro–Aleksandrovsk (now known as the city Tórtkúl) served as the administrative hub of the Amu Darya department, housing the office of its head. Initially, Colonel M. Galkin was appointed to this pivotal role. The vastness of the department's jurisdiction, both in terms of territory and administrative complexity, coupled with the numerous fiscal and economic responsibilities incumbent upon the department head, necessitated the creation of a distinct role. Thus, the position of second assistant to the head of the Amu Darya department was established, tasked specifically with managing relations with the Khanate of Khiva, overseeing administrative functions, and maintaining official correspondence.

An independent office was allocated for the assistant of the Amu Darya department, staffed with diplomatic personnel and translators. The responsibilities of these departmental employees encompassed the drafting, substance, and integrity of all official communications with the Khanate of Khiva, as well as the supervision of the issuance and reception of documents by the department head. Furthermore, a designated 'Diplomatic official' within the administration of the Governor General of Turkestan meticulously maintained all official records pertaining to the Khanate of Khiva. This official bore the critical responsibility of ensuring the meticulous execution of diplomatic relations with both the Khiva Khanate and the Bukhara Emirate. The official in this position was subordinate to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia. Concurrently, with the ongoing expansion of bilateral commercial and trade ties, the Russian Empire's Consulate General in Khiva was situated in New Urgench, which was regarded as the Khiva Khanate's principal hub for commerce, industry, and banking.

To expedite the resolution of issues and facilitate the enhancement of economic and trade relations arising from bilateral interactions, the Khanate of Khiva established the role of a consul — a diplomatic envoy — in Petro–Aleksandrovsk. The consul, residing permanently in the city, served as a vital link between the Khanate and the Russian administrative

apparatus. Nurmohammadbey Aminiddinbayev, a trusted confidant of the Khan, adeptly fulfilled these responsibilities for an extended period [18]. Initially, the Khanate and the Amu Darya departments conducted mutual correspondence in their respective official languages, with documents from Khiva penned in Uzbek. These were conveyed to the department via the Khiva consul, where departmental translators would translate them into Russian before forwarding them to Tashkent. The head of the Amu Darya department recommended a major procedural change in 1896: going forward, communication coming from the Khanate had to be written in Russian. In order to bring about this modification, Akhmadjhan Agayev, a Tatar-born Russian citizen with extensive translation expertise and fluency in the regional Uzbek language, was hired to work in Khiva. His primary duty was the Russian translation of official diplomatic communications emanating from the Khanate through Petro–Aleksandrovsk to the various bureaus of the Russian Empire. Concurrently, he was to teach the Russian language to some employees of the government of Khiva.

During the period of dependence, the Khanate of Khiva did not maintain diplomatic relations with Russia in accordance with international legal standards. Resolutions to conflicts and disagreements were typically managed at the level of the head of the Amu Darya department or mediated through a diplomatic official at the court of the Turkestan Governor General. Mohammad Rakhimkhan II, along with his Prime Minister Islam Khoja, undertook multiple visits to Russia to negotiate on behalf of the Khanate. A prominent figure in these reformative endeavours was the Waziru – Akbar—essentially the Prime Minister of Khiva—who played a pivotal role in the modernization efforts within the Khanate. The Waziru–Akbar's negotiations during his visits yielded substantial advancements, including authorization to establish a contemporary postal service within Khiva, the construction of a hospital and schools modeled on European standards, and the introduction of technological innovations.

The Khivan Khan, Asfandiyarkhan (1910-1918), embarked on a visit to Russia while still a prince. An official document dated June 7, 1909, from the Turkestan Governor General's Court to the Diplomatic Officer states: "...On the morrow, June 8, an envoy led by the Crown Prince of the Khivan Khanate, Asfandiyar Tura, is anticipated to arrive in Tashkent via the postal train. The envoy's party consists of four dignitaries, Captain Hussainbek, Abdullah Madrasul, Mirza Matvaf Yusuphov, the translator Komilov, an additional five mahrams —

court officials — and a retinue of ten attendants. Major-General Bloomer has received instructions to proceed to the station, extend diplomatic greetings to the envoys, and facilitate their sojourn in Tashkent". The accompanying directives to this communiqué meticulously outlined the protocol for receiving the envoys, including their accommodation arrangements, the organization of a commemorative banquet, and the specifics of speeches to be delivered. After his ascension to the Khivan throne, Asfandiyarkhan frequented Russia on multiple occasions. These excursions were predominantly personal in nature, undertaken by Asfandiyarkhan without the intent of fostering formal interstate relations, engaging in substantive negotiations, or forging treaties under the auspices of international diplomatic norms. Asfandiyarkhan, whose preoccupation with personal indulgence was evident, lavishly expended Khivan resources during his visits to Tashkent, Moscow, Saint Petersburg, and Crimea. He was noted for bestowing monetary gifts and lavish presents upon Russian dignitaries, inclusive of the Emperor and his kin. For instance, historical records note that in February 1917, during a journey to Saint Petersburg via Tashkent, he presented a 'donation' of 10,000 rubles to the Governor-General of Turkestan. Additional documented contributions include 2,500 rubles to Claudia Semyanovna Yerafeyeva of the Tashkent Ladies' Committee, 2,500 rubles to the "Yasli" orphanage, 1,000 rubles to the Turkestan Charitable Society, and 600 rubles towards the medical expenses of the Caucasian Army, cumulatively totalling 16,600 rubles disbursed until October 1917. Noteworthy, the dispersed funds exclusively benefited individuals of European descent, without any allocation reaching members of the indigenous Muslim community.

It was well known that a large number of Khiva residents frequently traveled to Turkestan and Russia for business or to handle civic matters. A few of them made permanent residence in cities since they were handy places to dwell. Because of this, the position of special representative of the Khiva administration, known as an elder, was formed in a number of Turkestan cities at the suggestion of Muhammad Rahimkhan, the Khan of Khiva. The Governor-General of Turkestan's directives, authorized on April 28, 1899, were followed in the process of approving delegates for this position. Based on this, Dostman Mahkam Quliev, a resident of Khiva, was chosen as the elder for the Khiva people residing in Ashgabat, the capital of the Transcaspiian area, and its environs on the advice of the Khan of Khiva. Following the same procedure, with the recommendation of the

Khan of Khiva and a special letter and appeal from the government of Khiva, Otajon Avazniyozov initially became the elder for the Khiva people living in the city and uyezd of Marv. Subsequently, Muhammadshirin Muhammad Yakubov was appointed as the elder for the Khiva people in the city and uyezd of Chorjoi, followed by the appointments of first Khudaibergan Vaisov and then Muhammadaminboy Avazmuhammedov.

Russian nationals, traders, and businesspeople started traveling to the nation in order to take full advantage of the Khiva Khanate's economic riches and make large sums of money. At the start of the 1900s, the Khiva Khanate was home to hundreds of small business owners in addition to over thirty corporations and companies that were part of the Russian Empire's elite business circles and operated throughout several nations. As a result, there was a rise in the number of immigrants leaving the Russian Empire; at that time, there were reportedly over a thousand Russian residents residing in the Khiva Khanate.

Furthermore, each year, the Khanate of Khiva welcomed numerous Russian nationals from the Russian Empire, who engaged in trade and various other activities. Following an in-depth inquiry into the socio-economic conditions of the region conducted by Count Palen — a senator commissioned by the Russian Emperor — the establishment of an arbitration court representative of the Russian Empire was initiated, alongside the introduction of a municipal police officer role. These developments were a direct response to the appeals and needs articulated by the Empire's citizens residing and conducting business within the Khanate of Khiva. As a result, the decisions and judgments of the Court system of the Russian Empire were enforced in the territory of the Khiva Khanate, as well as in the entire Turkestan region, and even on the citizens of Khiva, they were strictly enforced.

For this purpose, it was envisaged that mobile sessions of the Samarkand district court would be organized in the cities of New Urgench and Petro-Aleksandrovsk, and the positions of permanent working court investigators would be established in these cities. In addition to this, on June 1, 1912, the highest echelons of the Russian Empire approved Law No. 28, "On the Implementation of Russian Jurisdiction in the Khanate of Khiva," which was adopted by the Russian authorities. This edict stipulated that an impartial arbitrator was to be appointed and function inside the Khiva Khanate's borders starting on January 1, 1913. The rulings of

this court were to apply to people of Khiva and Russia equally.

This activity of the Russian authorities can be explained by the disdainful violation of the sovereign rights of the Khanate of Khiva as a separate state, and the fact that in the views of Russian officials following the traditions of imperialism, this country was considered to be a remote province of the empire. Even the idea of ending the Khanate of Khiva altogether, turning it into a separate province of the Russian Empire, began to be discussed in the mass media. For example, in issue 137 of 1912, the newspaper "Utro Rossii" [Russian Morning] published in the Russian Empire, published an article entitled "Isn't it time to turn Khiva into a Russian province?".

The report claimed that the Khiva Khanate will be abolished and turned into a Russian province, bringing "civilization to the wild, backward local people." But with the approaching international conflicts and the possibility of war, the Russian ruling class disregarded this matter. Nevertheless, high-ranking officials in the Russian Empire's capital were continuously preoccupied with the problem of Khiva and its socioeconomic and political existence. The "situation in Bukhara and Khiva" was thoroughly reviewed at a special meeting of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs on March 11, 1913. Among the responsible parties present at the meeting were the head of the General Staff's Asian Department, the Russian Political Agent in Bukhara, the Consul General in Urgench, the diplomatic officer reporting to the Governor General of Turkestan, and other members of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Council. The summit covered in great depth the economic, social-political, religious, and ethnic conditions in Khiva as well as every facet of the Khanate's daily existence. It is known that Russia's entry into the First World War in 1914 had a profound impact not only on the population of the empire and the Turkestan region but also on the internal life of the Khanate of Khiva, which was considered its vassal. The war exacerbated the economic life of the Khanate of Khiva, and the social situation in the country worsened, which, in turn, led to an increase in the discontent of the population within the Khanate, and the rise of the national liberation struggle to a new level. In 1915 – 1916, popular uprisings occurred in Khiva. Additionally, there was a movement of the Jadids, a group of enlightened individuals with a democratic disposition, who were advocates for reforming the existing khanate system.

5 CONCLUSIONS

The Russian Empire conquered the Khanate of Khiva in 1873. The Khanate of Khiva was deprived of its political and economic rights and turned into a vassal, dependent state. During this period, mutual relations were conducted based on the military–political power and potential of the Russian Empire, which kept smaller peoples in obedience, protecting their rights, and treating them indifferently from the perspective of imperialism. Similar relations were established with the Khanate of Khiva. The Gandimyan Treaty, signed in 1873 between the Russian Empire and the Khanate of Khiva, along with the agreements and contracts signed in subsequent years, were essentially colonial and were made against the interests and will of the Khiva people.

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