

# Socio-Economic Life in the Surkhan Oasis at the End of the 19th Century - The Beginning of the 20th Century

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**Abstract:** This article talks about handicraft products necessary for the daily life of residents of the Surkhan oasis in the beginning of the 19th-20th centuries, goods produced by the residents, types of handicrafts formed in the oasis from the early Iron Age to the present day.

**Keywords:** Termiz, Chaganiyan, Darzangi, blacksmithing, glassmaking, metalworking, Russian merchants, Surkhan tannery.

Surkhondaryo region is one of the ancient oases of the Republic of Uzbekistan. Surkhondaryo is not only an oasis of developed culture, art, and science, but also a region with developed crafts and trade. Handicraft products produced in the region have their customers in the markets of foreign countries.

According to historical and archeological sources, in the Middle Ages, Surkhondaryo was mainly engaged in sheep farming and cotton farming, which was necessary for the textile industry. In the early Middle Ages, Arabic and Persian sources report that woolen clothes and carpets were among the products produced in Termiz and Chaganiyan regions [1. 35].

Darzangi town was considered the center of textile industry in Chaganiyan region. This town is located at the confluence of Surkhondaryo River of Bandikhonsoy in the present Kumkurgan district, which is located around Bandikhonsaray. Most of the inhabitants of Darzangi were artisans of movut production, they made warm clothes, woolen carpets [2].

Along with weaving, pottery also developed in the oasis. Not only masters of big cities such as Termiz and Chaganiyan were engaged in this work, but also in small cities. Pottery products produced in the region differed from products produced in other regions in terms of their extreme hardness, preservation with delicate taste, and decoration with various paintings and decorations.

In the estates of Termiz and Chaganiyan, along with textiles, pottery, glassmaking and metalworking developed rapidly. This is proved by the physical evidence found in Sherabad, Termiz, Budrach and other places. The people of Termiz and Chaganiyan were skilled masters of glassmaking. Currently, the Chinese, who are attracting the attention of the whole world with their glassware, learned some of the secrets of glass processing from the masters of Termiz and Chaganiyan in the past. The famous American scientist E. Shoffer in his work "Golden peaches of Samarkand" based on Chinese sources, cites the above-mentioned opinion [3. 2].

Various iron remains, mines and miners' quarters found in Kohitang, Boysuntog and Bobotog show that the people of our oasis were also famous for making iron products.

According to historical sources, from the time of the early Kushans, natural resources and their exchange from the southern Hisar mountains became important. According to the available archaeological evidence, the first settlements of blacksmiths were established in the II-I centuries BC on the southern slopes of Boysuntog, in the Kohitang mountains. The further development of this process can be observed on the example of medieval Toda and Khojakoshkaran mines and existing mining workshops in those places. Blacksmithing in the vicinity of Boysuntog was famous for its high-quality iron products. Therefore, in medieval sources, the quality iron of Basand (Boysun) was sometimes equated with gold. Molten iron was brought to cities and processed in special workshops. There were special blacksmiths' quarters in the cities. In particular, in the 10th-12th centuries, in the Rabat part of the city of Termiz, the blacksmiths' neighborhood occupied an area of about 8 hectares [4. 3].

Also, countries such as Bactria-Toharistan have been engaged in jewelry since ancient times. As a proof of this, various metal objects found in Sopollitepa, Jarqo'ton, and the treasure of Dalvarzintepa gold objects of the Kushan period are the proof of our opinion.

The products made by the craftsmen of the Surkhandarya oasis were exported to neighboring countries, including Parthia, Sogd, Chin-Mochin, Azerbaijan and other neighboring countries and were highly valued [5. 2,3 ].

In Bukhara Emirate, although trade and industrial re-production attracted attention, industrial extraction was low. Several branches of trade, created by the demand of the population, have taken a strong place in the Bukhara markets. Trade relations were especially good with India and European countries.

Also, the strengthening of Bukhara's relations with Russia, and the fact that Bukhara had trade relations with the countries located in the south-east of Bukhara, proves that Bukhara was indeed a major trade center. Later, in the 17th and 18th centuries, trade relations with India were terminated, but since the 18th century, due to the growing needs of the local population, conditions for opening warehouses for Russian goods have been created in the Bukhara Emirate itself. This process was followed by the demand of the trade market in Bukhara, mainly from Moscow, then other firms opened their warehouses in Bukhara. Russian merchants and entrepreneurs started processing cotton fibers. It should be said that the work of Russian manufacturers was not successful. Because the patterns given in the gazlams corresponded to the taste of Russians. However, it did not suit the taste of Bukhara merchants. Special experts were sent on a business trip, collecting samples of Bukhara gas products, and on this basis, production of gas products typical of Bukhara manufacture was started in all factories in Moscow and Vladimir. The increase in demand for gas products and the opening of the Russo-Chinese bank branch in 1903 contributed to the development of trade, providing loans to local merchants on a large scale. It should be noted that the demand for local gray fabric is still high in the territory of the Bukhara Emirate. The reason is that this fabric was widely used by the villagers. In addition, cheap gray fabrics were imported. In Surkhandarya, janda played an important role in people's consumption. For example, in 1911, 29,600 poods of gray were brought from Chordjoi station. Even factory-made products could not remove this gray cloth from production [6. 32] .

After manufacturing, the trade of kerosene, sewing machines, confectionery, thread, iron and other things gradually began to develop, and the relationship of Bukhara buyers with Russian companies increased year by year. Silk, semi-silk and paper products were processed in the artisanal way. Because factory production has not been established [7. 62] .

The domestic iron production industry gave way to Russian-made products. The reason for this is that the extraction of a small amount of iron in Eastern Bukhara and the price of its processing has become expensive or the price and price have been considered high.

The peoples who lived in the Bukhara Emirate did not pay enough attention to the mining of gold, silver, iron, and copper. The minerals in the fossil mines did not completely satisfy the demands of the population. In addition, it could not compete with the Russians in the production of metal products. Due to the lack of capital in the development of recycling, the lack or absence of equipment, and the fact that the furnaces were not built on the basis of modern construction, they tried to satisfy the needs of the people of Bukhara by reproducing a small amount of products. But in this period, there was a high demand for cast iron workers. In particular, the development of cotton growing in agriculture has increased the demand for metal plows, which are placed on the plough, made of cast iron. Cast iron gradually began to move from working alone to working in groups. In other words, new relationships began to emerge among cast members. This network activity has been widely implemented not only in the city, but also in the countryside. There are 8 potters in Bukhara, and their products are sold in 4 shops. Such a famous potter's neighborhood was also in Sariosia district of Surkhandarya. Cultivating devices (sashniks) prepared by them were also delivered to the surrounding farms [8. 63,64] .

Russian businessmen began to work in Bukhara region with the gold industry. However, the lack of or lack of a medium of exchange hindered the development of large-scale commercial enterprises.

It should be said that the minimum amount of training in leather production, cotton processing industry and silk production was given to local businessmen. In Bukhara alone, the population of 52 quarters of the city was engaged in this field [9. 27] . There was a high demand for leather processing (tanning) products in Surkhandarya. The demand of villagers and artisans for local tanned skins was mainly met by tanners. The hides they prepared were used to make various articles, shoes and bags of all kinds, leather boxes for carrying valuables, horse harness, knife and sword scabbards, book covers, binders, and bags for storing kitchen utensils, and such articles were decorated with patterns [ 10. 31,32] .

In particular, one of the unique features of the Surkhan leather industry is the leather used for the soles of shoes, which is made from almond, apricot, and cherry tree roots. Depending on the type of karmak, the base of the karmak is red, yellow, or brown in color. In the oasis, the neighborhoods of leather workers, vachoyan casters are still known under this name [11. 231] .

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