

# The End Of The Kokand Khanate By The Russian Empire And The Formation Of The Ferghana Region As Represented In Sources

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**Abstract:** This article reflects the work done by the Russian Empire to conquer the Kokand Khanate, the organization of the Ferghana region, and the policy pursued by the ruling Kokand Khan Khudoyar Khan during the period of the threat posed by the Russian Empire.

**Key words:** Russian Empire, Kokand Khanate, Khudoyar Khan, Orenburg Fortress, General Von Kaufman, Raim Fortress, the capture of Tashkent, Amir Lashkar Alimkul.

## INTRODUCTION

The historical events of the liquidation of the Kokand Khanate by the Russian Empire and the formation of the Ferghana region are among the important processes that occurred in the middle of the 19th century. This period coincides with a period when the Russian Empire began to attempt to conquer the territories of the three khanates existing in Central Asia. In the competition between Great Britain and the Russian Empire for the conquest of Central Asia, which received the name of the concept of the "Great Game" in geopolitics, Russia, which was superior in various factors, was conquering the Uzbek khanates in the region one after another.

The military campaigns organized by the Russian Emperor Alexander II completely occupied Central Asia and were aimed at Afghanistan, and from there at India. The conquest of India by Great Britain also gave an impetus to the emperor's activity in foreign policy. Bilateral relations between the Russian Empire and the Kokand Khanate had a rather complicated history.

## RESEARCH METHODS

The southward expansion of Russia's borders after the 16th century and the oath of allegiance of the Kazakh zhuzes to the Russian emperor in the 1740s brought the borders between the two states closer together. This, in turn, worried the Kokand khans [1.225]. The Kokand Khanate, trying to maintain its independent policy, feared constant conflicts and wars with Russia and its neighboring states, and sought ways to preserve the integrity of its territory. In such a situation, in the 1930s, in connection with the events related to the admission of the Kazakhs of the Middle and Small Juz to Russian citizenship, Russia further intensified its aggressive policy towards the Central Asian khanates.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The Kokand Khanate (late 18th - mid-19th centuries) was the largest of the Central Asian khanates, with its main territories located in the Ferghana Valley, and its capital was the city of Kokand. The Kokand Khanate had its own independent political structure, social system, and economic potential. However, in the mid-19th century, the policy of the Russian Empire to expand its territories towards Central Asia began to threaten the independence of the khanates. In order to protect the Kazakhs, who were considered Russian citizens, in 1847 the Orenburg military governor Obruchev built the Raim fortress near the lower reaches of the Syrdarya River for the Russian tsar. He proposed to capture the Akmasjid fortress belonging to the Kokand Khanate. In fact, this fortress was supposed to serve as a base for Russia in future military campaigns [2]. Another such fortification was the Kopal fortress built on the Seven Waters Alatau. According to sources, the new governor of Orenburg, Perovsky, took the initiative in 1852 and sent Colonel Blaramberg with a detachment of 500 men to attack the Kokand Khanate. The detachment destroyed two fortresses of the khanate, Kumushkargan and Chimkurgan, but failed at Akmasjid and turned back. This fortress was a border fortress built in 1817 by order of Amir Umar Khan and was of great strategic importance for the khanate [3]. In 1853, Perovsky personally led an "expedition" to Akmasjid. 300 soldiers armed with 3 cannons in the fortress, due

to the imbalance of forces and the lack of help from Shymkent, lost the Akmasjid fortress on July 27 after a 22-day siege. Akmasjid was soon renamed Fort Perovsky and was used as a base for further campaigns.

This gradually led to the formation of the Orenburg and Western Siberian, and later Syrdarya border lines. The military-political leadership of the Russian Empire decided to unite these border lines. This meant the beginning of continuous military campaigns in Central Asia. By the early 1860s, the village of Yangikurgan and the Pishpak fortress (now the city of Bishkek) on the right bank of the Syrdarya, which were the extreme points of these directions, had already become part of the Russian state. The next target of the Russian Empire was Tashkent, one of the largest cities and a trading center of the Kokand Khanate. The Russian military understood very well that Tashkent was strategically very convenient, and by capturing it, it would be possible to create a bridgehead for future campaigns against the Kokand Khanate and the Emirate of Bukhara. In 1864, two detachments, one from Orenburg and the other from Western Siberia, set out towards each other. The Western Siberian detachment, led by Colonel Chernyaev, with 2,500 men, set out from Verniy (Almaty) and stormed the fortress of Avliyoata on June 5, 1864. The Orenburg detachment, consisting of 1,200 men, led by Colonel Veryovkin, marched from Perovsky Fort to the city of Turkestan and occupied it on June 12. Chernyaev, leaving the garrison in Avliyoata, moved with a detachment of 1,298 men towards Shymkent and stormed the city on September 23 [23]. Now the road to Tashkent, the largest trading center in Central Asia, was open. After the victory in Shymkent, Chernyaev rushed to capture Tashkent. However, the attack was a complete failure and he was forced to retreat.

According to the "Turkistan Collection", in 1865, with the annexation of the newly conquered and former Syrdarya line territories, the Turkestan region was formed, and Chernyaev was appointed its military governor. On April 29, Chernyaev, following rumors that the Emir of Bukhara was planning to capture Tashkent, occupied the small Niyozbek fortress, which allowed him to control the waters entering Tashkent. He set up camp 8 versts from Tashkent with a detachment of 1,951 people and 12 cannons. At that time, the commander-in-chief of the Kokand Khanate, Amiralkar Alimkul, had organized a defense in Tashkent with 50 cannons and 30,000 soldiers. On May 9, fierce battles began for the city [5.526]. Initially, the Kokand army began to prevail, but Amiralkar Alimkul was seriously wounded by a bullet and died. His death brought about a turning point in the defense of Tashkent: the struggle of political groups within the city intensified, which weakened the defenses of the fortress walls. Chernyaev decided to take advantage of this and, after a three-day assault (May 15-17), captured Tashkent. The Kokand people suffered heavy losses, the Russian army had never suffered such losses before Tashkent: 25 people were killed and 117 wounded. In 1866, after the battle near Erjar, Khujand was also captured [7.71]. While the capture of Tashkent separated Kokand and Bukhara from each other, the death of Amiralkar Alimkul deprived the Kokand Khanate of a commander with good military knowledge who could organize the defense. The absence of such a commander who could unite the troops was also a turning point in subsequent events. Hamid Ziyoyev. As stated in the work "History of the Struggles for the Independence of Uzbekistan": The defeat in Tashkent and the subjugation of Bukhara were a great blow to Khudoyorkhan, who was already a coward. He now began to look for a way to get closer to Russia. The trade agreement offered to him by Adjutant General von Kaufman in 1868 became a real opportunity for Khudoyorkhan. By accepting the agreement, he showed his sympathy for the Russian emperor. According to the agreement, merchants from both countries could move freely within the borders of the two states. It was stipulated that trade agencies (caravan-bashi) would be maintained, and duties would be collected in an amount not exceeding 2.5% of the value of the goods. This opened the "doors" of the Kokand markets wide open for Russian goods. The commercial agreement concluded in 1868 actually turned Kokand into a dependent state of Russia [1.153].

According to the work of Ishakkhan Junaydullohoja ugli (Ibrat) "History of Ferghana", Khudoyorkhan, due to his extreme political blindness, cowardice and personal ambition, had ruined his reputation in the eyes of both the Russians and the people. No matter what, he tried hard to rely on the Russian state in order to preserve the throne and to show himself to be good to it. He wrote letters to representatives of the Russian government one after another about his loyalty and readiness for any service. He even went so far as to call Russia and the Khanate one state. For example, on April 18, 1869, he wrote the following letter to the administration of the Turkestan Governor-General: "I received your sincere letter sent to you by the soldier Tursunkulov, who fled to you. Due to our friendship towards you, we have forgiven this soldier, dressed him in a sarpa and made him

happy. Because he fled not to a foreign country, but to the same country as Kokand - Russia, that is, to the same country"[2.25].

So, Khudoyar Khan, having pardoned a person who had betrayed him and gone over to the enemy, expressed his loyalty to Russia. In particular, his words about the "one state" indicate that he had become an obedient servant of the Russian state. The response letter sent to Khudoyar Khan by the administration of the Turkestan Governor-General stated that they were pleased with his words. Khudoyar Khan preferred to sit on the throne and enjoy himself under the protection of Russia. "He," Ibrat wrote, "became calm about Russia, spent his time in entertainment, went on the roads of hunting and hunting, did not follow the advice of scholars and fuzalo, and went over to the side of oppression, when the people turned their backs on him" [2.26].

Khudoyar Khan, not thinking about the interests and fate of the state, turned his back on Russia and did whatever he wanted. Therefore, local and Russian sources are full of information criticizing the khan. In them, Khudoyorkhan is described as an incomparable greedy, materialistic, extremely cruel and tyrant. "Khudoyor Khan," the source states, "became very wealthy and was eager to multiply wives. He loved pleasure, pleasure and peace. He did not work for the benefit of the people... In several gardens in different parts of the country, he had fun among flowers, was engaged in fighting quails, partridges and roosters. He spent his life with clowns and buffoons and meaningless games. "The rich man was too greedy for the world and imposed many taxes to enrich his treasury," it is said in the work "The Last Days of Khudoyar Khan"[3]. Khudoyar Khan spared no effort in reducing state expenses and increasing his personal wealth. As a result, the administration's representatives were in dire straits. The Khan seized any land, village, and village he wanted and turned it into his own property. His dishonesty reached such a level that he forcibly married the wife of his pir and eshan, Miyan Sahib Hazrat, named Shohayim. He himself, "being a very bad-natured person," severely punished those he did not like and did not even think of winning the love of the people. "Such actions and vile morals of Khudoyar Khan aroused the discontent of the people, beks, soldiers, rich people, and scholars." Khudoyar Khan was an unrivaled master in inventing and collecting taxes. For example, he invented taxes on a garden of hay, a cup of milk, ten eggs, on clowns, bear-carvers, shopkeepers, and other miscellaneous taxes [7].

Khudoyar Khan collected taxes on everything and amassed great wealth. Russian sources also testify to this: "There were many types of items on which taxes were levied, and they were levied on everything possible, and the people were literally squeezed out. Taxes were even levied on reeds, branches, reeds, and similar things that the poor brought and sold. In later times, taxes were also levied on water flowing through ditches from the mountains. Only the air we breathe was not taxed. This was one of the main factors of discontent against the Khan."

During this period, the khanate's lands were significantly reduced, and the revenues to the treasury decreased. The losses incurred as a result of the war fell on the shoulders of the people, taxes and obligations increased. The khan sought refuge with the governor-general and went to Tashkent. K. P. Kaufman sent him to Orenburg. From Orenburg, Khudoyor khan went to Mecca through India, and on his way back from there, he fell ill and died in Afghanistan in 1882. The Turkistan Collection records that the army led by General M. Skobelev achieved victory by February with a military superiority in weapons. On February 19, 1876, the tsarist government issued a decree on the abolition of the Kokand Khanate. Thus, the Ferghanaregion, which was part of the Turkestan Governorate, was formed on the territory of the Kokand Khanate. General M. Skobelev, who led the military campaigns to conquer the Kokand Khanate, was appointed military governor of the region [6.486].

As a result of the Russian Empire's conquests in Central Asia in the second half of the 19th century, the Kokand Khanate was completely abolished as a state, unlike the states of Bukhara and Khiva. In its place, the administrative system and territorial units that had been formed over the centuries, consistent with the traditional way of life of the local population, were abolished, and a new system of administration was established, which suited the interests of the empire and at the same time was convenient for the colonial administration to manage the local population. With the subjugation of the Ferghana Valley, the third stage of the Russian Empire's conquest of Central Asia (1873–1879) came to an end [4.83-84]. As a result of these campaigns, a large territory of Central Asia was conquered and turned into a colony of the Russian Empire.

Regarding the causes and consequences of the defeat of the conquest of the Kokand Khanate: In the second half of the 19th century, the peoples of Central Asia waged a courageous struggle against the military

campaigns of the Russian Empire. The broad masses of the people fought heroically to protect the independence and freedom of their homeland from the colonialists. But the internal conflicts, internecine wars, and the short-sightedness of the rulers during this period ultimately led to the loss of the country's independence and subordination to others.

The following factors led to the conquest of Central Asia by the Russian Empire, the defeat of the Kokand and Khiva Khanates, and the Emirate of Bukhara: First, the Emirate of Bukhara, the Khiva and Kokand Khanates were significantly behind the Russian Empire in terms of military and economic development. In particular, their military situation was below the level of world development at that time. As a result of the khanates' failure to pursue a fair foreign policy, they themselves were isolated from the outside world. Secondly, there were no friendly relations, cooperation, and solidarity between the three states. Their political system and state administration were far from modern governance and were based on medieval autocracy and violence. As a result, internal conflicts increased and conflicts intensified. Internecine wars and struggles for the throne flared up. Thirdly, during the hostilities, the khans did not help each other and looked on indifferently, thinking about their own peace. This facilitated the separate destruction of each khanate. All this came in handy for the government of the Russian Empire, which took advantage of the situation and turned the country into a colony. Remember! The tsarist invasion, along with many other reasons, was primarily due to the political chaos that existed at that time, the shortsightedness of the ruling powers, and the spiritual weakness, as described in the work "History of the Kokand Khanate" [4.87].

### CONCLUSION

In conclusion, it can be said that the liquidation of the Kokand Khanate and the formation of the Ferghana region were very important events in the history of Central Asia, and they were the final stage of the Russian Empire's policy towards Central Asia and the Ferghana Valley. With this process, the Russian Empire expanded its influence and strengthened its southern borders. At the same time, this event led to various conflicts, social and economic difficulties for local peoples. The liquidation of the Kokand Khanate by Tsarist Russia and the formation of the Ferghana region were an important stage in the Central Asian policy of the Russian Empire in the 19th century. The fact that this process, on the one hand, ensured Russia's geopolitical interests, and on the other hand, brought about great changes for the Ferghana Valley and its population is abundantly documented in the sources in the "Turkistan Collection", in fact, the authorities of Tsarist Russia intended to use the region as a raw material base.

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