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STATE ADMINISTRATION AND SOCIO-POLITICAL RELATIONS IN THE BUKHARA EMIRATE: FROM THE LATE 19TH TO THE EARLY 20TH CENTURY

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Abstract: This article analyzes the state administration system that existed in the Bukhara Emirate in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, its main institutions, and socio-political relations in society. Particular attention is paid to the changes that occurred in the political and administrative administration of the Emirate under the conditions of the Russian Empire’s protectorate, the activities of central and local government bodies, the tax system, and social stratification in society. The article also examines the internal contradictions of the traditional state administration system, the economic situation of the population, the growth of social discontent, and the influence of the Jadid movement, which emerged in the early 20th century, on the political life of the Emirate. The relations of the Bukhara Emirate with the Russian Empire and the impact of these relations on the development of the state and society are analyzed on the basis of historical sources.

Keywords: Bukhara Emirate, state administration, Manghit dynasty, Russian Empire, protectorate, Qushbegi, Qazikalon, social stratification, tax system, Jadidism, Young Bukharians.

The second half of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century were an important period in the history of Central Asia, particularly the Bukhara Emirate, characterized by significant political, social, and economic changes. During this period, on the one hand, the Bukhara Emirate sought to preserve its traditional system of state administration, while on the other hand, the political and economic influence of the Russian Empire was steadily increasing. Following the military and political events of 1868, the Bukhara Emirate became a protectorate of the Russian Empire. As a result, the Emirate lost a certain degree of its foreign political independence and became closely connected with Russia politically and economically [5; 6].

During the rule of the Manghit dynasty, traditional forms of administration and state institutions were preserved in the Bukhara Emirate. As the supreme ruler of the state, the Amir concentrated most of the political, military, and administrative powers in his hands. However, by the late 19th and early 20th centuries, changes in economic relations, the expansion of trade relations with Russia, social stratification, and growing educational needs intensified the internal contradictions of the traditional administrative system [1; 3].

During this period, the interrelationship between state administration and socio-political relations became clearly evident. Although the strong position of the central government ensured the strict subordination of the local administrative system, the gap between the economic and social needs of the population and state policy continued to deepen. In this regard, studying the history of the Bukhara Emirate in the late 19th and early 20th centuries is important for understanding the causes and factors of subsequent political processes.

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State Administration System and the Administrative Elite

In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, state administration in the Bukhara Emirate was organized on the basis of a traditional monarchical system, with the main powers of supreme authority concentrated in the hands of the Amir. Sharia norms, local customs, and historically established administrative traditions played an important role in the administrative system. The system of governance constituted a hierarchical structure extending from the central government to beyliks and lower levels of local administration [3; 6].

The Amir was considered the supreme political ruler of the state and had the authority to resolve important state matters, appoint senior officials, determine military policy, and oversee the general direction of state administration. This model of governance remained in place during the reigns of Amir Abdulahad Khan (1885–1910) and Sayyid Alim Khan (1910–1920) [1].

Qushbegi held a particularly important position in the central administration. As the most influential official after the Amir, he supervised important areas of executive administration. Internal administration, financial matters, tax collection, relations with the beyliks, and ensuring the implementation of the Amir's decrees were among his main responsibilities. In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the position of Qushbegi remained one of the most important components of the state administrative system [3].

Devonbegi played an important role in the financial administration of the state. His responsibilities included managing the state treasury, controlling revenues and expenditures, and maintaining tax records. In the judicial and legal system, Qazikalon held a high position. Judicial proceedings were primarily conducted according to Sharia norms, and the influence of religious scholars in the political and social life of the state was considerable. Rais was responsible for supervising public order and compliance with religious and moral norms [3; 6].

Alongside the central administration, the local administrative system was also an important component of state authority. The territory of the Emirate was divided into beyliks, which were governed by begs appointed by the Amir. The begs were responsible for maintaining administrative order in their territories, collecting taxes, and carrying out the instructions of the central government. At the lower levels of administration within the beyliks, amlakdars, oqsoqols, and amins performed administrative functions [6].

Thus, the administrative system of the Bukhara Emirate had a hierarchical structure aimed at ensuring the control of the central government over local territories. The main characteristic of this system was its reliance on the principle of strict subordination from the highest levels of state authority to the lower administrative levels.

Socio-Political Relations and Social Stratification in Society

In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, Bukhara society was sharply stratified socially. An individual's position in society was determined by their role in state administration, ownership of land and property, economic opportunities, and religious status. There was a significant social difference between the ruling elite and the main productive layers of the population [3].

The upper stratum of society consisted of the Amir's family, representatives of the Manghit clan, large landowners, military and administrative officials, and high-ranking religious scholars. This group possessed considerable opportunities in state administration and economic life and also influenced the formation of political decisions. The concentration of large landholdings in the hands of certain groups contributed to the preservation of social inequality [3].

The majority of society consisted of peasants, sharecroppers, artisans, merchants, and pastoralists. Among the rural population, the economic condition of sharecroppers who did not

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independently own land and worked on land belonging to large landowners was difficult. Their situation was associated not only with land relations but also with various taxes and obligations [2].

The tax system of the Bukhara Emirate directly influenced social relations. Kharaj was one of the main obligations of the agricultural population, and its amount was determined depending on the land and productivity conditions. Zakat was a traditional Islamic tax imposed on livestock, trade, and property. Tanobona was a tax levied on gardens, vegetable plots, and household plots, while jizya was a type of tax imposed on the non-Muslim population [6].

The large number of taxes and other obligations placed economic pressure on the population. Certain expenses associated with the activities and visits of local officials also fell upon the population, contributing to the growth of discontent. Under such conditions, local protests and popular movements emerged. The uprising led by Vose in 1885 was one of the important manifestations of the socio-economic contradictions of the period [2].

Relations with the Russian Empire under the Protectorate

The relations of the Bukhara Emirate with the Russian Empire became an important component of the political and economic processes of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. After the Emirate became a protectorate of the Russian Empire in 1868, its foreign political activities were significantly restricted. Russia's political and economic influence over Bukhara gradually increased [5].

The establishment of the Russian Empire's Political Agency in Bukhara in 1885 contributed to the institutional consolidation of this influence. The Political Agency became an important instrument for protecting Russian interests, coordinating relations with the Emirate, and implementing the political influence of the empire [5].

Under the protectorate, Bukhara's economic relations with the Russian market also expanded. Products such as cotton and karakul skins became important sources of raw materials for Russian industry. As trade and economic relations developed, the economic importance of areas such as Bukhara, Charjuy, and Karki increased. The construction of railway networks brought the territories of the Emirate even closer to the economic space of the Russian Empire [5; 6].

The emergence of new economic centers such as Kogon was also associated with the strengthening of Russia's economic and political influence. Certain privileges granted to Russian citizens and merchants resulted in the imperial interests gaining a special position within the territory of the Emirate. Consequently, although the Bukhara Emirate retained a certain part of its internal administration, it operated within Russia's sphere of influence in foreign political and economic matters [5].

During the reigns of Amir Abdulahad Khan and Sayyid Alim Khan, the continuation of a policy of compromise with Russia was primarily aimed at preserving the rule of the Amir. However, this policy also became one of the factors that further strengthened Russia's political and economic influence [1; 5].

Political Movements and the State Crisis in the Early 20th Century

By the beginning of the 20th century, the traditional system of state administration and social relations in the Bukhara Emirate increasingly came under criticism from the enlightened sections of society. The inability of the education system to meet the requirements of the time, problems in state administration, economic difficulties, and social inequality strengthened the need for reforms in society [1; 3].

Under such circumstances, the Jadid movement emerged in Bukhara. Initially, the movement focused primarily on developing education and culture, establishing new-method schools, disseminating modern knowledge, and raising the educational level of society. Later, educational ideas

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became combined with political demands, and the reform of state administration also became an issue on the political agenda [1].

The activities of enlighteners such as Abdurauf Fitrat and Sadriddin Ayni played an important role in the development of reformist ideas in Bukhara. Their works reflected the existing conditions of Bukhara society, problems in the education system, and the need for socio-political development [1; 3].

As Jadidism became increasingly politicized, the Young Bukharians movement emerged. Its representatives put forward demands such as limiting the authority of the Amir, reforming the state administration and judicial system, combating abuses by officials, regulating taxes, improving the economic condition of the population, and developing modern education. Initially, they supported the idea of carrying out democratic reforms within the Emirate and establishing a constitutional monarchy [2; 3].

On April 7, 1917, Amir Sayyid Alim Khan signed a decree on carrying out reforms. However, following the demonstration on April 8, the political situation became more tense; on April 14, the decree was annulled and the Young Bukharians were subjected to persecution. These events further intensified the conflict between political forces within the Emirate.

Thus, in the early 20th century, the conflict intensified between political forces seeking to preserve the traditional state administration on the one hand and enlightened and political groups advocating the modernization of society and the state on the other. This contradiction became one of the important factors in subsequent political processes.

Although state administration in the Bukhara Emirate in the late 19th and early 20th centuries functioned according to traditional monarchical principles, the political, economic, and social demands of the period increasingly intensified the internal contradictions of this system. The highly centralized authority of the Amir, the complexity of the administrative system, and the population's numerous obligations contributed to the persistence of social differences within society.

The establishment of the Russian Empire's protectorate significantly restricted the political and economic independence of the Bukhara Emirate. Although the development of trade and economic relations with Russia led to the expansion of transportation and commerce, it also resulted in the Emirate's economy becoming increasingly dependent on Russian interests [5; 6].

Internal social contradictions, economic difficulties, and problems within the administrative system created the conditions for the emergence of new socio-political ideas in the early 20th century. Although the Jadid movement initially developed as an educational movement, it later transformed into a political movement aimed at reforming state administration and modernizing society. The activities of the Young Bukharians represented the political expression of this process [1; 2].

The conflict between reformist ideas and the traditional political system was not resolved through compromise. Political events after 1917 further deepened the internal crisis of the Bukhara Emirate. As a result, processes emerged that culminated in the abolition of the Emirate's political system in 1920 [2; 4].

Overall, the history of the Bukhara Emirate in the late 19th and early 20th centuries can be viewed as a period in which traditional state administration, the external influence of the Russian Empire, and the modernization needs that emerged within society intersected. The interaction of these factors created important historical conditions that determined the subsequent political development of Bukhara.

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