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## The trade relations of the emirate of Bukhara with the countries of Europe and Americas

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### Abstract

**Annotation:** In this article it is noted that the emirate of Bukhara was one of the largest countries of the East at the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, during this period, along with the Eastern countries of the emirate conducted trade relations with England, France, USA, Germany. The quality of exported products was ranked high in the world markets, the role of German, French firms. The scope of the export by the merchants of Bukhara is analyzed based on the sources of that period. The extent of the economic relations was identified through the conduct of the exchange of goods.

**Keywords:** Market, cocoon, silk, astrakhan leather, wool, root, trade house, zakat, commodity, export, customs, import

### Introduction

To date, many scholars and researchers have conducted research on the study and analysis of the history of the international commodity exchange and trades of the Emirate of Bukhara. One of the main tasks today is to carry out scientific research that will serve to educate the young, harmoniously developed generation in the spirit of independence, using previously unexplored sources and documents covering the history of the Emirate of Bukhara. The end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century was the period of internationalization of the trade relations of the emirate with the countries of the world. The merchants from the emirate held important positions in the trade relations with their counterparts from the other countries. While the merchants from the emirate were importing and exporting the commodities which were scarce in the countries of exchange of commodity.

In the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, the Emirate of Bukhara was one of the largest states in the East, during which time the Emirate traded with Eastern countries as well as European and American countries. In particular, the emirate's products were exported to the markets of England, Germany, France and the United States, and the emirate's exports consisted mainly of cotton, oil products, astrakhan skin, wool and woolen products, silk and silk products. At that time, the quality of these products was highly valued in world markets. At the turn of the centuries the country was enlarging its scope of geography of exports extending up to Americas.

**Main part:** The emirate of Bukhara has been considered the center of the astrakhan skin trade in Central Asia and around the world. Since very ancient times, astrakhan skins were brought to Bukhara from astrakhan breeding districts Karakul and Karshi, Chorjou, Karki of Turkmenistan and even Khorezm and Afghanistan. There are reports that 150-200 thousand pieces of astrakhan skin are brought to Bukhara markets from Afghanistan every season [5:241], astrakhan skins passed through Bukhara to the Russian markets and Americas, and even to the Caucasus and Iran, where astrakhan skin was highly valued. In this commodity the emirate held important positions in the international trade.

In the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, favorable conditions arose for the export of goods from Bukhara to Europe. All of the 80.000 pods of the cottonseed cake (food for the livestock) collected in the oil extraction plants working in Bukhara and Turkestan were sent to Germany as the food for the livestock through the ports of Batumi, Saint Petersburg and Libava (modern Liepaja in Latvia) [4:20]. Another in great demand in this country was astrakhan leather.

Representatives of 6 German companies visited the Emirate of Bukhara and bought 3/1 of the total available astrakhan leather [6]. During this period, the German city of Leipzig was considered the world center for the processing and trade of astrakhan skins [4:21].

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There were several special wool-cleaning plants in Charjou and New Bukhara (Kagan), where processed sheepskins were exported to Lemberg and Riga and from there to Germany.

The role of German and French firms in trade relations was great, including Gerard and Gay, a German firm, which played an important role in the transportation of cargos and goods on credit.

The Lui Zali firm has been sending the roots of various herbs from Central Asia to Germany every year, which is necessary in the production of confectionery in the volume of 6 wagons, which amounts to 650 pounds. The firm of Dur Schmid also had a special role in this work.

First of all, different varieties (sorts) of raisins were exported from the Emirate of Bukhara to different cities of France. Another type of the commodity that was required separately was pistachio [3:86]. One of the products grown in the emirate and recognized not only in the domestic market, but also in foreign trade was the cocoon. The cocoon products counted from industrial raw materials were mainly exported to Marseille. Not only cocoons but also silkworm seeds were exported. The silk from Bukhara was evaluated in high prices.

Ethnographer O.A Suxareva [5:250] clarifying this, states that Khikmati Kinos took 90 wagons of cocoon products, silk to Marseilles, of which 50 wagons were his property, and 40 wagons were the property of Mirza Mukhiddinov, and the merchant Mirza Sirajuddin Khakim was also involved in the transportation of these commodities.

In addition, 5,000 pounds of various food products were exported from Bukhara to the markets of Marseilles, which were highly valued for their taste. These goods were even superior to similar American goods [4:21].

Only in 1913 year to European countries 4.000 pounds of silk squid, including 3.000 pounds of silk were transported to the Italian city of Genoa. This indicates that cocoons were the country's main import goods. Sources also say that Mirza Sirajudin Khakim transported a large amount of cocoons to Milan.

Bukhara's high-quality woven carpets have also gained a great reputation in European and American markets, attracting foreign markets. Exports of this form of commodity in various countries amounted to 10,000 pounds, of which 75 or 7,500 pounds fell on these markets. Another commodity exported to the American market was wool. Fifty percent, or 50,000 pounds, of wool exported from the Emirate of Bukhara was exported to the American and British markets [2:40].

## Results

Thus, the exports of the Emirate of Bukhara to Europe and Oceania amounted to 2,295,000 or 6.5% of the following exported goods.

Cottonseed oil - 32,000 soums (rubles)  
 Cottonseed cake - 32,000 soums  
 Wool -45,000 soums  
 Astrakhan skin - for 100,000 soums  
 Carpets - 750,000 soums  
 Cocoon and silkworm seeds - 600,000 soums  
 Roots for making confectionery - 3312,000 soums

Development of trade relations with Western countries in the Emirate of Bukhara has strengthened the competition of

Russian goods with Western European industrial commodities [7:135]. Development of such cases was the reason of worry for the Russian industrialists. The Russian government conducted mutual negotiations with the emirate of Bukhara in 1891-1894 years. At a meeting in Saint Petersburg in 1894, it was agreed to build Russian customs's office in Bukhara and Khiva and to establish branches in other parts of Central Asia. At the end of 1894 and the beginning of 1895 the customs of Karshi, Kalif, Ghuzar and Pattahisar were opened. On 1 January, 1895, the first Russian customs's post began to work in Bukhara [1:136]. From this year, the Emirate of Bukhara was included in the Russian trading and customs' administration system. The introduction of the emirate into the customs system, in its turn, has led to a certain degree of isolation in foreign trade from Eastern and Western countries. Because in the Emirate of Bukhara the import of Western European goods was restricted in order to facilitate the import of Russian goods. It is known that initially it was prescribed to receive zakat, not dues, in the emirate for goods imported and exported. On April 1, 1872, the Zakat Department was established within the Governor-General of Turkestan and operated until December 10, 1874. Due to the abolition of the Turkestan Zakat Administration from 1895, the country remained out of customs control until 1881. This situation, which arose, had already jeopardized the government of the Russian Empire.

Although the import of industrial commodities from Western Europe to Bukhara has been banned since the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, various goods worth 100,000 soums, or 0.2 percent of all imports, have been imported from these countries. Because such countries as Great Britain, Germany, France, the United States were interested in the development of trade relations with the Emirate of Bukhara. During this period, German firms transported an average of 100,000 pieces of astrakhan skin across the emirate's borders each year. Foreign firms such as Torer, Kilin, and Reichstein engaged in the sale of astrakhan skin through their representatives on the condition that they pay additional duties to the Bukhara government. The Bukhara government, in agreement with the Ministry of Finance, has imposed a duty of 5 rubles for every 10 pieces of astrakhan skin exported. Torer worked under the leadership of Dyrurshmid Varonov, the Bukhara branch of the German trading house. On May 12, 1914, in the summer residence of the Emir in Mokhi-Khosa, an agreement was reached with the Emir for the sale and purchase of astrakhan skin and leather products [8]. Later, as a result of Russia's economic measures, the internal and external trade of the Bukhara Emirate was completely controlled by Russia. By the end of the 1920's the whole race and breeding activities of the Bukhara was lost in favor of the plant imposed races of the astrakhan skin.

## Conclusion

Thus, in the economic life of the Emirate of Bukhara, trade relations with European and American countries played an important role in the development of trade relations. It meant that the emirate of Bukhara was expanding its geography of exports. Already it was a period of the starting period of intensified exchange of commodities in the world. The efforts of the emirate conducted in this period was characterized by the introduction of the country into the trade and economic relations of the world.

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