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# SCIENTIFIC-THEORETICAL ASPECTS OF THE STUDY OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE KHIVA KHANATE AND THE RUSSIAN EMPIRE (XIX CENTURY)

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## Abstract

This article is devoted to the study of scientific, theoretical and methodological aspects of relations between the Khiva Khanate and the Russian Empire in the 19th century. The author analyzed the views of influential Uzbek and foreign researchers on international relations and foreign policy and tried to highlight the scientific, theoretical and methodological aspects of the relationship between the Khiva Khanate and the Russian Empire. This article is dedicated to the special aspects of the relationship between the Khanate of Khiva, a vassal state during the period of dependence, with the Russian Empire, diplomatic institutions, positions, persons who performed activities, and their duties.

**Keywords** Khanate of Khiva, Russian Empire, England, international relations, foreign policy, theoretical views, methodology, approach, diplomatic relations.

## INTRODUCTION

The nature, goals and consequences of relations between the peoples of the world were directly related to the position, military potential, geostrategic goals and foreign policies of powerful countries in different periods. A look at history proves that competition and the struggle of large countries for dominance at the regional and global level has also served as an important factor in international relations. From this theoretical and methodological point of view, from the beginning of the 19th century until the invasion of 1873, it is appropriate to evaluate the relations between the Khanate of Khiva and the Russian Empire. At the same time, we see that economic interests also played a leading role in determining the essence,

nature and results of bilateral relations.

## METHODS

The scientific-theoretical and methodological aspects of the relations between the Khanate of Khiva and the Russian Empire from the beginning of the 19th century until the invasion of 1873 are the object of research. Scientific-analytical, theoretical-comparative, historical-chronological analysis, systematic analysis, comparison, and generalization methods were used in the research. In previous studies, historical data were merely reported without analysis.

## RESULTS

In this article, for the first time, an attempt was

made to analyze the scientific-theoretical and methodological aspects of the relations between the Khanate of Khiva and the Russian Empire from the beginning of the 19th century until the invasion of 1873. Bilateral relations were conducted not on the basis of the existing norms of international relations, but in terms of the geostrategic goals of the Russian Empire, which is a powerful military-political state.

## **DISCUSSION**

Peoples of the world have been making political-diplomatic, economic-cultural relations with each other since ancient times. The nature, purpose and consequences of these relations were directly related to the position, military potential, geostrategic goals and foreign policy of the powerful states in different periods. The competition and struggle of major countries for supremacy at the regional and global level also served as an important factor in international relations. At the same time, economic interests also played a leading role in determining the content, nature and results of mutual relations.

The Italian scholar Ennio Di Nolfo, arguing about the history of international relations, expresses the opinion that "...international relations arose at the same time as the history of mankind" (1,9). According to another researcher, the concept of "international relations" means a set of economic, political, ideological, legal, diplomatic, military, cultural and other types of relations between states and (in a broad sense) peoples (1,14). According to G. A. Khidoyatov, a famous scientist on the history of international relations and diplomacy, "international politics and international relations are a complex and complex set of conflicting problems... The main factor in international relations is the struggle for power and leadership in world politics." (3, 5) .

Researchers began to study the history and theory of international relations and relations between countries from the beginning of the 20th century. According to Uzbek researcher D.B. Saifullaev, "...theoretical study of international relations began after the First World War" (4,13). Some researchers have noted that the nature and character of international relations have not

changed much in the next three centuries. Azerbaijani scientist A. Hasanov supported this idea: "...from the Middle Ages to the present day, the great powers, the empires built by them, the alliances of states that unite for strategic goals, and other world powers have determined and are determining the spirit of international relations and the main principles of world politics" notes that (5,4). Uzbek historian N. Allaeva, who studied the diplomacy of the Khanate of Khiva, recognizes the role of diplomatic services in international relations and says: "Diplomatic institutes and embassy services", which are considered an important mechanism of international relations, the general state of mutual relations by studying the processes of their formation and development , it is possible to determine the characteristic features of interstate relations, the problems that have arisen, the factors that caused them and the important aspects of their solution" (6,12).

Famous American scientist Z. Brzezinski promoted the idea that great powers and empires were created in the course of the struggle for territory and wealth in world history. "For most of the history of international relations, the main direction of political majorities meant territorial control... Empires were built in order to carefully occupy and preserve important geographical resources", comes to the conclusion that (7, 51).

Indeed, if we observe the historical process of the next three hundred years, we can see that the nature and directions of international relations were determined by a small number of countries of the world. One such country was the Russian Empire. According to G. Kissenger, a famous researcher on international relations, the foreign policy of the Russian Empire in the 19th century was mainly aimed at annexing and occupying new lands (8, 51). As a result of studying the history of Russia in the XVI-XIX centuries, we are convinced of the correctness of these opinions. In the same period, Russia occupied the eastern part of Dashti Kipchak, a huge area from the Ural mountains to the Pacific Ocean, where the Kazakh tribes are located (mainly the territories of present-day Kazakhstan), and in the middle of the 19th century, it reached the border of the Uzbek khanate located in the Central Asian region from the north. Uzbek

khanates, including the Khiva khanate, due to their favorable geostrategic location, have become the arena of mutual competition between the empires of Russia, China and Great Britain for supremacy and dominance in this region.

A. Russian researcher who lived in XVIII-XIX centuries. V. Kochnev said, "Khiva Khanate has a special place in the history of Russian foreign policy. The Khanate of Khiva, formed at the beginning of the 16th century, managed to unite the vast western regions of Central Asia, where important trade routes passed, and establish its control. As a result, powerful political forces competing for supremacy in the region in different historical periods intensify the struggle for the territories of Khiva Khanate. Russia's expansion to the East led to increased competition for transit and trade routes and resources. By this time, the importance of the Khanate of Khiva as the most important transit route and the decisive factor in Russia's trade relations with Asia and India has increased tremendously"( 9,3). As the Russian researcher E. N. Krupenkin wrote, "the Russian government realized in the first half of the 18th century that it was necessary and important to include Central Asia in the scope of its geopolitical interests" (10,101). According to another Russian researcher, M.Grulyov, from the time of Peter the Great, Russia's pursuit of Central Asia began to be carried out on a planned basis in two directions, that is, through the Amudarya River and through the Irtysh River, which passes through the territory of Western Siberia ( 11, 14).

In fact, from the time of Peter the First (1682-1725), the founder of the Russian Empire, Russians' military-strategic interest in Central Asia increased. He sent a military force led by Prince Bekovich-Cherkassky in 1717 to occupy the Khanate of Khiva. But due to the initiative and perseverance of the Khiva people, this military adventure failed. As a result, since the time of Peter I, the concept of "Khiva issue" has been used in relations between Khiva and Russia. Some researchers say that the "Khiva issue" was one of the factors that permanently influenced bilateral relations between the Russian Empire and the Khiva Khanate. According to M.Grulyov, this factor has been the main threat to the foreign policy and

trade interests of the Russian Empire for many years, as it has stopped its rapid actions in Central Asia. The solution of this issue was one of the most important tasks of the Russian Empire in the foreign policy of Asia during this period (12,4). The author evaluates the conquest of Khiva Khanate in 1873 as a great success of the foreign policy of the Russian Empire.

Russian orientalist N. I. Veselovsky (1848–1918) expressed his satisfaction with this event as follows: "Konstantin Petrovich von Kaufman accomplished in 1873 the task that Bekovich-Cherkassky failed in 1717 and Perovsky in 1839... Finally, the protracted "Khiva question" was finally resolved" (13, 363 ). It was not for nothing that a special event was organized in Khiva on May 30, 1873 - his birthday - in honor of the memory of the Russian emperor Peter I, who first tried to occupy Khiva (14,78).

Russian researcher R. T. Ganiev sees the reason for the differences in the relations between the two countries in the fact that the release of Russian prisoners was the main issue on the agenda in bilateral relations until 1873 (15,107-113). Another Russian researcher, A.V. Kochnev, explains the reason for the conflicting relations between Russia and Khiva as "...the mutual enmity of the Khans of Khiva and England's competition for dominance in the region." ( 16, 3).

A. V. Kochnev is the geostrategic interest of the Russian Empire in the region of Central Asia, including the Khanate of Khiva, first of all, the rich natural and economic resources of this region, as well as the transit route leading to the countries of South Asia such as Egypt, Iran, Afghanistan, China through the Amudarya and Indus rivers, the main trade network, explains its importance as a geostrategic direction (16,150).

Among Western scientists and Russian researchers, it was customary to evaluate the relations between Europe and Asia, the Russian Empire and Central Asian khanates during this period as relations between "civilized" and "ignorant" peoples. An example of this is the following opinion of F. F. Martens, a famous Russian researcher on international relations and diplomacy: "Central Asia should be ruled by Russia

or England... These two great powers will fulfill the will of God by teaching the rules of international law to the backward and wild peoples of Asia. they should be taught to have a civilized relationship with enlightened nations"(17, 3). He continued his opinion, "... are civilized countries obliged to follow the rules of international law in their relations with semi-savage peoples?" (17, 9), turns the problem upside down and concludes that it is impossible (17,19). With this, "civilized" peoples pretend that they are bringing "enlightenment" and "culture" to "backward", "ignorant", "savage" peoples in order to justify their conquests (17,19); those who evaluate these theories as serving the universal development and try to distract the public from their original goals by portraying their occupation activities and policies in the region as humanitarian. Captain Nikiforov, who visited the Khanate of Khiva as an ambassador in 1841, in his memoirs calls the Khiva people "...ignorants who do not even know the simplest rules of international law" (18,45).

That is why Russian diplomacy based on expansionist-aggressive views in foreign policy did not succeed even once in relations with Khiva in the 18th-19th centuries. On the contrary, due to this foreign policy, relations with the Khiva khanate were dominated by mutual mistrust, contradictions and conflicts. Russian generals M. A. Terentev tried to shed light on the policy of the Russian Empire towards the Khiva Khanate in a more impartial way and openly admitted that "... the main goal was not to establish mutual relations, but to carefully study the roads to the Khanate, to collect information about the country's defense potential, military fortresses, and forces" reached (19,95). A true connoisseur of the history of Turkestan, the famous orientalist V. V. Barthold (1869-1930) also revealed the nature of the Russian occupation and wrote: "The Khanates of Central Asia, including the Khanate of Khiva, were conquered by the Russian Empire, and the power here was maintained as a dependency of the Russian emperor" (20, 335).

Even abroad, there were impartial views on the foreign policy of the Russian Empire towards Turkestan. English researcher M. Holdsworth described the behavior of the Russian Empire

towards the Khiva Khanate as "behind the masking of the Russian Empire's military campaign against the Central Asian khanates, including the Khiva Khanate, as "liberation", in fact, the intention of conquering the region, turning it into a colony, and Russifying the population was hidden, which corresponded to its real goal", explained that (21,114).

## CONCLUSION

Thus, while analyzing the scientific-theoretical aspects of Khiva-Russia relations during the 19th century, it is said that the essence, goals and consequences of the relations between the countries in different historical periods were directly related to the position, military potential, geostrategic goals of the powerful countries and the foreign policy they implemented in this way. we come to the conclusion. We can see that the relations of the Russian Empire with the Khanate of Khiva in the 18th-19th centuries were based not on seeing it as an equal subject of international relations, but as a geostrategic region, a transit route to countries such as India, Iran, Afghanistan, China, and an area with raw materials.

According to the researchers, the competition and struggle between England and Russia for domination in Central Asia went down in history under the name of "The Great Game", and this situation became one of the main external factors that determined the relations between the Khanate of Khiva and the Russian Empire. Also, the "Khiva issue" was one of the factors that determined the nature and character of bilateral relations during this period.

The Russian Empire, which is fighting to divide the world and sees itself as the "civilized world" among the Western countries, has justified its invasion policy in Turkestan with false ideas that it is bringing "enlightenment" and "civilization" to the "ignorant" and "savage" peoples of Asia. It was also reflected in the relations between the two countries, and the "enlightened" nations conducted their foreign policy based on the approach that it is not necessary to have equal relations with the semi-"wild" tribes of Asia and to follow international legal norms. It is possible to make sure that this approach is also evident in Khiva-

Russia relations.

In general, during this period, bilateral relations were built on the basis of mutual distrust and conflicts, during the 19th century, diplomatic relations between Khiva and Russia were not successful.

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