

## The History Of The Cultural Heritage In Turkestan (1867-1917)

<sup>1</sup> Nadira Ibragimovna Alimova

<sup>1</sup> PhD in History, Assistant-professor at the department “History and Social Sciences” of Andizhan branch of Kokand University, Andizhan region, Republic of Uzbekistan

Received: 20<sup>th</sup> Oct 2025 | Received Revised Version: 25<sup>th</sup> Nov 2025 | Accepted: 05<sup>th</sup> Dec 2025 | Published: 19<sup>th</sup> Dec 2025

Volume 07 Issue 12 2025 | Crossref DOI: 10.37547/tajssei/Volume07Issue12-09

### Abstract

*In this article has been analyzed the occupation of Turkestan by the government of the Russian Empire and the looting of rare manuscripts and archival documents of the Uzbek people. In addition, it has been scientifically shown that many Oriental manuscripts, archives of the Khiva and Kokand khanates were confiscated from the libraries of princes' palaces, madrasahs and mosques in Turkestan and taken to Russian scientific centers.*

Keywords: Turkestan, manuscripts, archival documents, libraries, scientific centers, the imperial library.

© 2025 Zenabuin Florence, Rosemary M Shafack & Fidelis L Alemnge. This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License (CC BY 4.0). The authors retain copyright and allow others to share, adapt, or redistribute the work with proper attribution.

**Cite This Article:** Nadira Ibragimovna Alimova. (2025). The History Of The Cultural Heritage In Turkestan (1867-1917). The American Journal of Social Science and Education Innovations, 7(12), 49–51. <https://doi.org/10.37547/tajssei/Volume07Issue12-09>

### 1. Introduction

The history has shown that the state and society achieve social development primarily through the effective use of their cultural heritage. The Uzbek people with its rich cultural heritage and great spiritual values has made a great contribution to the development of human civilization, and this place has played the role of spreading advanced culture to the world. At a time when the land of Turkestan was trampled under the feet of invaders and under colonial oppression, the national culture of a people with such a great heritage was restricted, insulted, and its cultural monuments were looted. While the invaders sought to destroy the national and spiritual values of the Uzbek people by declaring them reactionary, they took away their material values, including valuable artifacts, rare monuments and works of art.

### 2. Methods

Thanks to independence, the rich cultural heritage of the Uzbek people, which was insulted by the communist

ideology during the Soviet era, is being restored. The spiritual recovery of the people is the social basis of economic reform. It is impossible to mobilize the people to strengthen independence without spiritual renewal. Therefore, the government of independent Uzbekistan pays great attention to the development of the spiritual sphere.

Manuscripts and other cultural relics preserved by the people for centuries were looted by Russian soldiers, Tsarist government officials, and specially sent orientalists during the occupation of Turkestan by Tsarist Russia. The commanders of the Russian military were ordered to seize historical and cultural monuments, works of art, manuscripts and documents, as well as his material wealth (treasures, ornaments, valuables of khans and beys) during the conquest of cities, principalities and khanates. Along with the conquest of the cities of Turkestan, many cultural treasures were confiscated from khans and beys, mosques and madrasahs.

### 3. Results And Discussions

On behalf of the government, Turkestan Governor-General K.P. Kaufman himself was engaged. A special position has been introduced in the Governor-General of Turkestan to deal with this issue, and this responsible position has been assigned to the Adviser to the Governor-General of Turkestan, A.L.Kun. It was loaded for the day. He served as from 1867 to 1876 in the presence of Kaufman he worked as a collector, a collector and registrar of cultural monuments, including Oriental manuscripts. A.L. Kun. In addition to fulfilling these duties as an orientalist, L.Kun also served as the Inspector General of Public Education in Turkestan.

In 1865 he graduated from the Faculty of Oriental Languages of the University of St. Petersburg. At the request of the Governor-General of Turkestan. The day was sent to work in Turkestan in 1867 [1.p.91]. His task was to search for the cultural riches of the country and send them to libraries, museums and scientific societies in central Russia. After the defeat of the Bukhara Emirate in the battles with the Russian invaders, the Emir of Bukhara Muzaffar was forced to make peace with Russia. According to the truce, part of the territory of the Bukhara Emirate was transferred to Russia, and the Zarafshan district was formed there, headed by Major General Abramov. From that time on, this general began to plunder the cultural riches of Samarkand and other regions.

At the time of the conquest of Samarkand, the Khoja Ahror Mosque was carefully preserved by its sheikhs as the manuscript of the holy book of the world's Muslims, the Qur'an who found out about this unique manuscript with the help of spies. Abramov, through Lieutenant Colonel Serov, the head of the Samarkand district, pressured the mosque staff to seize Mushaf and, by order of von Kaufmann, hand him over to the office of the Governor-General of Turkestan. The manuscript was then sent by Kaufman to St. Petersburg as a gift to the Imperial Library [2.p.92].

It is known that the Emir of Bukhara Muzaffarkhan was defeated in a decisive battle with the Russian army in Zirabulak and was forced to make peace on June 23, 1868, and the Emirate of Bukhara became a vassal of Russia. The people and state of Bukhara lost its independence, separated from the upper reaches of the Samarkand, Kattakurgan and Zarafshan rivers, and had to pay 500,000 gold [3.p.92]. Dissatisfied with Amir Muzaffarkhan's policy of surrender, the patriotic forces rallied around their leaders, Shahrисабз Begi Jurabek, Kitab Begi Bobobek, Kenesari Kasimov's son Sultan

Sodiq, and Muzaffar's son Amirzoda Abdumalik Tora. Amir Muzaffar asked the Russians for help. General A. Abramov suppressed the uprising in Samarkand, and on August 11, 1870, he began to attack Shahrисабз and Kitab with the punitive troops. After a three-day battle, the cities of Shahrисабз and Kitab were captured. Material and cultural treasures in the palaces of Jurabek and Bobobek were looted by the Russian military [4.p.93]. The head of Zarafshan district, Major General A. Abramov informed the Governor-General of Turkestan that on September 3, 1870, after the conquest of the Book Duchy, a library of Oriental manuscripts was seized from the Jurabek Palace and brought to Samarkand. Kun reported reviewing the books. Upon hearing this news, the Governor-General of Turkestan, von Kaufmann, instructed Abramov to send the manuscripts to Tashkent, to the Governor-General's Office, in order to send them to St. Petersburg and the Imperial People's Library [5.p.93].

General A. Abramov General K.P. Kaufman's followed order. Along with the manuscripts he requested from the Jurabek Palace, A.L.Kun. By day, he sent more than 100 manuscripts to Tashkent, including the manuscripts collected in Shahrисабз [6.p.93]. Orientalist A.L.Kun the day before the military march to Kitab and Shahrисабз by the Governor-General of Turkestan, General A. Abramov was instructed to study and describe the cultural monuments in the occupied territories, to assist General Abramov in this matter, to inform the Governor-General of Turkestan and to send him monuments to take valuable museum exhibits, manuscripts and documents to Russia [9].

On October 9, 1870, A.L. Kun wrote a report to the Governor-General of Turkestan about the scientific materials he had collected during the Iskanderkul and Shahrисабз expeditions. In this document, he spoke about his work on the collection of Oriental manuscripts in the principality of Shahrисабз, including: "Also, various documents and about 300 books were seized. 26 of them were the most valuable and noteworthy. These books are for you to send to the Imperial People's Library at the request of His Highness. It was added to 76 books received by A.Abramov from Jurabek Palace" [7.p.94].

On October 9, 1870, Kaufman issued a resolution calling for the books to be sent to the Imperial People's Library, and on his instructions, A.L. Kun manuscripts, selected from books seized by the Abramovs, were sent to the Imperial People's Library in St. Petersburg. A list of some of the collected manuscripts has been preserved in

the archives and sent to St. Petersburg: "Devo`ni ghazaliyoti Umarkhan", "Tarix-i Mir Said Sharif-i Roqim" and other invaluable manuscripts [8.p.94].

#### **4. Conclusion**

In conclusion, the transportation of the rich cultural heritage and monuments of the Uzbek people was included in the strategic plans of the Tsarist government in Central Asia and was an integral part of the policy of colonialism and plunder. This goal of tsarism was widely realized during the conquest of the country. Particular attention was paid to the organization of this work, which was important for the Tsarist government. The first governor-general of the Turkestan region, at the same time the commander of the Turkestan military district K.P. Kaufman was directly in charge of collecting the manuscripts and sending them to Russian centers. The post of Assistant Governor-General was introduced to collect study and send ancient manuscripts and other monuments to the capital's libraries and scientific centers. In addition, military governors of all regions were involved in this work.

9. Komilov, O. K. From the history of reforms in national education of Uzbekistan (as an example of the 20s of the xx century). Результаты научных исследований в условиях пандемии (COVID-19), 1(02), 72-77.

#### **References**

1. Komilov, O. K. From the history of reforms in national education of Uzbekistan (as an example of the 20s of the xx century). Результаты научных исследований в условиях пандемии (COVID-19), 1(02), 72-77.
2. National Archives of Uzbekistan, 1-fund, 29-list, 23-work, 7-8-p.
3. New history of Uzbekistan. The first book. Turkestan during the colonial period of Tsarist Russia / Editorial Board: (Chairman A. Azizkhodjaev) Sodiqov.H., Shamsutdinov. R., Ravshanov.P., Usmonov. Q.-Tashkent: Shark, 2000.-463 p.
4. National Archives of Uzbekistan , 1-fund, 15-list, 69-work, 66-p.
5. National Archives of Uzbekistan, 1-fund., 15-list, 69-work, 75-p.
6. Komilov, O. From the history of reforms in national education of Uzbekistan (as an example of the 20s of the xx century). Результаты научных исследований в условиях пандемии (COVID-19), 1(02), 72-77.
7. National Archives of Uzbekistan, 1-fund, 20-list, 6785-work, 7-p.
8. National Archives of Uzbekistan, 1-fund., 15-list, 6325-work, 4-p.