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U.A. Usarov

National University of Uzbekistan

PhD researcher,

Tashkent, Uzbekistan

umidjon.usarov@mail.ru

SOME CONSIDERATIONS ON THE PECULIARITIES OF RUSSIAN EMPIRE'S POLITICS IN TURKESTAN

Abstract: This article focuses on the peculiarities of the Russian Empire's policy of land and water relations in the second half of the 19th and early 20th centuries, on the imperial government's approach to land-based irrigation and agriculture in its colonial policies. It is shown that the Russian Empire pursued colonial policy in the country based on the metropolitan interests. The article also analyzes the agricultural and social status of Turkestan during the colonial period using scientific literature.

Key words: Russian Empire, Central Asia, Turkestan, agriculture, land and water relations, land ownership, foundations, irrigation systems, policy, locals, cotton, industrial enterprises, metropolitis.

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Introduction

The military and political and economic situation of the Russian Empire in the second half of the 19th century was the main reason for the intensive colonial policy of Central Asia. During this period, the growing light industry of the Russian Empire was primarily required for raw cotton. Because of the American Civil War of 1861 and 1864 the decline in cotton from there further increased the demand for cotton grown in the territory of the Uzbek khanates and further increased the demand for cocoons, leather, wool and other cheap products. This led to frequent annoyance of the Tsarist government due to the need for large-scale light industry representatives to supply it with affordable products.

Materials and methods

In particular, the Orenburg Governor-General, in his letter to Foreign minister A.A.Katenin, stated that "in order to establish sovereignty over Central Asia we must occupy Turkestan and Tashkent". He believes that entering Tashkent into the lake is also necessary for the armed forces to go to Bukhara's property [1, P. 6-7]. As a result, Imperial troops

immediately began to occupy the territory of Central Asian khanates.

In the second half of the 19th century, the Russian Empire began pursuing a policy of achieving its geopolitical objectives in Central Asia taking into account all its interests in the region. In particular, about the main goals and main directions of the Russian Empire's policy of agrarian including land and water relations in Turkestan, A.V.Krivoshein, Minister of State Property and Crop if the first is "cotton", the second is "irrigation" and finally the third, though not so prominent, is that the most important thing is that "the Russians are transplanting and settling down" [3, P. 111]. Consequently, the emperor's minister summarizes the main lines of colonial policy of the center in Turkestan, namely in three words: "cotton" – "irrigation" – "moving the Russians" [7, P. 215].

Changes in land-water relations, in general, agrarian policy undertaken by the colonial governing bodies on the instructions of the Russian Empire government were primarily aimed at turning the country into a metropolis of cotton, cocoon, other

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agricultural raw materials and a new habitat for the Russian population.

As a result of the Russian Empire's military campaigns of the 1960s and 1980s, a system of legal, political, and socio-economic relations was established, forcing the territory of Turkestan to be enforced. These relationships have sought to undermine traditional land and water relations in the region and their national development opportunities. The cases of seizure of land belonging to indigenous peoples in the provision of land for specially evacuated by the imperial government as well as arbitrary arrivals to Turkestan have been observed throughout the country [2, P. 98-99]. As a result, the people of the region are not only deprived of their fertile land, water resources and irrigation facilities. As a result, some of the local population rented land from them and paid taxes, while the rest had to reclaim the protected areas. This situation worsened the social situation of the local population.

Also, the Russian Empire which colonized the Turkestan region did not eliminate the existing problems and conflicts in the agricultural sector of the region but its capabilities and potential in cotton, silk, leather, wool, fruit and other industries, which had been on the path of Russian capitalist development trying to meet the demand for vegetables.

In order to break the resistance of local people to new policies of government change of land and water relations, resettlement of Russian population began to the country, colonial governments can attract large local landowners, wealthy traders, judges and Muslim leaders. Among them were volost governors, judges, village elders, aouls, teachers of Russian-correctional schools [10, P. 34].

The main occupation of the population of Turkestan during this period in the Ferghana, Syrdarya and Samarkand regions agriculture was well developed. Since most of the farmland is irrigated the construction, maintenance and operation of various waterworks has been done with public participation. However, heavy manual labor was very important in agricultural production, modern machinery and equipment were virtually non-existent.

Land relations in Turkestan have been adapted to the needs of the Russian industry and preferential settlement of displaced populations. First of all, in order to reduce the social and political status of large landowners in the country and to implement colonial policy plans, all land in the country, with little or no legal ownership, was subject to local laws, taxation and enrichment of the royal empire [13, P. 24]. However, at the initiative of governor-general of Turkestan K.P.Kaufman, a list of persons recognized as owners of property, religious offices and tax exemptions was established and approved. Owners of property and foundations were offered to pay state allowances in lieu of farmer fees. The main purpose of Governor-General Kaufman was to "directly

induce the local population to the Russian Empire's administration which provides the most dangerous foundations and property pensions" [9, P. 247]. As a result, the land ownership was regulated in Zarafshan district and Amudarya branch where local population was subject to general tax rules and the property was at least officially taxed [9, P. 257].

In 1880 the collection "about social tax and land structure" was published [13, P. 25]. Later, in the 1880-1890s colonial offices of the Russian Empire found many foundations illegally in various parts of Turkestan under the pretext of "regulating" and re-registering foundations. For example, the next revision of the foundation documents is related to the decision of November 17, 1886 to investigate and regulate foundations and properties of the foundations in Turkestan [8]. According to it, until July 1, 1887, the foundation had to submit the foundation documents to the land tax committee in the respective territory and the undocumented documents would not be accepted. Researcher R. Nabiev, who studied the issue, based on archival materials and articles published in the press in 1887, handed over 7,509 foundation documents to Samarkand, Syrdarya and Ferghana provinces, of which 10% (737) were certified by rulers, that is, legal documents required by the imperial administration [6, P. 10].

According to the researcher U. Sultanov, during the 80-90s of the XIX century during the mass inspection of foundations, the foundations resulted in the complete liquidation of foundations and taxation of the state. In general, in other provinces of Turkestan local government officials who were given to foundations were exempt from taxation and privileges. In these cases, the privileges of foundation farms were abolished and the state tax was levied [12, P. 221].

By the beginning of the 20th century, the whole system of land relations and taxation has been amended as a result of the "Rules of introducing land-use in Turkestan, 1903" and the Resettlement Policy of 1906 and others. By this time the Russian Empire had completely limited the territory of the region. The population is assigned to three categories irrigated, rain-fed and untreated [13, P. 25]. They were subject to heavy taxes. The problem of providing land for immigrants from Russia was solved by the violent seizure of local people. For the Russian cotton industry, cotton is a strategically important crop, and all the irrigated land in the country has been redistributed to grow cotton in order to be independent of the United States. The agricultural lands of Turkestan were mainly planted in cotton in the second half of the 19th and beginning of the 20th centuries. Due to the fact that the Russian Empire knew that the land in Turkestan was fertile and rich in water resources the land of American cotton varieties was growing exponentially along with local varieties of cotton. For example, in Ferghana valley, the expansion

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of cotton fields and the increase in cotton yield in 1895 totaled 4,776,470 poods (1 pood - 16 kg) of American cotton, 687,422 poods of local cotton which by 1896 was an indicator of American cotton 6,018,615 poods of cotton and 590,123 poods of local cotton [4, P. 97]. Also, over 188 years, from 1888 to 1915, the Ferghana region increased from 34.9 thousand hectares to 336,500 poods, or 950% [5, P. 194]. These figures were significantly higher than in the other provinces of Turkestan. For example, in those years the Syrdarya region increased from 25.8 poods to 74,000 poods, or almost 240 percent, in the Samarkand region from 8,000 poods to 55,600 poods or 700 percent [11, P. 29].

At the beginning of the 20th century, the Ferghana region's Statistical Committee in 1901 reports that cotton fields in Ferghana province as a part of Turkestan governorship have expanded by 50,000 poods in 1899, 31,000 poods in 1900, and 26,280 poods in 1901. Of this, by 1901, an American

variety of cotton was planted on the area of 194,573 poods, and 155.62 poods were planted with local cotton. By the end of the year, 9,808,944 poods were harvested from American cotton varieties [14, P. 8]. All of these changes and activities reflected the signs of colonial policy and made Turkistan more dependent on the metropolis.

Conclusion

In conclusion after the invasion of Turkistan by the Russian Empire in the second half of the 19th century, it was necessary to regulate land ownership and irrigation systems in the region in order to strengthen its colonial policy in the region. The first was to strengthen the newly established colonial management system in the country, and secondly to provide the cotton, silk, leather, wool and other cheap agricultural products necessary for the growing Russian industry at the time.

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