
Peculiarities of the Economic Policy of the Russian Empire in Turkestan

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ABSTRACT: This article discusses the peculiarities of the economic policy of the Russian Empire in Turkestan. In turn, the governors-general who ruled Turkestan in different years and the military, who had close ties with trade and industry, not only took full advantage of the country's markets, but also provided practical assistance to the colonial authorities in their development. Economic and political commitment forced the tsarist government to protect the interests of Russian business circles and traders, to find new sources of private raw materials.

KEYWORDS: country's markets, Russian business, raw materials, traders, economic policy, Russian Empire, Turkestan, military, trade, industry, practical assistance, colonial authorities, political commitment, business circles, colonial administration, customs, financial investment, industrial production, land, tax policy and cotton.

INTRODUCTION

The lessons of history testify to the fact that the economies of all colonized countries were subordinated primarily to the interests of the metropolis. Therefore, the economic policy pursued by the ruling colonial administration had an impact on the socio-political life of the dependent peoples. A similar situation can be observed in the period from the establishment of colonial regimes in Turkestan to the October Revolution of 1917. The economic policy of the Russian Empire in the country directly served to protect and strengthen the economic and political interests of the ruling class [1.63].

The influence of the ruling circles of the Russian Empire on the economy of Turkestan is evident in the areas of administrative management, customs, financial investment, industrial production, trade, land, tax policy and cotton, development and use of natural resources [2.65]. It is known that in the second half of the XIX - early XX centuries in the leading capitalist countries of Europe, including Russia, there was an increase in monopoly capital. This process has affected the economic and political life of these countries.

THE MAIN FINDINGS AND RESULTS

Economic and political commitment forced the tsarist government to protect the interests of Russian business circles and traders, to find new sources of private raw materials. This commitment helped the ruling circles of the Russian Empire to establish a strong financial capital in Turkestan. It has also opened up new markets to sell its products to Russian industry, which lags behind countries such as the United Kingdom, France and Germany in world industrial production [1.63].

The demand for new sources of raw materials and cheap labor in Russian industry, which had been developing rapidly since the 1960s, was growing. Under such conditions, the Central Asian region, which is extremely rich in natural resources, attracted Russian business circles. One of the researchers who called on Russian industrialists to develop the natural resources of Turkestan wrote: "Still, this beautiful and untouched country is waiting for someone to wake up, the axes are not scattering, the coins are not ringing ... how many riches are waiting for their owners in the mountains ..." [3.415]. In this sense, the ruling representatives of the Russian Empire in Turkestan paid special attention to the development and strengthening of Russian-Asian trade in order to create conditions for the bold inflow of Russian trade and industry, and later financial capital into Central Asia.

One of the main tasks of the colonial policy of the Russian Empire in Turkestan was to turn the country into a market of finished products produced by Russian industry, as well as to use it as a source of raw materials for metropolitan light industry, tanneries and textile enterprises. To this end, from the 80s of the XIX century, the Turkestan region was gradually transformed into a raw material base of the Russian Empire [4.55-56].

Representatives of the tsarist government also supported the idea of the importance of the markets of Turkestan, Bukhara and Khiva khanates for Russia. In particular, M. Borodovsky described the role and place of Turkestan in Russia's economic policy as follows: "These lands were annexed to the empire, should be considered as a colony closely connected with it. These lands are capable of growing southern climatic products for the European Russian manufacturing industry. The manufacturing industry is very underdeveloped in this colony, which is inhabited by partially nomadic pastoralists and sedentary populations, mainly peasants. That is why the country will naturally become a market for European Russia-made products" [5,236].

In turn, the governors-general who ruled Turkestan in different years and the military, who had close ties with trade and industry, not only took full advantage of the country's markets, but also provided practical assistance to the colonial authorities in their development [6.97]. In this process, the role of the Governor-General of Orenburg E.P. Krijanovsky and the military governor of the Ettisuv region, Major General G.A. Kalpakovsky was significant. Among them, the work of General A.I. Glukhovsky, who was in close contact with representatives of the Russian trade and industry, stands out. During his tenure as an official representative of the colonial government, he participated in various events of trade and industry, as well as a propagandist of Russian trade policy in Central Asia. At his own initiative, research was conducted on the effectiveness of the rivers of the region in trade [6.97].

Calls for the development of trade relations with Turkestan and the strengthening of the leading position of the Russian ruling circles in the domestic markets of the country were also reflected in the pages of the Russian periodicals. In particular, a number of articles on this topic were published in the newspapers "Moskovskie Vedomosti", "Moscow" [7.92-93].

The colonial powers paid great attention to trade relations with Central Asia, that the domestic market had been "protected" can also be seen in the 1868 decree issued by K.P. von Kaufmann. The order, addressed to General Abramov, called for the introduction of a ban on customs duties on European industrial products imported into the country [8.11].

Russia's efforts to boost trade with Turkestan have begun to bear fruit. As a result, trade turnover expanded, capitalist trade relations developed in the country, and more and more people became involved in the world market system. The positive side of this process is due to the fact that the capital of traders from Turkestan, Bukhara, Khiva is attracted to the world market relations, and the value of this capital is growing [9.25]. However, these successes do not justify the distinction between colonial financial capital's disruptive activities and trade policy. It can also be seen that the conditions created for Russian trading firms have attracted more large wholesalers and petty speculators [10.175].

N.P. Verkhovsky explains the trade relations formed in the conditions of Russian colonialism as follows: "Trade relations in Central Asia are not well developed at all," he said. The introduced procedures are aimed at enriching large and small companies, banks, various categories of traders, "chariots" and "cleaners". In short, the "speculators" between the local

farmer and the manufacturing industry are making huge profits. A cotton farmer is struggling to make ends meet, losing his last property and destroying his home.” [11.31].

The trade policy of the government and trade and industrial circles of the Russian Empire was developed on the basis of full colonialism. Even in the pages of the Russian periodicals of that time, it was openly acknowledged that the essence of Russian domination in Turkestan was to secure trade interests. A similar view was expressed in one of the publications, including: “We reiterate that Russia’s dominance in the country is of great commercial importance.” [12.141].

The report on the regions of the Governor-General of Turkestan emphasizes the importance of the country in the supply of raw materials for the Russian economy, including Russian light industry: “Factories in the central regions of the metropolis are supplied with raw materials grown in the country, and the local population is the main consumer of the products of these factories,” he said [13.5]. The document also notes that the growth and development of trade, along with the revival of sales of Central Russian products, has served as an important factor in the peaceful coexistence and assimilation of many peoples living in the Fergana Valley. Indigenous people of the region, Kyrgyz and Jews, who are connected by a common trade sphere, are interested in establishing cooperation with the Russians. In the near future, there will be a strong, cohesive population that is loyal to Russia and serves its interests [13.3].

Turkestan's trade relations with the Russian Empire have been growing steadily. Cotton was the main commodity in trade relations. If in 1860 749,235 rubles of cotton were sent from the country to the metropolis, [14.3] in 1912-1913 raw materials worth 85,422,881 rubles were exported [15.125]. By 1915, 20.5 million tons of cotton fiber had been exported from Turkestan. pud or met the demand of the Russian textile industry for raw materials by 72.2%. From 1887 to 1917, the Russian Empire produced 346 million tons of Turkestan cotton. rubles. During these years, 282.8 mln. pud, total 1933.6 mln. rubles of cotton were taken away [16.8-15].

For Tsarism, it was necessary to relocate the “surplus” population to Turkestan, where it was strategically strengthened. At the same time, the Russian bourgeoisie was interested in attracting skilled workers who were well acquainted with industrial production to enterprises set up in the colonial outlying countries [17.12]. Thus, for the above reasons, the movement to relocate the Russian-speaking population to the country intensified.

CONCLUSION

The analysis of the given official data shows that on the eve of the First World War, the markets of Turkestan region were completely subordinated to the whole Russian market. In short, the main tasks of the economic policy pursued in Turkestan during the period under study were as follows:

- first, the complete subordination of the markets of the Turkestan region to the interests of the empire has been in the constant focus of the tsarist government and the commercial and industrial circles. In this regard, they took the initiative to expand trade relations and achieved their goals;

- secondly, the Central Asian regions have been transformed into a new source of raw materials in order to provide metropolitan light industry enterprises with raw materials. Much has been done to get rid of foreign competition in Turkestan markets, and Russian trade and industry have become a dominant force with government support. Thus, the Russian government and trade and industry representatives managed to strengthen Russian financial capital and gain full dominance in the country:

- and third, the collapse of domestic industries did not worry the colonial administration. On the contrary, the continuous import of low-quality factory goods was encouraged. This means that economic pressure is one of the colonial manifestations.

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