

## Eureka Journal of Humanities and Social Research (EJHSR)

ISSN 2760-4934 (Online) Volume 2, Issue 3, March 2026



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### THE IMPACT OF THE RUSSIAN EMPIRE'S CONQUEST ON THE ECONOMY OF THE KOKAND AND KHIVA KHANATES AND THE EMIRATE OF BUKHARA

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#### Abstract

This article examines the abolition of the Emirate of Bukhara and the Khanates of Kokand and Khiva, as well as the treaties concluded between the Russian Empire and the Turkestan khanates. Particular attention is paid to the colonial nature embedded in these agreements, their legal consequences, and their influence on the economic life of the region.

**Keywords:** Contract, commerce, land tax, customs duty, law, indemnity, ruble, Amu Darya department.

#### Introduction

In the Turkestan region, the Russian Empire did not establish a unified economic strategy. Nevertheless, economic activities were regulated and supervised through various statutes and regulations across different sectors. The economic colonial policy pursued by the Russian Empire had a significant impact on the political, social, economic, and spiritual life of the region. Politically, the Kokand Khanate transferred its system of governance to the Russian administration, while the semi-colonial Emirate of Bukhara and the Khanate of Khiva were subjected to increasing influence through Russian legal norms and administrative practices. To ensure control, the empire strengthened oversight through its representative institutions.

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Imperial policies profoundly transformed the population's way of life, leading to a decline in income levels and consumption standards. The involvement of adolescents in labor reduced educational attainment. As a consequence of Russification policies, the consumption of tobacco and alcoholic beverages increased among the local population. Moreover, the rights legalized through treaties primarily served the interests of Russian settlers and merchants. Efforts were also made to abolish national monetary units in order to introduce a unified ruble-based system in both internal and external circulation. Cotton monoculture was imposed to guarantee a continuous supply of raw materials for textile enterprises. As a result of treaties signed between regional authorities, new legal frameworks emerged.

### Materials and methods

The study is based on modern approaches to the economic history of Turkestan, employing regional analysis of economic processes through comparative examination of historical and economic literature alongside archival documents. This methodology enables the formulation of new scholarly conclusions. In addition, the analysis of more than ten normative legal acts related to the research topic enhances the academic significance of the study.

Historical sources in Uzbek, Russian, English were examined, including archival documents, memoirs and travel accounts, intelligence materials and official reports of Russian administrators, as well as statistical compilations. These sources were analyzed using comparative and critical methods.

### Results and discussion

After the capture of Tashkent by Russian imperial forces in June 1865, direct confrontation emerged between the Emirate of Bukhara and the Khanate of Khiva. At that time, military organization and troop structures in the khanates were significantly less developed compared to those of the imperial army. The

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variety and quality of weapons were also inferior, which ultimately led to the defeat of the khanates by the Russian Empire's military forces.

The "Trade Treaty" approved by Khudoyar Khan of Kokand on February 13, 1868; the agreement concluded with Emir Sayyid Muzaffar of Bukhara on September 28, 1873; and the "Peace Treaty" signed with Khan Sayyid Muhammad Rahim II of Khiva on August 12, 1873 served as the legal foundation for the transformation of Turkestan into a colonial territory.

These agreements were primarily economic in nature and created favorable conditions for imperial reforms. Their provisions were largely similar in content and were adapted to facilitate the penetration of Russian capital into the region through merchants, ensure their security, and legalize their activities. Responsibility for maintaining security and eliminating potential threats was placed on the emirs and khans.

Treaty provisions granted Russian merchants the right to engage freely in trade throughout the cities and villages of the Kokand Khanate. In return, Kokand merchants were allowed to conduct trade in metropolitan territories. Russian merchants were permitted to own caravanserais in khanate cities, while local merchants were formally granted similar rights in Russian cities [1].

Under the agreements, the cities and villages of the Emirate of Bukhara were opened to Russian trade. Russian merchants and caravans were allowed to move freely across the emirate, while responsibility for their security was assigned to the Bukhara government [2].

According to Turkestan Governor-General von Kaufman, there was no necessity to annex the territories on the right bank of the Amu Darya from Mishokli to Kugartli. He argued that leaving these lands under the authority of the Emir of Bukhara would be more just and beneficial, serving as a reward for the emir's assistance during the campaign against the Khanate of Khiva and fostering positive relations [3].

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At the same time, the Russian government aimed to assign responsibility for ensuring the security of trade routes passing through these territories to the Emirate of Bukhara. Colonel Glukhovsky emphasized that by transferring these lands to the emir, all obligations and responsibilities for securing vital trade routes in the Amu Darya basin would be placed upon him [4].

Russian authorities were granted the right to construct warehouses and ports at suitable locations along the Amu Darya banks belonging to the Bukhara state, with construction sites approved by the supreme Russian administration in Turkestan. The protection of these facilities was entrusted to the Bukhara government. Similar rights were granted in the Khanate of Khiva, where Russian merchants were allowed to establish warehouses and ports along the left bank of the river, with their protection assigned to the khan. Conditions were also created to ensure free navigation of Russian vessels along the Amu Darya[5].

A customs duty of 2.5 percent was imposed on goods transported by Russian merchants between the Russian Empire and the Kokand Khanate or the Emirate of Bukhara. Initially, Russian merchants in the Khanate of Khiva were exempt from customs duties. However, in 1895, Khivan merchants demanded the introduction of a 2.5 percent duty for Russian traders. Following negotiations, the imperial government introduced a uniform customs duty of 2.5 percent for both Russian merchants and Khivan traders exporting goods to metropolitan territories [6]. The imperial government also reserved the right to appoint its trusted representatives in khanate cities to monitor trade activities. In disputes over debt repayment between Russian and Khivan merchants, preferential treatment was granted to Russian traders [7].

Russian citizens were permitted to engage in the same occupations and crafts as the local population of Bukhara in accordance with Sharia norms, while Bukharans were allowed to conduct any activities permitted by law within the Russian Empire.

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The agreements established unequal conditions regarding land ownership in the Emirate of Bukhara and the Khanate of Khiva. Russian merchants were allowed to purchase private property, including houses, gardens, and land, within the emirate, subject to the same taxation as local residents. Although similar rights were formally granted to Bukhara citizens in imperial territories, in practice such cases were rare [8].

In the agreement with the Khanate of Khiva, obligations were largely unilateral, permitting Russian citizens to acquire immovable property within the khanate. The construction of warehouses, shops, residences, gardens, and agricultural lands for Russian merchants was allowed only at locations designated by the Turkestan Governor-General [9]. Russian officials often exaggerated the extent of imperial authority. Captain V. Girshfeld wrote that under the 1873 treaty, Russians were the true masters of the Khanate of Khiva, while the khan merely executed the orders of the Russian tsar. However, archival evidence does not fully support such claims. Military officers and economic specialists tended to justify imperial policy while discrediting khanate governance, exaggerating treaty-based ownership rights to portray the khanates as fully colonial territories [10].

This concern stemmed from the fact that the Emirate of Bukhara and the Khanate of Khiva were not completely subordinated. In 1913, the head of the Amu Darya Department, Nil Likoshin, acknowledged that although it had once been possible to incorporate Khiva into the imperial provinces, prolonged delays had made the complete elimination of the khanate increasingly difficult.

Russian scholarly and journalistic discourse emphasized that despite favorable treaty conditions for Russian officials and merchants, Khiva's nominal independence conflicted with the interests of Russian capital. Calls for the annexation of Khiva were common in the Russian press. For example, an article titled "Victors and the Defeated," published in *Novoye Vremya* on April 19, 1914, discussed the financial burden of border security, railways, and

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communication systems, arguing that society misunderstood the true nature of imperial–khanate relations [11].

### Conclusion

The treaties concluded between the Russian Empire, the Turkestan Governor-Generalship, the Khanate of Khiva, and the Emirate of Bukhara—despite being formally described as “mutual agreements,” “trade treaties,” or “peace treaties”—in reality constituted the legal foundation for transforming the khanates into colonial entities. The provisions of these agreements primarily served the economic interests of the empire.

The rights granted to local merchants were largely nominal and limited in practice. National traders rarely acquired or utilized property in central imperial cities, indicating that these rights were effectively designed to benefit Russians within the Turkestan region. Furthermore, trade supervision was conducted not by khanate authorities but by Russian administrators. By ensuring comprehensive rights for merchants and producers of all scales, the Russian Empire advanced its strategic objectives in Turkestan.

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