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## THE FIRST STUDIES OF THE HISTORY OF CENTRAL ASIAN KHANATES BY ENGLISH-SPEAKING AUTHORS

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**Abstract.** This article gives a brief description of the first works of English-speaking authors on the history of Central Asian khanates. The general ideas given in these works are scientifically analysed.

**Keywords:** English historiography, source study, deconstruction, Central Asia, Bukhara Emirate, Khiva Khanate, traveller, mission, socio-economic life.

### ПЕРВЫЕ ИССЛЕДОВАНИЯ ИСТОРИИ СРЕДНЕАЗИАТСКИХ ХАНСТВ АНГЛОЯЗЫЧНЫМИ АВТОРАМИ

**Аннотация.** В данной статье дано краткое описание первых произведений англоязычных авторов по истории среднеазиатских ханств. В том числе, научно проанализированы общие идеи, приведенные в этих трудах.

**Ключевые слова:** английская историография, источниковедение, деконструкция, Средняя Азия, Бухарский эмират, Хивинское ханство, путешественник, миссия, социально-экономическая жизнь.

### O'RTA OSIYO XONLIKLARI TARIXI BO'YICHA INGLIZZABON MUALLIFLARNING DASTLABKI TADQIQOTLARI

**Annotatsiya.** Ushbu maqolada O'rta Osiyo xonliklari tarixi bo'yicha inglizzabon mualliflari tomonidan yaratilgan dastlabki asarlarning qisqacha tavsifi berilgan. Shu bilan birga ushbu asarlardagi umumiy g'oyalar ilmiy tahlil qilingan.

**Kalit so'zlar:** ingliz tarixshunosligi, manbashunoslik, dekonstruksiya, O'rta Osiyo, Buxoro amirligi, Xiva xonligi, sayohatchi, missiya, ijtimoiy-iqtisodiy hayot.

**Introduction.** In the first half of the XIX century in European, more precisely English historiography, the main problems of scientific research on the history of Central Asian khanates were formed. The authors in most cases tried to investigate and analyse events and facts as eyewitnesses of the events. In our opinion, the works, by the nature of narratives, travel diaries, of English-speaking authors are important for the study of the history of political, socio-economic and cultural life of the Central Asian khanates during the reign of local dynasties.

In general, certain scientific traditions and continuity have developed in English-speaking historiography, which determined the leading provisions of the studies of a number of scholars. They, in turn, have awakened the current interest in the history of Central Asian khanates through their works.

**Literature and methodology.** In this paper we endeavour to divide the literatures partly into two groups. The first group includes the narratives of the earliest English-speaking author Antony Jenkinson, who visited Central Asia in the 50s of the 16th century. In his work, which was published in London and translated into Russian in Moscow, one can find valuable information about the cities, states of Central Asia, population, economy, social and political situation. The next group of sources consists of information from authors of the 18th and first half of the 19th centuries. It was during this period that Jonas Hanvey, Mir Izzatullo, William Moorcroft, Alexander Burns, James Abbott, Richmond Shakespeare and others paid attention mainly to general problems of Central Asian history, in particular, the history of Central Asian khanates.

We try to give information in sequence, i.e. methods such as biographical, synopsis and comparison of sources are used in analysing sources.

**Analysis and results.** According to the facts, Western Europe was interested in Central Asia since the XVI century, with the existence of Bukhara and Khiva khanates [1. 546]. In particular, in 1558-1559 years Khiva and Bukhara was visited by English merchant, traveller, in addition agent of the East India Company Antony Jenkinson in order to establish and collect information about different trade routes for further English advances in East Asia, especially in China. But he practically failed to fulfil all the ambitions of his mission, as the terrain was unfamiliar, moreover political fragmentation and internal wars did not allow him to assess the real situation in Central Asia.

While travelling, A. Jenkinson regularly kept his travel diaries with valuable information about the people, trade and economic situation, political situation, roads, etc [2. 65].

That is why the penetration of the English and the appearance of the first information on the history of the Central Asian khanates in English-language literature are connected with Antony Jenkinson's journey to Khiva and Bukhara. Moreover, it is the beginning of relations between the Central Asian khanates and Russia, as Antony Jenkinson delivered to the Central Asian rulers letters from Tsar of All Russia Ivan Vasilevich as his ambassador [3. 75-76].

After Antony Jenkinson's voyage, no traces of English or European travellers reached the territory of Central Asia until the 40s of the XVIII century. It was in the 40s of the XVIII century that English merchants travelled to Central Asia, more precisely to Khiva and Bukhara. In particular, in 1739-1740 English merchants Reynold Hoge and George Thomson travelled to Khiva and Bukhara. One of the remarkable travellers and traders of England Jonas Hanway, who made a journey to Iran published his 4-volume book on English trade, in which he narrated about the arrival and information of these merchants who came to Central Asia [4. 457].

The arrival of J. Thomson in Bukhara is of particular interest, because he gives valuable information about Bukhara Khanate, location of Bukhara city, population, way of life of Bukharans, measures, voluta, goods for sale, foreign trade. J. Thomson paid special attention to trade and products of import and export. He also highlighted the economy, culture and ethnography of the inhabitants of the city.

According to historical sources, in the late 18th and early 19th century, due to unstable political circumstances, English travellers stopped their missions and voyages, leaving Central Asia a secret and poorly explored area for Europeans.

From the beginning of the 19th century, authors, travellers, traders themselves or through other merchants, diplomats, ambassadors, travellers, missionaries collected, collated and summarised the information received about Central Asia.

The first large-scale information about the Bukhara Emirate appears in foreign literature with the beginning of England's economic penetration into Central Asia. According to sources, in the early 20s of the XIX century in the markets of the Bukhara Emirate sold many English industrial products imported here by Persian and partly Indian merchants. [5, 76]. Based on this, we can judge that from the beginning of the XIX century foreign merchants, travellers penetrated into the territories of Central Asia in order to open the way for the wide development of trade and economic relations, with the opportunity to collect valuable information about the region.

As the first trip of the early XIX century to the Bukhara Emirate should be noted the trip of William Murcroft and George Trebek, who visited the territory of the Emirate in 1825, and left behind a travel diary, which gives valuable information about some issues of political, social and economic life of the Bukhara Emirate. In 1841 the travelling notes of W. Moorcroft were revised and published in two volumes in London. On the first volume of the work W. Moorcroft describes in detail the ways in India and Central Asia, different religions, social life, economy of the population inhabited in India and different regions of Hindustan and Central Asia, especially handicrafts and national economy are extensively outlined, due to which the value of the work is increased.

On the second volume, in the fourth part, in the 5th chapter, the author provides valuable information about trade routes to Central Asia, as well as to Bukhara Emirate, such products in trade and economic relations as silk, cotton, rice, horse, various minerals, fruits, jewellery, wine and others. Moreover, the information about Karshi and the routes leading to Bukhara, arrival in Bukhara, negotiations with the Emir, reception in the palace of Bukhara Emir is very important and extremely valuable [6. Vol. 1. 535; Vol. 2. 546].

Among the journeys of the first half of the 19th century to Bukhara, it is worth mentioning the trip of Alexander Burns, an officer of the East India Company, who compiled a detailed description of

18 the journey, which was published in three volumes in London and then in Russia, translated into Russian. An important source on the history of the Anglo-Russian struggle in the markets of Central Asia are the works of English travellers who visited this region in the 1830s - early 1840s, in particular, "Journey to Bukhara" by A. Burns (1805-1841). The book attributes an important role to the Bukhara Khanate in the transit trade between Europe and Asia. Burns considered the issue of Central Asian trade routes as the main factor of Anglo-Russian rivalry in Central Asian markets. A. Burns visited Central Asia on a reconnaissance mission in the early 30s of the XIX century. In the rank of lieutenant he served in the East India Company and after travelling through India in the very early 30s went to Bukhara. Taking note of the sad fate of his predecessors along the way. A. Burns pretended to be a "private traveller", whose passports in French, English and Persian described him as a captain of the British army returning to Europe. A. Burns described his impressions in the book "Journey to Bukhara: an account of a voyage along the Indus from the sea to Lahore with gifts from the British King and an account of a journey from India to Kabul, Tatarstan and Persia, undertaken on the instructions of the supreme government of India in 1831, 1832, 1833". By "Tataria" is meant the Emirate of Bukhara. This three-volume work was published in Russian in 1848. The book contains information on the historical geography of Central Asia, particularly on the Hissar Valley and Badakhshan. A. Burns in IX-XI chapters of the book described in detail his arrival in Bukhara. The book contains information about the state structure of the Bukhara Emirate, the work of the government apparatus, the system of local administrations, land ownership and land use, the features of the Armed Forces and defence capability, mobilisation capabilities, wax management and its logistics. A. Burns also gave valuable information about the population, architectural appearance of the city of Bukhara, clothing, manners and customs of Bukharians, the legal status of Jews, Hindus and other peoples living in the city, the state of trade (comprehensively described the trade in slaves), several meetings with the chief vizier - kushbegi, a visit to the mazar of Bahauddin Naqshbanda, etc [7, 546].

Among the scientific works of the 1940s on Khiva and the Central Asian region, the most interesting are those of the English captain James Abbott. In his work on his trip to Khiva, he wrote that he met with the Khiva khan and negotiated important political issues. In his work J. Abbott gives a lot of information about the terrain, ways, socio-economic and political life of the country, embassies of different countries, etc. Moreover, he endeavoured to present the Russians as enemies of the Central Asian peoples, trying allegedly to enslave them, and the British as their sincere friends [8, 87-93].

In our opinion, James Abbott's visit to Khiva, organised on the scale of the Anglo-Russian confrontation, though it was for political purposes, is very important in illuminating the history of the Central Asian khanates.

An important source on the history of the Anglo-Russian struggle in the markets of Central Asia are the writings of English travellers who visited the Khanate of Khiva. In particular, in the summer of 1840 a representative of the East India Company Captain R. Shakespeare visited Khiva, who tried to formalise a military alliance of the Central Asian khanates with England against Russia. However, R. Shakespeare's mission was not successful, but English intrigues in Central Asia did not stop. In spite of Shakespeare's military and political purpose, the information collected during his trip is of special interest. He gives detailed information about fields of crops throughout the country, gardens, houses with their own farms, buildings made of wood, roads stacked with stones and the population in his narratives [9, 149].

**Conclusion.** Thus, in the 16th, 18th and early 19th centuries, English-speaking travellers, traders, military men, missionaries, local historians and history buffs were engaged in research. The works of English-speaking researchers were mainly written in the context of the Anglo-Russian confrontation in Central Asia, serving the interests of the British Empire or any organisation. But the authors in most cases tried to investigate and analyse events and facts independently, as eyewitnesses of the events. Therefore, the data given by them are important for the study of the late feudal history of the Central Asian khanates.

During the Soviet period, there was a one-sided approach to English-language historiography and source studies, as these sources were practically not studied with the pretext of anti-Soviet character. The works of Russian scientists, travellers and orientalists were mainly of a practical nature, they considered the prospects for the development of economic relations between Russia and the Central Asian khanates. On this basis, in studying the historiography of the history of the Central Asian khanates, it is necessary to contrast the English-language historiography with the Russian one, and it

is also very important to analyse the English sources that highlighted various political, socio-economic and cultural processes in the Central Asian khanates.

In their works and narratives, the authors pay special attention to the socio-economic development of the regions of Central Asia and dwell in great detail on the administrative structure and tax system of the country under study.

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