

SOURCES ON CHANGES IN THE CULTURE OF EVERYDAY LIFE OF THE NOMADIC POPULATION OF CENTRAL ASIA

(based on materials from the office of the Turkestan General Government)

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Abstract:

Issues of the history of the nomadic population of Central Asia are one of the problematic areas of source study. Many historians, travelers and diplomats wrote about the economic life, scientific life and culture of the nomadic population. In the given article the documents of Turkestan's Governor's Office kept in the funds of the Central Archives of the Republic of Uzbekistan are considered as the sources of investigations and give a chance to make up some conclusions concerning the life of nomadic people of Central Asia.

Keywords

Nomadic population of Central Asia, economic life, scientific life and culture, documents of Turkestan's Governor's Office, multitude of livestock, ancient centers of commodity exchange emerged, the endless expanses of nomadism.

Introduction

The Persian historian Fazlallah Isfahani, being the historiographer of Muhammad Sheybani, at the beginning of the 16th century wrote the historical and geographical book "Notes of the Bukhara Guest" ("Mikhmannameyi Bukhara"). In this book, the author described the life of the nomadic population. In the chapter entitled "Description of the Desht-i-Kipchak and the country of the Uzbeks," he, speaking about the life of the peoples of the Desht-i-Kipchak, writes that "almighty God granted them summer and winter camps". He further writes: "This vast steppe is the summer camp of the Uzbeks. Due to the multitude of livestock and the need for pastures, they occupy this entire vast steppe. When autumn comes, the weather in this country becomes cold and heavy snow falls, then, of course, the Kazakhs leave the steppe for winter camps for the winter". [1]

MAIN PART

Subsequently, already in the Russian source of the first half of the 19th century, information is provided about the immediate economic life of the nomadic population. Thus, "the Kyrgyz people, rich in cattle breeding, drive their herds to Bukhara, on the Russian border; they exchange and sell a significant number of sheep and cows; their products, felts, Armenians, camel wool, lassos, raw leather, animal skins, and the Bukharians give them robes, calico, rolls, knock-offs, boots, carpets, millet. The Kyrgyz pay the same duty as other Mohammedans, and They themselves take it indefinitely from the Bukharians,

because they, as a people... nomadic, have no provision for this". This information is given in the journal "Notes of the Fatherland" (1821). [2]

More than 20 years later, the Russian scientist I.F. Blaramberg in his "Memoirs" writes about the areas on the other side of the Urals inhabited by the Kyrgyz. He gives a number of examples from the life of the nomadic Kyrgyz. So, with the arrival of spring, the Kyrgyz burn some areas in the steppe in order to destroy last year's thick and tough grass and thus clear the area for young growth. Since the steppe climate is subject to great fluctuations, in summer the heat in the steppe reaches 35° Reaumur or more, while in winter the thermometer shows up to 35° below zero." He also describes the life of the nomadic Kyrgyz in winter as harsh and difficult. A similar assessment of the life of nomadic pastoralists is reliably described by the prominent Russian scientist and orientalist N.V. Khanykov. [3]

From the second half of the 19th century, Central Asia gradually, over the course of more than 20 years, began to be included in the spheres of economic and political interests of Russian capitalism. Methods of colonial administration were established in the conquered territories. During this period, throughout Central Asia, changes took place in the life of the multinational people: people gradually began to get used to the royal names of administration, such as district, district chief, military governor, police department, courts. Central Asia can be divided into two main categories based on the principle of population. These are peoples living in cities and nearby settlements, where the economic way of life was mainly associated with agriculture. The second category of the population mainly leads a nomadic and semi-nomadic lifestyle and is engaged in animal husbandry. As stated above, as the food supply was exhausted, they were forced to migrate to another place.

It should be noted that the nomadic or semi-nomadic way of life of the peoples of Turkestan was predetermined by the division of labor that had historically developed in certain regions of the region and was determined by natural economic conditions. The cultural centers of Turkestan were cities where the production of goods for the economy developed, and there a unique urban culture developed in which trade developed. These factors determined that the production of cotton, silk and other industrial goods required the provision of food and leather, which were produced by the semi-sedentary and nomadic population of Central Asia. The nomadic way of life was closely connected, it is correct to say in demand, with the economic and ubiquitous life of the population of the region. Trade relations with other peoples were conducted through the endless expanses of nomadism in Central Asia, and this factor was reflected in the economic psychology of the nomadic population: Uzbeks, Kazakhs, Kyrgyz, Turkmen.

Many nomadic peoples have traditionally crossed the borders of neighboring states for a long time. It was the Kazakhs and Kyrgyz who moved to Russian and Chinese territories, the Turkmen to the territory of Afghanistan and Persia. Since the establishment of the rules of government of Tsarism in Central Asia, the problems of establishing interstate borders have also been resolved. This had an impact in interstate relations, including in relation to the nomadic population. Issues of the daily economic life of the nomadic population of Central Asia can be studied using materials from the office of the Turkestan General

Government, which are registered in the third department of the office of the I-1 fund in the Central State Archive of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

By reviewing the materials of the office, a number of conclusions can be drawn. One of them is that a nomadic lifestyle and cattle breeding were an objective need for the life of the peoples of Central Asia. In particular, settled areas and their agricultural cultural centers, cities and their populations were constantly in need of livestock products. As a result, ancient centers of commodity exchange emerged, located mainly at the crossroads of trade caravan roads. Even in the initial period of tsarist rule, the tasks of rapprochement with the nomadic population were set. So on November 29, 1868, the Military Governor of the Syrdarya region, in a report addressed to the Governor-General, reported that the commission of the Kurama Organizing Committee, based on requests from a number of volosts, applied for the opening of bazaars (markets) in several villages.

So it was proposed to open a bazaar in the village of Maidatal, because “The density of the settled population in the Maidatal and Gaib-Ata volosts in each of up to 1000 households closely living, with the exception of almost the same number of nomads, with the remoteness of the bazaars and the difficult route of communication. The request and thereby assisting in the development of trade between settled Kyrgyz people”. [4]

It is well known that Tashkent is very close to the crossroads of nomadic trade roads and therefore the Kazakh and Kyrgyz nomads, residents of neighboring steppe regions, were closely connected with each other. Accordingly, Tashkent can be considered not only the center of the General Government, but also the center of mutual influence of steppe nomadic life with settled agricultural centers of the region. Thus, the military governor of the Semerechye region in his report for 1902 noted the following facts: the region occupied an area of 352,979 square meters. km of which 6370 sq. km were occupied by a settled population. This is 1.8% of the total territory. The remaining 346,609 sq. km of territory was occupied by nomads in which 794,475 souls lived. Judging by the report, the military governor notes that “in the vast Balkhash steppes, in the lower reaches of the rivers or Karatal and especially along the Chu River, as well as in the mountain valleys of Dzhumgan, Susamyr and Kogart, the remains of significant irrigation structures are found everywhere, the ruins of ancient fortresses and settlements indicate that agricultural culture has never flourished in the region”. [5]

The report further states that the main occupation of the Kyrgyz nomads was cattle breeding. The poor were engaged in agriculture and they considered this humiliating for themselves. He believes that the colonization of the region contributes to the attachment of the Kyrgyz to the land and their speedy transition to a sedentary state. Why does he even propose the confiscation of lands from the nomads and the land structure of the Semerechye Cossack army. One of the reports of the military governor of the Fergana region says that the native population was very interested in all sorts of useful innovations. This also applies to the nomadic population of the region. [6]

Further, the military governor of Semirechye notes that agriculture in the region is noticeably developing and the system of its management is improving. The opening of a

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state-owned warehouse for agricultural implements in the city of Verny caused the appearance of private warehouses in different places in the region, and the population willingly replaced the primitive plow with a factory plow, and manual harvesting with a machine. [7]

The report notes the encouraging fact that the Kyrgyz people are striving to improve the breeds of cattle and horses they raise. Because the demand for Semirechensk cattle was high in other regions of Turkestan, Siberia and the European part of Russia. But in quality they were inferior to the breeds bred in Russia and therefore several volosts of Pishpek district decided to purchase purebred producers. If this is one of the facts of changes in the daily life of the economy and the Kyrgyz people. The very next fact suggests that the regional administration, for the proper management of agricultural crops, set the task of organizing agricultural schools in the concentrations of Kyrgyz nomads. It also talks about the development of horticulture, that is, the cultivation of industrial gardening among nomads in accordance with Article No. 125 of the "Steppe Regulations" - but at the moment they have not yet realized the benefits of such crops, although according to the regulations it was inherited. [8]

In Turkestan, back in 1871, the "Agriculture Society" was formed. The charter of the society states that the "Turkestan Society of Agriculture" has the goal of promoting the development and improvement of agriculture, both in the Turkestan region and, if possible, in the neighboring Central Asian khanates." The charter talks about the care and development of cattle breeding in the region and the improvement of local people. [9]

In the report of the military governor of the Semirechensk region for 1903, the opinion continues about the confiscation of lands from nomads for the land development of the Semirechensky Cossack regiment. The long snowy winter and cold spring are reported to have had a detrimental effect on nomadic pastoralism. Thus, as of January 1, 1904, 5,669,246 head of livestock were registered among the nomads. [10]

It was stated above that the opening of a government warehouse in Verny caused an influx of commission agents from various factories into the region. The following fact is reported: "Improved weapons are distributed mainly among the Russian population, but nomads are also beginning to follow his example. As a particularly gratifying phenomenon, one can point out its acquisition in the Arasan volost by one of the wealthy Kyrgyz, who, having lost a lot of livestock from lack of food and seeing the productivity of the haymower of his neighbor, a post office owner, bought a haymower for himself back in 1902. In the reported example, three other Kirghiz of his volost followed". This fact will be explained further: as with the great tendency of the Kirghiz to imitate, we can say with almost certainty that mowers will come into use among them, and with their distribution, food supplies for the winter will begin to increase. [11]

At the same time, since improved tools for cultivating the soil and harvesting crops penetrate only into the nomadic volosts closest to the Russian villages, the colonization of the steppe should be considered a very important means of spreading rational agriculture among the nomadic population. This is a historical fact regarding the change in the

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economic life of nomads. The report also contains information about the educational system conducted by the administration of the Semerechye region among the native population. In the reporting year of 1903, the administration paid attention to Russian-native schools, the organization of which did not live up to the hopes placed on it. Experience has shown that successful teaching of Russian literacy to native children and their rapid acquisition of the Russian language are achieved only by teaching them together with Russian boys.

The military governor of the region, Ionov, himself personally visited the Russian-native school in the valley of the Dzhungala River, he writes: "The school building was built beautifully; for the maintenance of the school, the Kyrgyz society allocated 1000 rubles annually, but when Ionov visited the school, there were no students in it. When he interviewed local Kyrgyz, they stated that their children were learning to read and write Russian, but did not understand and did not have practice in speaking. The organization of free readings in the local language was successful; they aroused keen interest and the population willingly attended them. [12]

Another issue is attracting the local population to military service. It is said that the local Kyrgyz expressed a desire to form a hundred horsemen to march to Gulja. Ionov writes that there is no evidence to suggest that among the nomadic Kirghiz, who have excellent qualities as riders, they will not develop perfectly disciplined cavalymen, just as the Dungans produce infantrymen.

According to Ionov, "in all our military operations in Central Asia, the so-called horsemen teams were always formed from the natives for intelligence and postal services. [13]

He also gives a description of the nomadic population "Among the million-strong almost native population of the region. Especially those nomadic in the mountains, there cannot but be a certain percentage of people distinguished by their daring and belligerence, who in the best cases become passionate hunters of wild animals, and in the majority turn into horse thieves, finding use for their daring in raids on villages hostile to them, or what more often it happened in robberies within China, to prevent which it was necessary to keep an entire Cossack regiment at posts along the border until 1901".

The nomadic population is also mentioned in the reports of military governors of other regions. For example, the military governor of the Samarkand region, Lieutenant General Galkin, in his report on 1909 (registered in the office under number 1061 dated August 16, 1910). "Cattle breeding, which constitutes the main livelihood of the nomadic population of the region and an auxiliary one for settled agriculture, took place in the reporting year in generally favorable conditions and the number of livestock in the region increased, astrakhan sheep breeding almost doubled, giving the population enormous benefits". [14]

The administration of the Turkestan General Government, in particular the Semirechensk region, in order to continue the formation of Russian settlements, focused on the issue of irrigation provision for places of deployment. Thus, according to the report of the acting military governor, "the regions, especially in its southern part, represent marked lands for the formation of Russian settlements on them. But since these spaces are remote for a considerable distance and are spread out among the nomadic Kyrgyz or near the border

with the Fergana region, for political purposes it would be desirable for the newly established villages to be exclusively Cossack.” These opinions take into account the strategic objectives of the tsarist government to develop the territory of the region. [15]

The situation of the nomadic population in the Trans-Caspian region differs from other regions of the region. According to the report of the military governor of the Transcaspian region, Lieutenant General Evrinov for 1909, it is said that “between the Ural and Transcaspian regions it was necessary to resolve the issue of the relationship between the Kyrgyz nomads, since the Kirghiz (we must understand the Kazakhs) of the Ural region migrated to Guryev and Temir counties. Therefore, the task is set to allocate the necessary nomadic routes for them. Further, the military man writes about the main specificity of “The Trans-Caspian region is famously poor in water”. [16]

The report also says about the nomadic Turkmens who engage in a sedentary lifestyle, “The water of small springs, sufficient in the past for the needs of the nomadic Turkmens, turned out to be completely insufficient for the Turkmens who settled and took up farming. Therefore, in all districts, the desire of the Turkmens, and partly also Russian settlers, to develop new kariz and to clear the abandoned ones is noticeable; in 1909, 14 kariz were developed in one Askhabad district”. [17]

The glory of Turkmen carpets is well known. But with the process of sedimentation, the quality of local handicraft carpets began to change, the reason, the report says, is as follows: “The transition to agriculture, cotton culture, lack of free time, rising labor costs, the development of trade and the development of new needs and tastes make it no longer possible to produce those fine, expensive carpets for which the region was so famous”. [18]

The question of the settlement of the nomadic population - the Uzbek scientist F. Iskhakov believes that: “since the Russian textile industry needed more and more cotton. Therefore, since 1906, a course was set for a gradual but active transition of the nomadic and semi-nomadic population to a sedentary lifestyle.” He, referring to the materials of the Turkestan Gazette No. 78 of 1914, cites the following fact: “under the influence of the clear example of their settler neighbors, the Kyrgyz, seeing all the advantages of a settled life, little by little they also begin to lean towards the idea that a settled way of life is not a better example. The recent tendency toward sedentism, noticeable among the Kyrgyz people, also plays a significant role here”. [19]

CONCLUSION

Based on the above archival materials, some conclusions can be drawn:

- ✓ The nomadic way of life and economic activity is an objective, necessary aspect of the life of the population of some part of Central Asia.
- ✓ The daily life of the nomadic population was directly related to the agricultural settled population of Turkestan. They were interconnected by economic life and complemented each other.
- ✓ Documents indicate that the nomadic population of Central Asia treated with great interest all innovations, the introduction of which brought changes to economic life.

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- ✓ Despite the colonial nature of the policy of tsarism in Turkestan, the nomadic population as a result gradually began to become accustomed to more efficient methods of farming. The culture of daily life of the nomadic population began to change.
 - ✓ The use of new farming methods accelerated the process of transition from a nomadic to a sedentary lifestyle.

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