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Samarkand in the Research of Alexander Morrison

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Abstract:

This article analyzes the research of Alexander Morrison, a professor of history at Oxford University, on the history of domestic policy and governance of the Russian Empire in Samarkand. In particular, the occupation of the city by the Russian Empire, the Indian population in Samarkand, the Russian-controlled irrigation system.

Keywords: Central Asia, South Asia, Marakand, Zirabulak, Kattakurgan, Jammu, Shikarpur, empire, irrigation, Turkistan.

Introduction

Samarkand is one of the most ancient cities not only in Central Asia, but also in the whole world, and is one of the important political and cultural centers with a history of universal culture. Samarkand has a unique place in the history of the world. It is no exaggeration to say that this historic and young city has become a center of research in modern historiographical institutes of various developed countries around the world. Samarkand, which has made an invaluable contribution to human civilization, has long attracted the attention of many scientists and researchers around the world. Coverage of the role of Uzbekistan, in particular Samarkand, in the system of internal and external relations of Central Asia on the basis of foreign historiography is an important issue in the history of our country.

Alexander Morrison, a professor of history at Oxford University, is an empire and colonial historian whose research focuses on the Russian invasion of Central Asia. A. Morrison spoke about the topics of his research, including: I have considered in my work the colonial policy of British India and Russian Turkestan (especially the Samarkand region) and the differences I have found and the similarities were not as expected, but rather astonishing. In both cases, the military has played a key role in governing the region. Both the Russians in Turkestan and the British in India found it difficult to obtain accurate information about the newly occupied territories, and the problem was largely resolved through local agents.

The conquest of Samarkand, one of the central cities of the Emirate of Bukhara before the invasion of the Russian Empire, took place in the second phase of the Russian occupation of Central Asia, in particular Alexander Morrison. occupation and conquest were important to the Russians. K.P. Kaufman knew that he would become one of Alexander's followers by conquering Morocco. The Russians were well aware of the city administration. "It is clear that the occupation of Samarkand during the Russian occupation was very important. As a proof of this, we can cite the phrase "Samarkand is the Moscow of Central Asia", which is the cultural heritage of the Timurids, as described by a famous traveler of his time. In the run-up to this invasion,

the Russians may have studied the situation in Samarkand in various ways. Referring to the specific facts of the occupation of Samarkand, A. Morrison gave the following information: "At first, Samarkand was occupied almost without a fight. Later, K.P. Kaufman left a garrison of only 500 men in Samarkand, led by Baron Stempel. He went to war with the army of the Bukhara Emirate on Zirabulak hill near Kattakurgan.

According to A. Morrison, the main reason for the easy occupation of Samarkand by the Russians was that the main army of the Emirate of Bukhara was located not in Samarkand, but on Choponota hill, and the defeat of the emirate's troops on this hill. He opened the gates of Samarkand. "Continuing the researcher's opinion, it should be noted that on May 1, 1868, after the occupation of Samarkand by the troops of the colonial empire, General K.P. Kaufman announced that local officials in the city and surrounding areas had been left in place, and that the people should transfer existing taxes to the treasury of Tsarist Russia. Despite the fact that taxes were fully collected that year, the tsarist government demanded a re-taxation of the population. The oppression of the working population by local officials and the tsarist administration led to the Samarkand uprising. The revolt was first led by Shahrizabz and Kitab beys Jorabek and Bobobek, and later by Abdulmalik. The rebels launched a fierce attack on the Russian fortress. The whole city was agitated. However, on June 4, 1868, after hearing that the Emir's troops had been defeated by the Russians at the Battle of Zirabulak, Kitab and Shahrizabz beys left Samarkand, believing the false rumors that the Russians had begun marching on Shakhrisabz.¹

On June 8, 1868, by Kaufman's order, Samarkand was attacked. The soldiers, ordered to burn the city completely, begin the massacre. On June 9, 1868, the tragedy of Samarkand began, which dried the pillows of thousands of people. Hundreds of people were shot dead during the three-day massacre without investigation, and 19 people, including rebel activists, were deported to Siberia.²

After the Russian conquest of Samarkand, Turkestan formed the Zarafshan district, which was part of the Governor-General, and its center was designated Samarkand. In short, Samarkand was the center of Zarafshan district in accordance with the Regulations on "Administrative Management of Zarafshan District" approved on June 29, 1868. According to A. Morrison, "Eighteen years after the invasion of the Russian Empire, Zarafshan district was officially annexed only in 1886, but in 1871 the Russians began to reorganize and change its administration."³

In accordance with the "Regulations on the Administration of the Turkestan Territory" adopted in 1886, Zarafshan district was transformed into Samarkand region and the city was designated as the center of this region. Samarkand region consists of 2 districts: Samarkand and Kattakurgan districts. The highest ruler of the region was the military governor, who at the same time headed the civilian and military authorities.

In his research, Alexander Morrison focused on the rule of the Russian Empire in Samarkand and the imperial policy in British India, as well as the Indians who lived in Samarkand during the Russian Empire. "According to a regional survey conducted in Samarkand in 1870, there were 33 Indians living in the small town of Kattakurgan, one from Jammu and the rest from Shikarpur. Eight of them were usurers, one was a monk and the others were merchants and philanthropists. They moved here in the 1840s, before the Russian invasion. There was also an Indian population of 23 in a much smaller area like Thursday. The fact that these figures are

¹ O'zbekiston Milliy Ensiklopediyasi. Birinchi jild. Toshkent, 2000- yil. 124-b.

² O'sha asar 124-b.

³ Morrison A.S. Russian Rule in Samarkand 1868-1910: A Comparison with British India. – Oxford University Press 2008. – 10.

found in the history of Samarkand can be explained by the fact that at least 5,000 Indians lived in the neighboring Russian Empire at that time.”⁴.

The researcher also refers to the irrigation system in Samarkand in the Russian Empire, when in 1868, when the Russians besieged the city, General von Kaufman cut off the flow of water along the canals that irrigate Samarkand, allegedly imitating the city of Arab commander Asad ibn Abdullah. mentioned that he did. The Russian Empire's domination of water was not limited to Samarkand. For example, on April 27, 1865, Cherniyayev marched on Tashkent with an army of about 2,000 men and captured the fortress of Niyazbek on the Chirchik River. In order to leave the fort, Kaikovus demolished the water intake dam and forced the Tashkent defense to surrender as soon as possible. After the formation of Zarafshan district, the Russians took full control of the headwaters of the Zarafshan River, thus stifling the irrigation supply of Bukhara.⁵.

It should be noted that in the Turkestan region, as well as in the Samarkand region, the centuries-old rule over agriculture and irrigation, which is inextricably linked with it, the control of the Russian Empire over the local population and their constant served to keep in obedience. He is an official in charge of irrigation works at the regional department. engaged in tasks such as providing technical guidance on maintenance, repair, and reconstruction.

Conclusion

In summary, in his research, Alexander Morrison made an in-depth analysis of the Russian colonial policy in Samarkand in several areas, including military bureaucracy, local government, religion, land ownership, and irrigation, with British India and British colonial administration in India. It is obvious that the history of Samarkand, one of the most ancient cities not only in Uzbekistan, but also in Central Asia, from ancient times to the present day, is being studied in depth in the modern historiography of foreign countries. This will have a positive impact on the development of science and culture of Uzbekistan, the development of tourism, diplomacy, economic and cultural ties.

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