

FROM THE HISTORY OF THE TAX POLICY OF THE UZBEK KHANIES

(XIX - early XX centuries)

Anvar Fayzullaev,

Karshi State University Uzbekistan

Annotation:

The article analyzes the events in the history of the tax policy of the Uzbek khanates, especially in Bukhara.

Keywords: Bukhara khanate, Denov, Sherobod, Boysun, Hisor, Qabodiyon, tax policy, hiraj, Boysun dynasty.

In addition to the general taxes that must be paid in the emirate, additional fees have been introduced in each province. Each bek set additional taxes according to their own discretion. Tax collectors also demanded payments and obligations from the population that were not introduced by the government of Bukhara. Officials often used their positions to gain wealth and collected twice the amount of taxes. According to information, many such events could be found in Denov, Sherabad, Boysun, Hisar, Qabadiyan and other districts. For example, in Sherabad province, according to tradition, the cafsan tax was not introduced. But still they collected it¹.

Judging by the above information, all the burdens in the country were borne by the ordinary working masses. Some righteous religious leaders tried to protect the common people from such arbitrariness. In particular, the judge of Denov, Mullah Mir Imomiddin, informed the emir of Bukhara that the tax collectors were collecting taxes by breaking the established tradition and sent a letter of complaint to the emir asking to regulate their arbitrariness. In addition, many letters of protest and complaints were written to the emir of Bukhara by the residents of the oasis. As an example, we can cite the complaint of the farmers living in the Sherabad district against Mullah Mansurbek, the chairman of Sherabad, to the emir. In it, it is reported that the chairman of Sherabad collects an additional tax of one coin per day from artisans, he asks for as much as the judge asks for racialization of purchase and sale documents, and for receiving school money - 20 coins per month.

But such complaints were almost without result. Therefore, the peasants sent their most reliable representatives to the emir. On October 10, 1885, several representatives from Sherabad went to the emir to complain about the landowners for taking more than the prescribed tax. But this also does not give any result. Instead of punishing the guilty, Amir

¹ Мухсинова К.З. История выступления Бухарских крестьян против налогового гнета в конце XIX в. // Проблемы востоковедения. – Т., 1959. – С.99.

ordered Sherabad Beg to punish those who came to complain. In the reply letter written by Qazi Mullah Abdurahim and Sherabad ruler Sadiqbai to the emir, it was reported that three of the complainants were arrested, the remaining three escaped and they are wanted.

It is clear from the above information that there was no power to ease the hard life of the working people in the emirate. Peasants began to realize that nothing could be achieved by complaining, that only through protest or rebellion could any result be achieved.

As a result, in 1885-1886, the inhabitants of Sherabad Beylik revolted by refusing to pay taxes. Riots in the mountainous village of Dakhparakent took a serious turn, and the people beat up the tax collectors². The lower layers of the local government also support the uprising. These protestations in the Sherabad district greatly alarmed the emir of Bukhara, and he was forced to make some concessions to the peasants. As a result of the riots, the emir of Bukhara was forced to introduce a new payment system in Sherabad Beygid, but even this new payment did not satisfy the farmers. After that, they avoided paying taxes for 30-40 days. This time, the emir of Bukhara sent the jeweler of Babajon to Sherabad to investigate the complaint on the spot³.

The arrival of Babajon Jevaki in Sherabad will not change anything for the farmers. After two appeals failed, the farmers of Sherobod filed a third appeal to the emir of Bukhara. Now, small village officials and rich farmers also supported the local population and expressed their displeasure with the actions of the tax collectors. Alarmed by the increase in complaints and complaints, the emir sent Mullah Sharaf Mirokhor from Bukhara to Sherabad and demanded an inspection. As a result of the audit, it was found that there were many violations of Sharia laws by tax collectors and property owners. It became known that tax collectors collected 10 percent more taxes from the population than the prescribed amount. In order to calm the population, Mulla Sharaf warned the local landowners not to increase the taxes.

In the government of Bukhara, when high-ranking officials are sent somewhere to investigate complaints or solve other problems, they are always given farsah money by the bek. This is also taken at the expense of ordinary people. Mullah Sharaf, who came to Sherabad to investigate the farmers' complaints, returned to Bukhara after collecting 250 Farsakh coins (road money), adras and silk robes from the beg.

Representatives of the people who sought salvation from the injustices of the local rulers to the emir did not always get a satisfactory answer, on the contrary, they were sentenced to punishment. As a result of this, the people of Sherabad, tired of various taxes and payments, often left their places and moved to Afghanistan and other places.

² Хакимова К.З., Кравец Л.Н. Социально-экономические отношения и классовая борьба в дореволюционном Узбекистане. – Т.: Фан, 1980. – С.144.

³ In that place.

In the 70s and 80s of the 19th century, a group of rebels against the high amount of taxes and the arbitrariness of the local rulers went to the emir to complain about the tax collectors and strongly demanded to put an end to the disturbances in the Beklik. After that, the emir sent the bodyguard Said Nazarbek to Denov to investigate the complaint. He studied the complaint together with the Denov judge. During the audit, it was revealed that the officials had collected more taxes than they were supposed to.

Said Nazarbek thoroughly studied the situation and introduced a new tax payment procedure in the Denov region, thereby calming the peasants. Olmosboy, the owner of Denov, was removed from his position. The return to the old tax system and the replacement of property was a victory for the peasants, but the replacement of property owners and the change in the tax system could not change the lives of ordinary people and ensure their well-being. After some time, the newly appointed landowners also grossly violated Sharia laws and began to collect taxes as they saw fit.

By the second half of the 19th century, the discontent of the population began to take on a violent tone, uprisings became inevitable. Ernazar Polvon from Denov leads one of these uprisings. Several villagers of Denov district joined this rebellion. When the rebellion intensified, Denov Beg Abdurrahman sent his armed group against it. In the battle between the rebels and the bek navkars, the bek navkars are defeated. The rebels under the leadership of Ernazar Polvon captured the Denov fortress and held it for a month and a half. The emir of Bukhara, who learned about this incident, sent a large number of his armed servants to Denov. They besieged the fortress and defeated the rebels. As a result, 48 of the participants of the uprising were captured and hanged in the Darband Gorge.⁴

Riots broke out several times in Denov province, two of which worried the local governors and forced them to reckon with the people. The rioters won the first, and the peasants lost the second. The rioters are executed, but now it is not possible to frighten the population by executing the rioters, on the contrary, such riots would escalate in the province and other parts of the emirate.

The Russian Empire, continuing its colonial policy, carried out military-strategic and topographic investigations in the territory of the Bukhara Emirate starting from 1890⁵. Such inspection works were also carried out in Boysun and Denov districts. In 1898, K.A. An expedition led by Kirchhoff and Polyansky carried out investigations in the Denov region. Local residents opposed such inspections. The protests began on May 18, 1898 in the village of Chot-chogliq. Several men and women armed with stones, sticks, hoes and shovels drove

⁴ Хакимова К.З., Кравец Л.Н. Социально-экономические отношения и классовая борьба в дореволюционном Узбекистане. – Т.: Фан, 1980. – С. 151.

⁵ Ражабов З.Ш. Из истории общественно-политической мысли таджикского народа во второй половине XIX и начала XX в.в. – Душанбе, 1958. – С. 98.

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the Russians from their places of work. Residents who learned about this event did the same in other villages of Denov province. For example, on May 20, residents of Shaytan village and Tolly village on May 21 beat Russian military researchers from their places of work. In particular, the representative of the government of Bukhara, who was monitoring the construction of water facilities in Zharkurgan, H.Kh. Mirbadalev, engineer Kelster and 6 members of the "Sherabad" society were surrounded by more than a thousand local residents. Rioters attacked them with sticks, shovels and other weapons. The riot lasted about 4 hours. As a result of such performances, the people managed to remove some restrictions on the use of water.

As the protests turned into a riot, a Russian military detachment was called from Pattakesar and the riot was suppressed. The rioters were sentenced to death. The Russian government blamed Denov Bey for not preventing the conflict in time and demanded an investigation from the Bukhara government.

Even at the end of the 19th century, the local population had to endure the tricks of the Tsarist Russian authorities. As a result of the migration of Russian citizens to New Termiz, there were frequent conflicts between the local population and them. One such disagreement happened on August 20, 1898. Residents of Pattakesar arrested three Russian soldiers on the charge of assaulting the daughter of Sultan Niyaz⁶. As a result of the negotiations between Russia and the Bukhara government, local residents were found guilty of this incident, not Russian soldiers. An unfair verdict was issued in connection with this case, and the village elder Allaberdi was imprisoned for five months, and five other people who took an active part in the conflict were thrown into Sherabad prison for three months. The political influence of the Russian government was strong in Termez, and the Bukhara government could not ignore the words of the Europeans. That is why Russian citizens and soldiers did whatever they wanted, ignoring the local population.

As a result of constant population upheavals, by the 1980s, the peasants living in the oasis managed to get a written confirmation of the tax amount from the emir of Bukhara, and a unified tax system was introduced. This temporarily put an end to the arbitrariness of tax collectors. Now the government of Bukhara had to reckon with the local population. This was one of the main achievements of the farmers.

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⁶ Жалолитдин М. Термиз тарихи. - Т.: Шарк, 2001. – Б. 86.

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