

THE HISTORY OF THE ANNEXATION OF TERMEZ TO RUSSIAN EMPIRE

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Annotation: The aim of the study is to analyze the history of the socio-cultural development of the population of Termez in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, to reveal the place and specific features of this period in the history of the city. To study the history of the arrival of the troops of Russian empire in Termez and to present it to the general public. To show the strategic importance of Termez and its political and economic position.

Keywords: Pattakesar, Russian empire, Salihabad, Sherabad principality, Old Termez, Termez, Amu Darya.

Main part. There are only a few cities in the world whose age is measured in thousands of years. The city of Termez has also played an important role in the cultural development of the peoples of Central Asia and the history of the statehood of the Uzbek people throughout its history. As one of the main crossroads of the Great Silk Road, it is an ancient city that has contributed to the development of world development. It is worth noting that at the end of the 18th century, as a result of the aggravation of the political and economic situation and the intensification of inter-feudal wars, Termez was completely destroyed. As a result, all attempts to revive it as a city failed. The city practically ceased to exist, and part of the local population moved to Sherabad in the Sherabad principality, and part to the villages of Pattakesar and Solihabad, to the lands around the Sultan Sodat shrine, which was the residence of the sayyids. As a result, during this period, the city of Termez, consisting of a fortress on the Amu Darya and a city on the Surkhandarya, ceased to exist for almost two centuries. In the second half of the 19th century, only the cities of Pattakesar and Salihabad remained near the ruins of old Termez. Only the name old Termez remained from the pages of history.[1]

N.N. Pokotilo's work "Travels to Central and Eastern Bukhara in 1886" contains information about the remains of the ancient city of Termez and the invasion of Genghis Khan. [2] D.N. Logofet's work "Country of Lawlessness" written in 1909 covers the political and military significance of Termez and the location of military units. D.N. Logofet's "In the Forgotten Country" provides important information about the Termez Pattakesari and the Russian military garrison in the Bukhara Emirate. The work "Bukhara Khanate under Russian Protectorate" provides information about the relationship between the Turkestan Governor-General and the Bukhara Emirate, the Termez border fortifications, Russian land ownership, the situation in the Surkhandarya and rivers. D.N. Logofet's work "Bukhara Khanate" contains information about the historical description of Termez and the regions along the Surkhandarya and Amu Darya rivers.[3]

It should be noted that the treatises "Irrigation of the Sherabad Valley with Surkhan Waters" and "Sherabad Valley" by the Russian military engineer A.G. Ananov are distinguished by the fact that they clearly indicate the true goals and objectives of the Russian Empire. They provide instructions and advice on the conquest of the Sherabad, Baysun, and Denov principalities of the Bukhara Emirate through Termez. The military, strategic, and economic importance of Termez for the Russian Empire is fully demonstrated.

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The development and settlement of the Pattakesar region dates back to the middle of the 18th century. By this time, Turkmen tribes had arrived, mastered the jungle areas and turned them into their settlements. The origin of the word "Pattakesar" also dates back to this period. The Patta tree has long grown on the banks of the Amu Darya. Turkmen tribes who settled on the banks of the Amu Darya in the middle of the 18th century cut down and domesticated the Patta trees, and the area was named Pattakesar. The area where the Turkmen settled is located near the Amu Darya and Surkhandarya. [5]

"In order to prevent the colonization of the eastern Bukhara region by the British, the government of Russian empire, in a letter sent to the Emir of Bukhara in 1892, expressed its desire to transfer the customs border to the Afghan-Bukhara border along the Amu Darya River. The Emir agreed. Therefore, on December 12, 1894, border guards of the 31st Amu Darya Brigade arrived in the area of the village of Patta-kesar." [8]

In 1894, in order to limit the influence of Afghanistan on the Bukhara Khanate, the Russian government began the construction of the Termez border fortification in the village of Pattakesar, located on the Afghan-Bukhara border. The border area along the Amu Darya was occupied by border posts.

During this period, the villages of Pattakesar and Salihabad, which were not very large, with a population of approximately 1,257 people, were recorded in the vicinity of Ancient Termez. According to the Russo-Bukhara treaty of January 15, 1893, the city of Termez was "given as a gift" to the Russian emperor. [1] After that, work began on the placement of Russian military units belonging to the 7th border district here. In 1894, due to the construction of the Termez fortress and the deployment of Russian troops in it, telegraph lines were laid in Termez. Russian empire, while restoring communication routes with the garrisons of Chorjoi, Bukhara, Karshi, Termez, and Kalif, was completely uninterested in the necessity of this for the Bukhara Emirate. As a result, the trade routes of the Bukhara Emirate gradually began to deteriorate. In connection with the construction of a Russian military fortress on the banks of the Amu Darya, the government of Russian empire repaired the Termez-Samarkand road in 1900.

"In 1867, the Turkestan General Governorate was established on the newly annexed lands of the Russian Empire, with the city of Tashkent as its center. The Bukhara Emirate and the Baisun, Sherabad and Denov principalities included in it were included in the status of a subordinate state of the Russian Empire, based on the treaty of 1868. Based on the treaties of 1868 and 1873, Bukhara was recognized as a protectorate of the Russian Empire, and the Bukhara government was prohibited from communicating with foreign countries. Russian merchants were given the opportunity to conduct free trade activities in the territory of the khanate, to establish trade agencies in any territory, as well as to move freely in any territory of the khanate. Russian merchant ships were also allowed to sail along the Amu Darya, and to build harbors and warehouses anywhere on the Bukhara bank of the river. According to Article 16 of the Treaty of 1873, the government of Russian empire in January 1886 "The Political Agency of the Russian Empire is established in Bukhara. The political agent is

considered the official representative of the government of Russian empire in the khanate; all communications with the Bukhara government on all issues are carried out exclusively through him." [6]

The trade and military-strategic location of Termez led the government of Russian empire and some private entrepreneurs to establish shipping along the Amu Darya. Termez, due to its strategic location, near the ancient and most convenient crossing on the Amu Darya, developed rapidly and later became a trade and industrial center. The trade turnover between the government of Russian empire and Afghanistan and North-West India was carried out precisely through the Termez border customs. "The Pattakesar, Termez, Yorgok, Chochkaguzar, and Karakamar crossings were very important in foreign trade and cargo transportation along the Amu Darya." [5]

In 1913, permission was granted to begin construction work on the Bukhara railway from Kogan to Termez (in the Karshi-Kitab direction). The total length of this road was 585 vyorst (1 vyorst-1.07km=626km).

Along with Russian soldiers and workers, the peasant population of the Sherabad and Denov principalities, mobilized by decree of the Bukhara emir, also participated in the construction of the railway.

During the arrival of the border military units of Russian empire to the village of Patta-kesar, the construction of the new city of Termez began. In 1906, the opening of the Serkovno-prihodskaya Shkola (theological school under the Church) (later the Lunacharsky school) was of great importance for the Russian population.

In conclusion, the history of Termez is a testament to its enduring significance as a crossroads of culture, trade, and strategic military importance in Central Asia. From its role as a key city along the Great Silk Road to its eventual decline and partial destruction in the late 18th century, Termez has seen a complex interplay of historical forces, including political upheavals and military conquests. Despite its near obliteration and the migration of its population to nearby settlements, the region maintained its strategic importance, particularly during the Russian Empire's expansion into Central Asia.

The Russian Empire's interest in Termez, evident in the construction of border fortifications, telegraph lines, and the Bukhara railway, further cemented the city's significance in the broader geopolitical landscape of the region. The city's role in trade, both along the Amu Darya and through its position at the junction of key transport routes, facilitated economic interactions between the Russian Empire, Afghanistan, and India. Termez's development in the late 19th and early 20th centuries highlights the persistence of its strategic and economic relevance, which was further underlined by its transformation into a hub for military, commercial, and industrial activity.

Ultimately, Termez's history underscores the resilience of a city that, despite periods of decline, continued to play a pivotal role in the shaping of Central Asia's cultural, economic, and political development, leaving a lasting imprint on the region's historical narrative.

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