



The Emergence And Development Trends Of Samarkand Markets And Caravanserais And The Factors Influencing Them

Toshpulatov N.B.

Lecturer at Department of Social Sciences at Samarkand Institute of Economics and Service, Uzbekistan

ABSTRACT

The article examines the emergence and development of Samarkand markets and caravanserais, the trends in their transformation and development, and the factors influencing these processes.

KEYWORDS: Samarkand markets, caravanserais, their emergence, development, trends of transformation and development, factors influencing them.

INTRODUCTION

Samarkand has been of great importance as one of the major centers of trade since ancient times. Located in an area where important branches of the Great Silk Road intersected, Samarkand occupied an important place in economic, social, cultural, and diplomatic relations between the East and the West.

In the course of its historical development, the city of Samarkand gradually became established and strengthened as a regional trade and transport center from a traditional market and handicraft center. Studying the formation and development of trade infrastructure in Samarkand makes it possible to comprehensively analyze the economic life of the city, market relations, the system of caravan routes, and urban development processes. This issue is scientifically relevant and is of particular importance from the perspective of revealing the economic transformation, reshaping of the urban environment, and development of trade institutions in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Researching trade relations in Samarkand makes it possible to comprehensively analyze the interrelationship between the city's economic life, market relations, handicraft production, caravan routes, and logistics networks. This issue is scientifically relevant and is of great importance from the perspective of revealing the economic changes of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the functional differentiation of urban space, and the processes of combining traditional and European principles of urban planning. Analyzing, through the example of Samarkand, such issues as economic relations between the city and its surrounding areas, the socio-professional composition of the population, the development of trade and service sectors, and the expansion of transport and administrative infrastructure makes it possible to draw important scientific conclusions in the history and urban studies of Central Asian cities.

In the nineteenth century, Samarkand not only became a large city but also grew more beautiful and crowded due to the construction and expansion of caravanserais and markets. In Abu Tohirkhoja's Samariya, the climate of the city is described as excellent and temperate, and for this reason it is referred to as "firdavsmonand" — resembling paradise.



Each mahalla in Samarkand had its own center, where there were trade and production workshops, shops, and relatively small markets. Nevertheless, there were also unwritten rules concerning the social administration of guzars and the maintenance of order and discipline. As a result of the construction, improvement, and renewal of markets, service facilities, and caravanserais in Samarkand, the city began to develop and acquire a new appearance. In the old and newly developing city, there were four large central squares where market activity was observed: 1. Registan Square, which was paved with stone and served as the center of market life; 2. Bibi-Khanum Square, which was not paved with stone. There was a market and three bread stalls there; 3. Opposite Bibi-Khanum Square was the livestock market square, which was also not paved with stone. Cattle, camels, and sheep were sold there. The historical markets of Samarkand were centers not only of economic life but also of cultural communication. By the end of the nineteenth century, Samarkand markets were distinguished by their diversity, the quality of their goods, and their geographical reach. The markets of the old city included Registan Market, the central market of Samarkand, where various goods, particularly silk, carpets, handicraft products, and agricultural products, were traded. Chorsu Market was located near the city crossroads and served as the main trading point for local farmers and artisans. Along with selling products produced in Samarkand and nearby areas, the markets were also important trading points for goods imported from foreign countries.

Samarkand handicraft products also occupied an important place in interregional trade. In particular, silk fabrics, pottery, copperware, and jewelry were taken to the markets of Bukhara, Kokand, Tashkent, and Kashgar. Handicrafts played an important role in the economic life of Samarkand and were considered one of the main sectors supplying the city's domestic market and supporting trade relations. In a manner typical of traditional Eastern cities, Samarkand had a system of neighborhoods specialized according to professions. There is information about the products of Samarkand craftsmen and their place in the market, and ethnographic observations devoted to the lifestyle and occupations of the local population also emphasize that leatherworking, wood carving, and other types of handicrafts were widespread. In general, by the end of the nineteenth century, handicraft production in Samarkand had been preserved as a traditional form of production and developed in close connection with trade and market infrastructure. This fact substantiates the growing importance of Samarkand in the regional market system. Thus, in the second half of the nineteenth and the early twentieth centuries, the city of Samarkand developed as an administrative center, a military-strategic point, and a hub of trade and economic relations, occupying an important place among the cities of Turkestan. The regulation of trade relations and the intensification of market and caravan routes increased the city's importance in regional economic relations. Reports published by the Samarkand Regional Statistical Committee show that trade institutions, handicraft workshops, and various service sectors occupied leading positions in the structure of the urban economy. In particular, city markets, caravanserais, retail shops, and workshops were recorded as the main forms of economic activity and played an important role in local employment and commodity turnover. The predominance of trade and service sectors indicates that Samarkand developed not only as an administrative center but also as a hub of regional economic relations. Based on the data presented, it can be stated that commodity-money relations and urban economic infrastructure in Samarkand became significantly stronger in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

The development of trade and the expansion of markets in Samarkand were also connected with the demographic situation, and sources provide differing information about the size of the city's population and the dynamics of its growth in the nineteenth century. According to Meyendorff, Samarkand had a population of 50,000 in 1820, while N. Khanikov reported 25,000 in 1841, A. Vambéry up to 20,000 in 1863, and V. V. Radlov more than 10,000 inhabitants in 1868. In the works of P. P. Ivanov and other researchers, it is stated that about 30,000 people lived in the city, while foreign authors noted that in the 1870s Samarkand had 6,000 households with a population of 30,000.

As a result of the First General Census of the Russian Empire conducted by the government in 1897, the occupational structure of the population of Samarkand was determined. According to the census results, a significant proportion of the city's population was employed in trade, handicrafts, and various service sectors. In particular, individuals engaged in retail and wholesale trade, artisans working in workshops, as well as groups of the population employed in market-related and household service sectors, occupied an important place in the economic life of the city. This indicates that the economy of Samarkand developed not only within an agrarian environment but also on the basis of commodity-money relations and market infrastructure characteristic of urban life.

In his observations devoted to Samarkand, E. Schuyler noted that markets, mahallas, caravanserais, and handicraft workshops were located in the traditional "old city" section, while the street network was formed in accordance with the traditions of Eastern urban planning. According to his information, this part of the city constituted the main residential and trading area of the local population. The old city was mainly located around Registan Square, where the traditional urban structure had been preserved. The principal economic and social centers of the city—Registan, Siyob Market, the area around the Bibi-Khanum Mosque, and the routes leading toward Shah-i-Zinda—formed the main spatial structure of the old city. Streets in this area were narrow and irregularly arranged and were often named after mahallas and types of occupations. Archival maps and military topographic materials contain names such as the Potters' Mahalla, the Jewelers' Guzar, and the Tanners' Mahalla. Such names were directly related to the occupational specialization of the population. The old city was inhabited mainly by the local Muslim population—Uzbeks and Tajiks—while madrasas, mosques, and caravanserais formed the basis of the urban infrastructure.

Trade in handicraft products was also widely developed in Samarkand. Products made by craftsmen engaged in the production of metal goods, copperware, and iron implements were sold in the city markets. Some sources provide approximate figures on the annual trade turnover and income of craftsmen, demonstrating the economic importance of this sector. Certain rural markets located near the city functioned in close connection with the urban markets. Local agricultural products and handicraft goods were traded in these markets. Such markets served as an important link ensuring economic relations between the city and the countryside. Thus, in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, trade relations in Samarkand were legally regulated, commodity circulation expanded, and the city markets occupied an important place in the turnover of both local and foreign trade goods.

References

1. Qurbonov Anvar. Samarqand bozorlari tarixi. 235 bet.
file:///C:/Users/User/Downloads/234-236%20(2).pdf
2. Бартольд В.В. Туркестан в эпоху монгольского нашествия. – М.: Наука, 1963. – С.312-315.
3. Масальский В.И. Туркестанский край. – СПб., 1913. – С.256-262.; Остроумов Н.П. Сартовские ремесла и быт. – Ташкент, 1896. – С.54-60.
4. Остроумов Н.П. Материалы по истории и статистике Туркестанского края.... – С.87-92.
5. Памятная книжка Самаркандской области на 1898 год. – Самарканд, 1898. – С.62-66.
6. Irisqulov Olimjon. XIX asr ikkinchi yarmi – XX asr boshlarida Samarqandning “Eski shahar” hududi va ijtimoiy hayoti tarixidan. <https://bukhari.uz/?p=36700&lang=oz>
7. Первая всеобщая перепись населения Российской империи, 1905, – С 118-123.
8. Schuyler E. Turkistan: Notes of a Journey in Russian Turkistan, Khokand, Bukhara and Kuldja. Vol. I. – London, 1876. – P. 247-252.

