



THE IMPACT OF MIGRATION ON DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN TRADE IN THE FERGANA VALLEY IN THE LATE 19TH - EARLY 20TH CENTURIES

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Abstract: This article analyzes the impact of migration processes in the Fergana Valley during the late 19th and early 20th centuries on internal and external trade.

It highlights how population movements and relocations contributed to the formation of regional economic connections. The development of trade routes, exchange of goods in markets, and factors related to foreign economic relations are examined. The research is based on historical sources and statistical data.

Key words: Capital, Factory, Copper, Tea, Ditch, Carpet, Boiler, Oil, Cotton, Silk, Migration.

INTRODUCTION

It is well established that the conquest of Central Asia by the Russian Empire and the subsequent formation of the Fergana Region brought significant transformations to internal and external trade relations in the cities of the region. Following the 1861 reform in Russia, capitalist relations began to develop rapidly. As a result, the Russian Empire—previously a recipient of large-scale foreign capital—gradually evolved into a capital-exporting nation.

Russian investments began to flow into Central Asia, including the urban centers of the Fergana Valley. This influx of capital had a profound effect on the region's economic landscape, triggering a range of changes. Cotton cultivation expanded considerably, aligning with the empire's growing demand for raw materials. The construction of railways marked a turning point in regional connectivity, with the line reaching the city of Andijan by 1898.

Although these developments were colonial in nature, they also led to the emergence of new types of industrial enterprises such as factories and manufacturing plants. These changes left a lasting imprint on the social, economic, and cultural life of the valley's cities. Consequently, both internal and external trade relations experienced notable growth and diversification during this period.

In Andijan, internal trade activities were already well established by the mid-1870s. In the years 1875–1876, the total value of goods imported into Andijan from various regions—including Russia—amounted to 466,000 rubles. In the same period, goods exported from Andijan totaled 520,000 rubles. The goods imported into Andijan mainly included manufactured textiles, broadcloth, silk products, turbans, carpets woven from felt, leather goods, iron and copper items, tea, sugar, dyes, and nickel. Meanwhile, the goods exported from Andijan consisted primarily of raw cotton, raw silk, fabrics, robes (traditional garments), saddle blankets, footwear, harnesses, saddles and related tack, as well as agricultural products such as wheat, rice, millet, and others.

A large quantity of goods was brought to Andijan from Osh, Margilan, and other cities of the region. In a report dated February 14, 1878, addressed to the Fergana Regional Administration,



the head of the Andijan District noted: "No foreign manufactured goods have been imported into the city of Andijan; only locally produced items and manufactured goods brought from Russia are sold in the market."

According to archival records, in 1877 the following goods were imported into Andijan: Printed cotton fabrics (calico), linen, and canvas valued at 20,756 rubles, Samovars worth 3,792 rubles, Iron goods worth 5,112 rubles, Tea worth 2,500 rubles, Dyes worth 1,246 rubles. In total, goods valued at 33,406 rubles were brought into the city during that year .

It should be noted that the volume of goods imported into Andijan increased systematically from year to year. This trend can be observed in materials dating from 1877 to 1895. For instance, in 1877, goods worth 44,000 rubles were imported into Andijan; in 1878, this figure rose to 63,000 rubles; in 1879, to 86,000 rubles; in 1880, to 118,000 rubles; in 1884, to 163,000 rubles; and by 1895, the value had reached 271,000 rubles .

Thus, over the 18-year period from 1877 to 1895, the total value of goods imported into Andijan increased by a factor of 6.5.

In 1877, there were a total of 573 shops operating in Andijan, engaged in the trade of various goods. These included: 10 shops selling vegetables, 20 selling meat, 20 selling bread, 63 selling general food products, 21 selling traditional robes (khalats), 25 selling saddles and harnesses, 44 selling locally made kitchenware, 10 selling footwear, 38 selling manufactured goods, 6 selling textiles, 45 selling various small items, 10 selling dyes, 15 selling rice, 5 selling honey, 12 selling soap, 6 selling linseed oil, 11 selling ropes, 5 selling small iron tools, 20 selling cauldrons, 20 selling silk goods, 8 selling knives, 4 selling books and paper, 10 selling striped cloth and carpets, 20 selling dried fruits, and 49 shops dealing in miscellaneous goods. .

By 1897, the city had a total of 1,646 shops and 22 caravanserais.

As a result of the growth in trade relations, 20 market-trade points were established in the Andijan district. On certain days of the week, markets were held at these points, attracting traders and local residents from various places and surrounding villages to come and trade. (During this period, market days were scheduled two or three times a week.) The number of shops at these markets varied, ranging from 50 to 350 depending on the size of the market. On market days, the number of traders increased several times over. Among the district's markets, the largest was the Ozgan market, where, in 1910, 340 permanent shops operated. Other notable markets with between 150 and 220 shops were located in villages such as Qo'qonqishloq, Toda, Oyim, Izboskan, Jalolobod, and others.

It is important to note that although trade activity among the rural population slowed somewhat during the fieldwork season, the markets remained a major source of income for them. In 1910, their annual total income exceeded 2 million rubles . Alternatively, rural traders could bring their products to the city to sell. However, it is important to note that, in many cases, small-scale producers ended up selling their goods directly to middlemen at the markets. The newspaper Zakaspiyskoe Obozrenie reported the following on this matter:

"Interestingly, small producers bring their products to these unique fairs (city markets) in carts—some carrying onions, others firewood, and various other goods. Every Thursday at the old market in Andijan, producers meet buyers directly. However, a large portion of the goods



brought to the market fall into the hands of middlemen, who, despite owning shops in both the new and old markets, sell these products at prices two to three times higher” .

In the process of capitalist development, such practices were considered normal. For example, in 1901, middlemen bought 100 eggs for 1 ruble and 20 kopeks and sold them for 1 ruble 80 kopeks or 2 rubles. Because of this, the newspaper *Zakaspiyskoe Obozrenie* wrote that “Excessive profiteering is an undeniable fact in Andijan”.

Because the price of one pound of pistachios was 25–30 kopeks, one pound of white bread cost 5 kopeks, black bread 4 kopeks, one sajen (1 sajen equals 2.1 meters) of ordinary firewood was priced at 9–10 rubles, and one sajen of apricot firewood cost 12–13 rubles. Meanwhile, at the Andijan cotton-cleaning factories, a worker’s daily wage ranged only between 25 and 35 kopeks. By 1911, the number of trading establishments in Andijan had reached 3,000, with small-scale traders being even more numerous. The markets and shops mentioned above primarily dealt in manufactured goods. Cotton, silk, and dried fruits were sold in very limited quantities at the market because these goods were usually sold to firms and factories established in Andijan.

For example, until the late 19th century in Andijan, the primary firms purchasing such products were the “*Bolshaya Yaraslavskaya Manufactory*” and the “*Vladimir Aleksev Trade and Industrial Company*”.

Starting from the 1880s, as was the case throughout the region, cotton fields expanded in the Fergana province, including the Andijan district, where a new American variety of cotton began to be cultivated. This development contributed to the growth of the district's economy. By the 1890s, as a result of socio-economic changes emerging in urban life, numerous traders started arriving in the city. As the newspaper *Turkestanские Vedomosti* wrote on October 26, 1895: “In the villages, the economic development of the district has not manifested itself in their appearance, but its impact is noticeable in the city. Over the past two years, our city has expanded significantly, with new houses and shops emerging, and two new transport offices opening.” As a result of the growth in trade relations, a consumer society was established in Andijan city starting from January 1, 1896. By March of the same year, it had 57 members and 80 subscribers .

The trade shops were privately owned, and the colonial administration paid little to no attention to establishing new commercial enterprises, expanding markets, or improving their infrastructure. The existing markets in the city primarily served as intermediaries for purchasing raw materials needed by Central Russian industries and for selling various Russian goods imported from Russia.

However, the connection of Fergana province’s cities by railway, and especially its extension to Andijan, marked a turning point in the city’s trade relations with Russia. During this period, Fergana province and its cities, which were a Russian colony, not only became primary suppliers of raw materials but also served as sources of capital investment for the Tsarist government. The launch of the Central Asian Railway and its branch to Andijan significantly reduced the costs of transporting various goods and cargo to the region, including Andijan. At the same time, it facilitated an increase in the importation of various industrial products and other goods.

The expansion of cotton cultivation, as was the case throughout Turkestan, also led to a reduction in the areas allocated for grain planting in the Andijan district. As a result, the

increasing cotton production year by year intensified the import of wheat to Andijan. For instance, in 1910, 3,173,000 poods of wheat were brought to Andijan. In turn, with the launch of numerous cotton-cleaning and oil factories, large quantities of cottonseed oil, cottonseed cake, and cottonseed began to be exported from Andijan. Most of the cottonseed was sent to the Caucasus and abroad. For example, in 1914, the amount of cottonseed shipped from Andijan station totaled 4,157 poods. At the same time, Andijan served as a key point in trade relations with China. For instance, in 1913, goods worth 4 million rubles were imported from China to Andijan, while goods worth 4.4 million rubles were exported from Andijan to China.

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