



## FOREIGN MILITARY RELATIONS OF THE BUKHARA EMIRATE WITH NEIGHBORHOOD STATES

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**Abstract:** This article provides detailed information about the foreign military relations of the Bukhara Emirate with neighboring countries.

**Key words:** Bukhara , Russia, Iran , military connections.

### INTRODUCTION

In the history of our statehood, the issue of external military alliances with neighboring and partner states from the establishment of the Bukhara Emirate (1747–1920 ) to its dissolution has been closely studied with the political history of the state. The Mangid dynasty, which came to power in Bukhara, continued the traditions preserved from the previous dynasties, the Shaybanids and Ashtarkhanids, in the structure of the army, and later introduced a number of innovations in the military sphere.

The Bukhara rulers always asked high-ranking officials in Russia for the supply of armor, and even when permission was granted, their number did not exceed 10 pieces. The order of the Russian Tsar in 1661 to search for “the best Circassian armor-makers” from Astrakhan and the mention of Khorasan swords among the gifts presented to the Khan of Bukhara also confirm the above ideas. In the “List of the Most Important Goods Exported and Imported by Russia in the 16th Century” in the State Museum of History of Uzbekistan, Russia's export of weapons to Central Asia ranked third after leather and fur, and its import ranked fourth after fabrics, finished textiles, and paints. European cannons are mentioned very rarely. The production of artillery cannons also began to change somewhat in a positive direction by this period.

Therefore, from the early period of the rule of the Mangid dynasty to the time before the emirate became a vassal of the Russian Empire, there were no significant changes in the issue of weapons, the combat status of the army, and the supply. Reliable information and analytical information about the military-political situation in Bukhara, including all the khanates, began to be delivered to the government of Tsarist Russia by Russian merchants, ambassadors, spies, travelers, and other persons from the beginning of the 17th century. One of the main goals of Russian foreign policy was to colonize the country. During the reign of Amir Heydar, he came to Bukhara as part of the Russian ambassadors. In his work, Y. Meyendorff, reflecting on the military forces of the Emirate, explains the following: “The soldiers are armed with rifles, very long spears, and curved swords like those of the Iranians. Some of them wear short jibes and helmets made of iron and oxhide. The artillery consists of 20 Iranian cannons, only three or four of which are equipped with carriages without iron pegs. Although the carriages are mounted on three wheels, they are nevertheless moved with great difficulty.”

In his work, researcher A. Zamonov, providing information about the weapons of the Bukhara Emirate, stated that it would be appropriate to divide them into two groups - cold weapons and

firearms. Cold weapons included swords, bows and arrows, spears, daggers, maces, hurdy-gurdies, and others. Although the names of these weapons have undergone qualitative changes, they are almost never newly created during the entire Mangid dynasty. The sword, considered the main cold weapon, has played a key role in battles since ancient times and has not lost its importance in the period under study, and even in its names it has retained its names from the 9th to 12th centuries. The sources mention swords with the names "chiniy", "rusiy", "rumiy", "farangiy", "sulaymaniy", "hindiy", "damascusky" and others, which were worn by the emir's soldiers and military officials.[1] In addition, other cold weapons and even firearms were used in the emirate under the names "farangi", "afghani", "irani". 1823 - in Bukhara "Russia, Iran, Turkey, India, China, Khiva" with trade take goes to Bukhara very good was Karakul with trade much "It is big," he said. done. As a result of the development of this trade, various weapons began to enter the region. From this it can be seen that the Bukhara army brought weapons from Russia, the Ottomans, China, Italy, France, India, Iran, and Iraq. Along with the sword, the dagger was also considered a traditional weapon of the emirate's soldiers. By the beginning of the 19th century, bayonets (bayonets) were attached to the ends of rifles produced in Bukhara, like European rifles. According to the Russian doctor Ilyavorsky, who was in Bukhara in the 1870s, 3 thousand camels of goods were brought to the khanate from Iran every year. The best manufactured goods in the Bukhara markets were recognized as French, secondly Russian, and thirdly English. N. Petrovsky, however, notes that in 1872 he saw sulfur and various weapons brought from Iran in the Bukhara markets. Sword fighting was rare in Europe and developed countries in the Middle Ages, but it was still practiced in the emirate until 1920, despite the presence of firearms. Swords in the emirate were made by special craftsmen and weighed up to 1 kg. The swords of the officials were decorated by jewelers.

When we look at swords from these periods kept in museums, most of them have the inscription "Merciful and Merciful Allah" and the names of the masters. For example, master craftsman Hasan, master craftsman Murodilla, master craftsman Ismail Sanoql. Some also have the date of manufacture and the names of the people who presented them. Although most soldiers had their own swords during the years of the emirate's formation, the new "Shefsky", "Tersky", and "Kuban" Cossack detachments, formed in the mid-19th century, all had daggers and swords, along with all their weapons, similar to those of the Russian army. [2] Firearms in the emirate had been developed over a long period of time, including rifles, pistols, flintlock rifles, and flail rifles. During the Mangid dynasty, they were much rarer, and on the eve of the Russian Empire's invasion, the smuggling of English, Iranian, Turkish, and Russian rifles through Afghanistan intensified. GA Arendarenko writes that during the reign of Sherali Khan in Afghanistan (until 1881), the conditions for Bukhara-Afghan trade were favorable, and Afghan trade caravans from Kabul via Bamiyan and Tashkurgan came to Bukhara all year round, even in winter. Weapons, iron, and steel were among the various goods brought from Bukhara to Kabul.

In addition to guarding the trade caravans to the capital's caravanserais, guards at the checkpoints along almost all the caravan routes leading to Bukhara collected information from the caravan leaders on behalf of the government on the amount of duty collected from the trade caravans at various points, the good or bad treatment of the merchants, the amount of toll per camel, horse, or cart, etc., and reported it to the government officials responsible for this matter. [3] Foreign military relations between Bukhara and India were extensive, and in the 19th

century, Bukhara, Samarkand, and Karshi were connected to the foreign economic and military centers of India, Peshawar, Shikarpur, and Multan, via trade routes passing through the Afghan cities of Herat, Kabul, and Kandahar.

In the second half of the 19th century, due to the obsolescence of firearms, they even failed during military exercises and broke down in simple cases. Repairs of technically defective rifles were carried out at the expense of the soldiers. Rifles were so obsolete that even in each company, 2-3 riflemen were engaged in repairing rifles morning and evening.

By the time of Amir Abdulahad Khan, soldiers were no longer allowed to go home with their weapons. During this period, when the number of deserters increased, if soldiers escaped with their rifles, military officials were severely punished along with them. In such cases, the soldiers immediately reported to the corporal, the corporal to the centurion, the centurion to the sergeant, the sergeant to the artillery chief, and the artillery chief to the quartermaster. Soon, a series of letters written in the quartermaster's office on this subject were delivered by cavalry apprentices to all the qazis, beks, and guardhouses on the roads in the Bukhara province. Weapons entering the Central Asian khanates were strictly controlled at the borders of foreign countries. In particular, on the eve of the invasion of the Russian Empire, it was forbidden for Central Asian merchants to export metal raw materials from Russia.

At this time, metal was very important for the military affairs of the Bukhara Emirate. Therefore, merchants in Bukhara and the khanates in general were encouraged by the government to import and sell not only raw materials, but also metal products, more cauldrons and large metal objects from Russia. In many cases, we see an increase in efforts to directly import weapons through smuggling.

In archival sources, we find a lot of information about the fact that the emir's merchants smuggled large quantities of weapons from Russia, some of which were seized by Russian government officials. In addition, there are facts that Russian citizens were also involved in the arms trade in the territory of the Bukhara Emirate in exchange for wealth.

Among the goods imported from Russia were goods that were completely forbidden to be brought to Bukhara by the decision of the Russian government, and these goods were secretly brought by Bukhara merchants. The emir of Bukhara encouraged and provided money to merchants who secretly brought weapons. According to the information of the Russian political agent, the emir Abdulahadkhan, who lived in the Khoja Zayniddin guzar of Bukhara and was one of the well-known merchants in Russian-Bukhara trade relations, bought 200 berdanka rifles brought from Russia by Mahmudkhodja Shodmonkhodjaev in 1887 and armed a cavalry of 200 men. When Mahmudkhodja, who was respected among the commercial merchants of Moscow and Nizhny Novgorod, was leaving for the Russian Empire in June 1888, the emir gave him 6 thousand soums (30 soums for each rifle) and asked to bring another 200 weapons.

Although this type of foreign trade was strictly controlled by the Russian secret service and customs, the secret import of weapons continued. According to the secret report No. 4 of the political agent Charikov dated January 27, 1889, the Bukhara merchant Latifkhodja (brother of Ubaydulla Khodja) was detained by customs officers in Uzun Ada (Krasnovodsk) while importing a large quantity of rifles. For these rifles, which were purchased for 1,320 soums, Latifkhodja paid a fine of 3,700 soums, and suffered a total loss of 5,000 soums.

When the Amir Abdulahad, through his adjutant Ostonaqul, asked the Russian political agent to pardon Latifkhodja once, Charikov replied that the fine was imposed on the basis of imperial laws, and therefore he could not bear such responsibility.

In addition to Latifkhodja, Bukhara merchants such as Mullah Salih Sarraf, Salihboy, and Abdulkarimboy also sold their rifles brought from Russia to the Astanakul Koshbeg. The most influential military structure in the Bukhara emirate was considered to be artillerymen, and great trust was placed in them in combat situations. Cannons began to appear in combat situations in open areas during the reign of Emir Shah Murad (1785-1800). This is mentioned in Persian sources describing the military campaigns of Emir Shah Murad against his eternal rival, Shah Abbas of Iran, and in the works of Russian officers who studied the history of this period. From this it can be seen that it is not correct to say that even the highest officials of the state were completely relaxed in terms of troops and weapons. As General GA Arendarenko, who carefully studied the military power of Turkestan, wrote: "Under Nasrullah, field artillery was significantly improved, they recruited Afghan artillerymen who were only vaguely familiar with the English military regulations. The number of heavily armed cavalry and falconers was also significantly increased. The number of mobile infantry units was increased, and the use of artillery to enter battle and attack fortresses began." [4]

In other sources, Amir Nasrullah is recognized as the emir who founded the regular artillery group from the Afghans and infantrymen in the army. During his reign and after that, the post of artillery chief was considered the commander-in-chief of the army. In any case, it is difficult to say for sure whether this was the beginning of giving importance to equipment over cavalry in the balance of military affairs. The artillery chief Abdusamad, brought from Iran, was an intelligent and educated person, according to the book "History of Turkestan" by historian Mullo Alim Makhdum. He apparently managed to increase the maneuverability of cannons and artillery positions in field conditions. The cannons and the horses pulling them were grouped and numbered. So, we see that the Bukhara army widely used military equipment from Iran, the Ottoman Turks, and the Babur Empire, and that it tried to provide this military sector with modern weapons, and that the issue of hiring specialists to use them was important at the state level.

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