

FROM THE HISTORY OF THE AMIR OF BUKHARA - AMIR SHAHMURAD AND HIS REFORMS

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Annotation. This article analyzes Amir Shahmurad (1785–1800) as a ruler who was distinguished in the history of the Bukhara Emirate by strengthening central power, ensuring political stability, and preserving territorial integrity. The article highlights his large-scale reforms in the financial, administrative, legal, and social spheres, his contribution to the stability of the domestic market, and the development of agriculture and crafts. It also analyzes how Shahmurad's foreign policy and diplomatic relations served to enhance the position of the Bukhara Emirate in the international arena and revitalize cultural and religious life.

Keywords: Amir Shahmurad, Bukhara Emirate, political stability, central power, financial reforms, administrative reforms, legal system, social life, agriculture, crafts, culture, madrasas, foreign policy, diplomatic relations, people's well-being.

INTRODUCTION.

At the end of the 18th and beginning of the 19th centuries, the Bukhara Emirate experienced a difficult political, social and economic period. Under the rule of the Mangid dynasty, the Bukhara Khanate had transitioned from 1753 to the form of an emirate, but the internal political fragmentation of the country, internal conflicts among the nobility, independent decisions of regional governors and uneven distribution of economic resources prevented the central government from strengthening sufficiently. In these conditions, the issue of unifying the country, strengthening central government and resolving internal political conflicts became urgent.

METHODS AND MATERIALS

The accession of Amir Shahmurad to the throne in 1785 was an important stage in ensuring political and social stability in the history of Bukhara. His reign is distinguished by large-scale reforms aimed not only at regulating internal political life, but also at developing the economy, stabilizing the financial system and revitalizing cultural life. Shahmurad's activities occupy an important place in history as a strategic initiative aimed at preserving the territorial integrity of the Bukhara Emirate, effectively managing economic resources, and increasing the well-being of the people[3].

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Shahmurad ascended the throne after the death of his father, Doniyalbiy. Upon his accession to the throne, he first took decisive measures against political disunity within the country and internal divisions among the nobility. He personally punished high-ranking officials, including the state kushbegi and Nizamiddin qazikalon, and renewed the composition of the officials with administrators loyal to him. Thus, he appointed his associates to the regional khokimiyats, limiting the independent political activities of the nobility[1]. Shahmurad also paid special attention to strengthening the territorial integrity of the country. He annexed such regions as Samarkand, Karmana, Shahrisabz, Khujand, and Mari to Bukhara. At the same time, he is strengthening the authority of the central government by creating armed groups in the

provinces. Shahmurad ensured justice in state administration by strictly punishing high-ranking officials if they complained to the people. Therefore, he is mentioned in historical sources as an “innocent emir” during his reign. Throughout his career, Shahmurad managed to maintain a strong political agreement with the nobility, subordinating them to the central government.[4].

Shahmurad’s financial policy served to stabilize and develop the economy of Bukhara. He minted pure silver coins and introduced a system of free coinage. This served to develop the internal market, expand trade relations, and stabilize monetary circulation.[5].

He also abolished compulsory payments such as yorgu, duty, tulmal, and yasok. Citizens received tarkhan labels and were exempted from tax collections, and artisans and merchants gained financial freedom. By regulating coins and taxes, he stabilized the state treasury’s revenues and created the basis for the development of the domestic market.[6]. Shahmurad’s financial reforms served to develop trade, crafts, and agriculture in the cities.

Shahmurad considered centralizing the administrative system and ensuring justice as his main task. He reduced the feudal official practices that existed under previous emirs and democratized the qazi system on the basis of sharia.[7]. Through this system, not only the nobility, but also ordinary people would have the opportunity to appeal. Shahmurad promoted justice by harmonizing sharia and the interests of the people in the qazi system.[8]. Shahmurad was active in foreign policy and carried out a number of military campaigns to preserve and expand the territorial integrity of the Bukhara Emirate. He sought to retain territories in Khorasan and southern Turkestan, and to return centers such as Merv, Balkh, Maimana, and Andkhud to Bukhara. At the same time, he sent ambassadors to the Ottoman Sultanate and the Russian Empire, strengthening diplomatic relations.[2]. Shahmurad’s foreign policy was aimed at increasing the emirate's position in the international arena and ensuring territorial security.

During Shahmurad’s reign, the activities of madrasas, mosques, and khanaqas were revived. He developed scientific and religious education, and also paid attention to the preservation and development of cultural heritage. In the agricultural sector, he developed agriculture by building canals and modernizing irrigation systems. These measures served not only to economic development, but also to improve the living conditions of the population.[3].

CONCLUSION.

Amir Shahmurad is preserved in historical sources as a ruler who left a deep mark on the history of the Bukhara Emirate by ensuring political stability, strengthening central power, implementing financial and social reforms, as well as increasing the country's position in foreign policy. Shahmurad's political activities were carried out on the basis of agreements with the nobility, and his economic reforms served to stabilize the domestic market and develop crafts. He developed agriculture with agrarian reforms, revitalized cultural and religious life. At the same time, he created the foundation for the political, economic and social development of the Bukhara Emirate by strengthening central power and ensuring justice.

Shahmurad’s patriotism and principles of justice made him known in history as the “infallible emir”. Thus, he will remain in the pages of history as a ruler who left a deep mark on the

history of the Bukhara Emirate by ensuring political stability, serving socio-economic development, and strengthening central power.

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