

The State of Entrepreneurship in the Territory of Turkestan Under the Colonial Conditions of the Russian Empire

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Abstract: This article analyzes the state of entrepreneurship in Turkestan during the colonial period of the Russian Empire, the transformation of local merchants into owners of industrial enterprises, their incomes and activities. It was also stated that despite the opposition of the Russian government, the entrepreneurial class is firmly established in the country.

Keywords: Jadidism, spirituality, education, development, economy, industry, military, business, entrepreneurship, enterprise, trade, crisis, finance, colonialism.

Introduction

During the conquest of Turkestan, the government of the Russian Empire plundered the region by making changes in all sectors to serve their interests. The representatives of the ruling circle tried to trample the long-established culture, customs, and values of the local people, and strongly opposed any development, the growth of the political and legal consciousness of the local people, and the spiritual and educational enrichment.

Also, the Russian government tried to restrict the development of local businesses in the region and limit their activities. However, the created historical conditions and the socio-economic and political situation created the ground for the growth of the investor class. In the second half of the 19th century, they split into two groups, the first of which included the generations of rich merchants who had been formed since ancient times. The second group included rich industrialists who appeared directly under the influence of European and Russian capital, who accumulated funds through market relations and industrial development.

Discussion

The property of the representatives of the first group was mainly inherited from their ancestors and consisted of large lands and immovable properties in places. In addition to earning money by engaging in wholesale trade, they also benefited greatly from their inherited property. Since the second half of the 19th century, many of them have become large trade and industrial owners due to circumstances. For example, we can include such persons as Mirkomil Mominbayev, Mulla Abdullah Muhammedov, Bobojon Sarimsakov, Akhmadjon Yusufbayev, Nigmatulla Khojayev [1]. They conducted effective trade activities not only in the region, but also abroad, expanding the scope of trade. For example, Mirkomil Mominboyev did his main trade with foreign banks and firms, and Tajimuhammad, a big investor from Tashkent, participated in fairs in Paris and London and established trade relations with European merchants [2].

First of all, those who prepared the ground for industrial development in the country were the merchants who entered with the Russian military. At first, they began to build factories and factories based on the level of demand in the “new parts” of the cities. For example, in the city of Tashkent, merchants Pervushin and Khrennikov aimed to establish a factory for the production

of alcohol. And on March 16, 1867, they asked the Orenburg General Governorate for permission to open vodka and wine factories in Tashkent (at that time the city was the center of the Turkestan region under the Orenburg General Governorate) [3]. V.Y.Spirdov, V.P.Kuznesov and Z.Bogdanikov also opened such factories in Khojand this year [4]. Such enterprises were regularly established in the occupied areas, the purpose of which was to meet the needs of the Russian military and the Russian population who moved with them. But this caused discontent among Muslims in the “old parts” of the cities. Because later, in the beginning of the 20th century, such enterprises were built in the lands where they live, and had a negative impact on the worldview of the representatives of the local nation. Intellectuals, businessmen, patriots united in various organizations in order to fight for their opening and quick closing of the established ones. For example, a brewery opened by Armenian merchants in the “old part” of Samarkand was closed at the initiative of the Muslim organization “Jamiyat Diniya” [5].

In addition, in the early days in Turkestan, the processes of establishing other industrial enterprises were carried out rapidly. In 1867, the first European-type water mill was built in Tashkent, and the second one was commissioned by Captain Kukurin in 1868. In the same year, the industrial owner M. A. Khuludov was the first in the city to build a tannery on the bank of the Solor stream, and in 1877 Kunaysev built the second one. Under the influence of these, in 1886, in the “old part” of the city, the merchant Y. Karimboyev built and started a similar mining plant [6]. In 1879, S.I. Nazarov, another local businessman, was the first to build a cotton gin. In this way, under the influence of Russian industrialists in the region, a group of large local merchants and rich industrialists began to form. Some of them even had separate companies in cities such as Petersburg and Gelsingforse [7].

In addition to these, tobacco, match, silk weaving, soap, brick, oil, cardboard, candle, glue, cocoon drying factories and factories, printing houses were established in Turkestan. Also, by 1915, their number reached 753 in three provinces of Turkestan, and most of them belonged to local businessmen [8].

At the end of the 19th century, among the businessmen and merchants of Tashkent city, the weight of representatives of the local nationality increased, and the process of becoming wealthy industrialists accelerated. For example, brothers Orinboyev and Shosolikhov became big merchants in a short time. They had 190 trade and craft enterprises of various sizes under their control [9]. Also, A. Abdumalikboyev and his business partner M. Rasulmuhammedov had large factories with annual turnover ranging from 500,000 to 1 million rubles. As a result, most of the local investors spent their money on building new plants and factories. For example, according to the data of 1884, Tashkent merchants Badalboy Karimboyev and Mira’zam Mirayupov started tanneries producing 30 thousand rubles a year, and Tojiboy and Yakubjon Yusupov started brick factories. Brick factories existed even before the arrival of the Russians in the region, and the demand for them was not so great. However, the emergence of “new cities” in the country and the construction of brick houses and government buildings created a ground for new research in this regard. As a result, at the beginning of the 20th century, special importance was attached to this field among local businessmen, and the owners of several brick enterprises appeared. For example, a factory of this type belonging to the investor Saidkarim Saidazimboyev operated widely on Parkent Street in Tashkent [10]. During this period, local businessmen learned how to bake bricks in the European way and met the needs of new cities for bricks. At the same time, some large state-level organizations in the country also tried to conclude mutual agreements with local businessmen in this regard. For example, in 1872, the “Committee for the Organization of Fairs and Caravanserai” signed a contract with businessman Mulla Abduraim for the supply of well-baked bricks [11]. Later, the owners of such factories expanded the activities of their enterprises and served the general public. And in order to make it known to the people, he gave advertisements to the pages of the national press. For example, the sale of bricks and tiles at low prices in the brick and tile factory of master Muhammad Baqi ugli, one of the entrepreneurs in Samarkand, was announced in the “Samarkand” newspaper. Also, in the announcement, it was announced that bricks will be sold at a lower price to those who receive bricks as financial aid to

madrasahs and schools, for charity buildings, and to wholesale buyers. It can be seen that the brick kilns have been improving year by year and getting their customers. However, it should be noted that such factories are not widespread in the country compared to other (cotton cleaning and processing, oil, tanning) industrial enterprises. For example, the existence of 20 brick factories in all of Turkestan (9 in Fergana region, 7 in Syrdarya region and 4 in Samarkand region) before 1915 is a confirmation of our opinion [12]. So, the brick and tile factory of Muhammad Baqi ugli in Samarkand was one of the 4 such enterprises in the region.

At this time, the number of local entrepreneurs and owners of new industries increased in Tashkent. Ramazan Kazakov and Mulla Nurmuhammedov were leather tanning and processing factories that produced products worth 20,000 soums per year. Also, the owners of tanneries, such as Rahmatbobo Holboboev, Khojaahmad Abdujabbarov, Inogombobo Rozikboyev, Ashur Bobojonov, had incomes no less than theirs.

There were people in the city who made a lot of money by selling leather, and managed to sell their products not only in the region, but also in European markets. For example, the Arabov brothers and Ubaidulla Kasimkhojayev send up to 300,000 and Latif Kasimkhojayev 100,000 pieces of leather products to European markets every year [13]. It is clear from this that even under the conditions of the colonial regime, local entrepreneurs, especially businessmen engaged in tanning, gained capital by selling their goods in European markets. However, representatives of the government of the Russian Empire opposed further expansion of their activities. The reason for this was, *firstly*, the relations of local businessmen with Western investors posed a threat to the Central Asian issue, which had been won with relative difficulty, and the states of Bukhara and Khiva had not yet been completely subjugated. *Secondly*, the access of local merchants to European markets would lead to an increase in their personal wealth and a broadening of their worldview.

As a result, nationalist owners could provide various social assistance for the benefit of their people, encourage the population to fight for freedom and independence. The representatives of the administration, who did not want such a situation, prevented them from their activities in this regard as much as possible. For example, imprisonment under various excuses and pretexts, punishment of those who financially support local newspapers and magazines, confiscation of their property. For example, “Taraqqiy”, “Khurshid”, “Shuhrat” and other enlighteners were founded. However, he imposed various restrictions on local businessmen who provided economic support to the media, which were surrounded by their articles as being against the government [14].

Also, the suppliers of the new method schools of the Jadids, the merchants who allocated funds for their development, were subjected to various “unwritten” measures. Because, in such educational institutions, children of the people are taught secular knowledge along with religious knowledge, and after becoming students in madrasahs, they are sent to study abroad, and in such cases, businessmen with a broad worldview would rely on them financially. After they returned to their country, they could oppose the policy of the Russian government and call their people for the freedom of their homeland. Therefore, the Russian administration tried to resist the activities of modern schools as much as possible and looked for excuses to close them. For example, in 1914, in the city of Margilon, the new schools of Kadirkori Shohakimov, Mulla Abdulgadir and Mulla Nishonboy were closed under the pretext of not having a permit [15]. In this context, the Russian administration opposed the free activity of businessmen and investors. Especially businessmen who did not spare their material support for the benefit of the nation had a special place in the secret documents of the government.

Results

In rural areas, the number of local landowners with large plots of land has increased. Although, as a result of the agrarian reforms, the Russians implemented the policy of liquidation of private lands and confiscation of the lands of the local population for the benefit of the state, some owners managed to preserve their lands and even expand them. Due to the requirements of the

time, most of the landowners planted cotton on their fields and sold it to local cotton companies in an attempt to gain wealth. For example, in Pop district of Fergana province, there were several local owners with land from 100 tanab to 1000 tanab. Each of Sanaliboy and Halilboy had 1000 tanabs, Salahiddinboy had 550 tanabs, Ghafurboy had 450 tanabs, Mukhnaboy had 350 tanabs, Sanalihaja and Rustamboy had 200 tanabs, Nurmatboy had 150 tanabs, and Ergashboy and Otaboy had 100 tanabs. In Samarkand region, the irrigated and rainfed lands of local owners are less than in other regions, they are on average 100-200 tanabs. Only some of the businessmen who know how to do it have 500 tons of land. For example, Abduchamanboy in Kattakorgan district was one of such businessmen and he owned 500 tanabs of land [16]. Mamadgofurboy and Qurbanboys have 200 tanabs of land. In addition, Dosmatboy Abdurahimov had 196 irrigated and 160 dry lands in Pastdargom district, Muradboy had 120, and Subkhanquliboy had 80 irrigated and dry lands. Based on the demand level, the owners of this land sold the raw materials grown on their land to the surrounding factories and turned into big investors. However, some representatives of the nationalities were lazy and irresponsible instead of making meaningful use of gardens and productive fields. Russian and Armenian merchants took advantage of this situation and managed to further develop their trade. For example, in the “Tujor” newspaper, Armenian merchants bought fruits and vegetables grown in the gardens of local rich people and ordinary people at low prices and took them not only to Tashkent, but also to other regional markets at high prices and made a huge profit [17]. The author emphasized why our nation cannot engage in such a profitable business, it is not entrepreneurial like Armenians, and the reason for this is laziness and lack of interest.

Conclusion

In addition, at the beginning of the 20th century, some representatives of the trade community were forced to end their activities due to a crisis due to various reasons. The reason for this was that the banks and companies in the country sometimes could not repay loans from large investors in time. In this regard, Russian merchants borrowed 3-4% more than the prescribed amount from foreign banks, built several enterprises in the “new cities” of Turkestan and earned a lot of income [18]. On the other hand, the products that paid their debts on time were produced more than necessary, and the needs of the population were easily satisfied. Local merchants used to go to Moscow to trade with five to six thousand soums. However, due to lack of funds, they borrowed 10-15 thousand soums from local companies and brought goods worth 15-20 thousand soums to their country for profit. Unfortunately, when he could not sell it at the intended price in his place, as a result, he was unable to pay his debts on time and became a big debtor and fell into a crisis.

In short, in the conditions of the Russian Empire's colonialism, entrepreneurship in Turkestan developed somewhat despite the opposition of the government, and large merchants grew up among the representatives of the local nation. They were engaged in trade in various sectors, managed to make a large profit and penetrate the European markets.

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