



THE SILK CRISIS IN ITALY AND BUKHARA

Orziev Makhmud Zaynievich,

Doctor of Philosophy in History (PhD)

Senior Lecturer, Department of World History, Bukhara State University, Uzbekistan

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Abstract:

This article provides information about the Italians who came to the Emirate of Bukhara in the middle of the XIX century in Italy in search of a crisis in the silk industry and ways to get rid of it and were imprisoned by Amir Muzaffarkhan, as well as some Italians who came to Central Asia in search of a better life.

Keywords: Silk, trade route, economic relations, "Turkistan package", Italians, ideological guide, spy, Russians, Orenburg, Central Asia, Ottoman Turks, silk industry, silkworm larvae, production, prison.

INTRODUCTION

The Central Asian region has long been one of the important centers connecting East and West economically, politically and culturally. The migration of international economic relations to the seas during the last Middle Ages led to the crisis of the Great Silk Road, which passed through the territory of Central Asia. Another important aspect of the declining importance of the land trade route was that the cultivation of silk products in Europe and even the rise of countries such as France and Italy to the forefront of the world in this area led to a slight decline in the importance of caravan routes. However, according to various arguments, relations with Europe continued, albeit less than in previous periods. In this article, we want to comment on some aspects of Italy's relations with the Central Asian states, in particular with Bukhara in the mid-nineteenth century.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The migration of Italians to other countries in the 19th century in search of a better life was one of the peculiarities of Italian economic and social relations. While those seeking a better life mostly immigrated to the United States, they came to other European countries, including Russia, albeit in small numbers. According to the *Turkestansky Sbornik* (Collection of Turkestan), the situation in Italy was analyzed, and an unnamed Italian first studied sculpture in Paris, but could not make a living in Europe, so he came to the Russian capital, St. Petersburg. He came to Tbilisi to study watchmaking, studied the profession and became a watchmaker in Tehran, then went to Central Asia, where he suffered for a loaf of bread in Kokand, Tashkent, Gilja and Bukhara. P. It is reported that Kovalevsky met him in Khiva [4, 102]. There is every reason to say that the Italians, the representatives of the European nation, lived in Central Asia with modern sciences and

professions, who were among the first promoters of these sciences and professions.

It can be seen from historical sources and literature that in the middle of the 19th century the silk industry in France and Italy, which were the leading textile countries of the modern world, was on the verge of crisis. In particular, according to the 95th volume of the "Turkistan Collection", since 1855, silk production in Italy and France has declined, mainly due to the disease of silkworm larvae, which caused great damage to producers [2, 421]. It was also a severe blow to the Italian economy, with rising unemployment in northern and central Italy, where silkworms flourished, production declining year by year as a result of silkworm disease, and in 1856 Italy produced 262,000 pounds of silk and in 1865 50,000 pounds. mentioned in the preparation of the pub [2, 422].

In order to save the Italian silk industry from the crisis, various plans and programs were implemented, one of which was to bring silkworm larvae grown in ancient silk factories to Italy and adapt them to local conditions, including silkworm larvae from Central Asia, including Bukhara. The arrival of Italians in Bukhara for this purpose is mentioned in a number of historical literatures [8, 233; 1, 78].

The Italians who came to Bukhara were Meats, Gavatsi, and Count Litta. Count Lita had his own shop in Orenburg. It is mentioned in the "Turkistan Collection" [5, 242]. There are also differing views on the escape of Italians from the Muzaffar prison in Bukhara for trade and economic relations. It is mentioned that they returned to Italy via Russia [8, 233]. Some literature praises the merits of the Russian merchant Khludov in the liberation of Italian merchants. It is also said that I. Khludov was instrumental in providing them with silkworm seeds in Khojand and Tashkent [5, 242]. The imprisonment of Italian merchants by the Emir in Bukhara was also reflected in international relations, leading to the



conclusion that the Italian government had decided to use the Ottoman Turkish sultan as a mediator in the release of three merchants from Milan, Italy.

The Ottoman Turkish sultan was the caliph of all Muslim states. Therefore, his request was often granted immediately. At the request of the Italian government, the Ottoman Turkish sultan wrote a letter to the Emir of Bukhara, Muzaffar Khan, on October 23, 1863, requesting the release of traders who came to Milan, Italy for silkworm larvae. However, we have not yet received any information on the extent to which Amir Muzaffar reacted to the letter of the Ottoman Turkish sultan. Among the information in the historical literature about the release of Italian merchants from the prison of the Emir of Bukhara is the fact that A.P. The Russian merchant S.Ya. reported that in 1862 three Italians were imprisoned by the Emir of Bukhara. Delivered by Klyucharev to the Orenburg administration. Governor-General A.P. Bezak responded by arresting more than a thousand Bukhara merchants in Orenburg with their property and ordering the execution of Bukhara merchants if the Italians were not released. Following this news, Amir Muzaffar liberated the Italian merchants [1, 79; 6, 456]. The arrival of Italians, and citizens of European countries in general, in the Central Asian regions for various purposes was dangerous in later periods, and in 1869 a special appeal was sent to those who came to these countries. Bankovoy i Torgovoy Gazeti (Bank and Trade Gazette) published a special appeal to the Italian government and Italians asking them not to believe that Russia and Italy would protect Italians traveling to Central Asia for silkworm larvae.

According to the Russian government, the financial situation is not enough to protect tourists in the vast country, so they should take care of their own safety [9, 43]. However, it can be seen that the fact that Amir Muzaffar himself soon needed the help of the Italian state was also mentioned in the historical literature. In the process of establishing a protectorate over the Emirate of Bukhara by the Russian Empire, the Emirate of Bukhara sent letters with proposals from Britain, Ottoman Turks, France, as well as Italy to establish military-political relations [10, 52].

Individual relations with Italy have not completely ceased. There are reports that the Kokand Khanate was also involved in this relationship. The sources provide information about his family, and the fact that one of Khudoyorkhan's wives is Italian serves to substantiate the above considerations [7, 0540].

CONCLUSION

To conclude, Italy is one of the most advanced countries in Europe at the beginning of the new era, and its relations with Central Asia, especially the Emirate of Bukhara, are underdeveloped due to sharp geographical, economic, socio-cultural differences. However, relations between the two countries have not been completely severed, albeit by a small number of individuals.

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