



DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS OF THE BABURIDS WITH THE KHANATE OF BUKHARA

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Abstract: This article discusses the diplomatic relations between the rulers of the Babur dynasty and the rulers of the Bukhara Khanate. The article refers to the works of historians of the Bukhara Khanate. Also, the research of foreign, Indian and domestic historians was used effectively. The embassy relations between Zahiriddin Muhammad Babur and the Shaybani rulers Kochkinjikhon and Pulod Sultan are analyzed. It is established that the most stable period of diplomatic relations between India and Bukhara was during the reign of Akbar Shah and Abdullah Khan II. It is established that diplomatic relations between Bukhara and the Baburs continued during the reign of the Ashtar Khans, and that relations between Imamkulikhon and Jahongir Shah were effective. It is shown that during the reign of Shahjahan, the relations between the Bukhara Khanate and the Baburs were conflicting. It has also been studied that the issue of Iran played an important role in the diplomatic relations between the Bukhara Khanate and the Babur dynasty.

Keywords: Babur, Shayban, Ashtar Khan, Bukhara Khanate, Akbar Shah, Abdullah Khan II, Balkh, Badakhshan.

**Introduction**

In every historical period in the world, diplomacy and foreign policy activities of the state have been considered one of the main aspects of statehood. For this reason, the countries of the world have pursued a policy of improving bridges of communication with foreign countries in order to achieve stability in domestic and foreign policy, ensure peace, confront internal and external threats, achieve socio-economic development, and achieve cultural and educational development of society. Uzbekistan, as an independent state and an equal subject of international relations, has established diplomatic relations with more than 140 countries.

As an independent state, Uzbekistan maintains strong relations with India. Therefore, the roots of the relations between the two countries have a rich history. Speaking about the relations between Bukhara and India, diplomatic relations were regularly maintained by Zahiriddin Muhammad Babur and his descendants. For the Baburs, Mavoronnahr, as their true homeland and a legacy from Amir Temur, was always in their attention.

In turn, both the Shaybanids and the Ashtar Khans, who ruled in Transoxiana, sought to maintain stability in relations with India. The main reason for this was to weaken the influence of the threat coming to the Bukhara Khanate from the southwest, that is, from Iran, or to act together against the threat. The role of the Shaybanid ruler Abdullah Khan II and the Ashtar Khan ruler Imamquli Khan in maintaining friendly diplomatic relations with India during the period of the two dynasties is unparalleled.

Literature review and methodology:

Scientific research devoted to the study of relations between the Baburs and the Bukhara Khanate has attracted the attention of leading historians, political scientists, and geographers around the world. Abulabbas Muhammad Talib's "Matlab ut-tolibin" ("The Goal of Truth Seekers" (completed in 1663/64) contains extremely important information on the relations between the Bukhara Khanate and India. The third chapter of Muhammad Yusuf Munshi's "Tarihi Mukimkhani" describes the relations of Bukhara and Balkh with India in 1702-1704 [1].

Scientific information on the subject under study is available in the scientific works of foreign researchers V. Gascoyne, W. Ereskin, G. Malleson, J. Richards, F. Talbot, and in the studies of Indian historians L. Cotter, R. Tripathi, R. Magumder, L. Sharma, which contain extremely important scientific evidence and information on the political and socio-economic situation of the country and relations between the Bukhara Khanate and India [2].

In our country The scientific works of scholars such as Ibrohimov A., Abdugafurov A., Azimjonova, Boboev H., Vohidov R., Satimov G., Jalilov S., Fayziev T., Hoshimov I., Nizomiddinov I., Obidov B., Khusanboev O., Qudratullaev H., who studied the history of the Baburs and the Bukhara Khanate, analyzed the relations between the Baburs and the Bukhara Khanate, the content of the correspondence[3].



The above-mentioned sources are of great importance in the study of diplomatic relations between the Baburs and the Bukhara Khanate and were analyzed based on the principles of historical analysis, logical coherence, and chronological consistency. In the research process, comparison, observation, generalization, mathematical and statistical analysis, as well as inductive and deductive research methods were effectively used.

Results:

On August 23, 1586, Akbar Shah sent his own envoy to Bukhara, joining Abdullah Khan's envoys. In his letter, Akbar Shah informed Abdullah Khan that he was concerned about Turkey's occupation of part of Iran, and that Bukhara and India should jointly provide assistance to Iran. Akbar Shah's real goal was to subjugate Balkh and Badakhshan, and if possible, Khorasan. Therefore, Abdullah Khan II did not agree to such an alliance. At that time, the Iranian ruler Shah Abbas I had managed to unite and strengthen Iran. In such circumstances, a rebellion broke out in Badakhshan against Abdullah Khan. Suspicions arose in Bukhara that Akbar Shah had a hand in the rebellion. Abdulmo'min, the son of the ruler of Badakhshan, Abdulla Khan II, sent a letter to Akbar Shah, demanding that he return the Badakhshan rebels to Bukhara, marry his daughter, and even annex part of India. As a result, relations between the two states cooled. Later, Abdulla Khan II sent another ambassador to Akbar Shah and apologized for his son's behavior [9. p. 2]. According to the scholar I. Nizomiddinov, who studied diplomatic relations between India and Movorunnakhr, the political situation on the border of the Shaybanid and Baburid kingdoms further clarified Akbar Shah's suspicions of Abdulla Khan II. Therefore, after the conquest of Herat and Balkh, Abdulla Khan was eyeing Badakhshan. In 1583-1584, after Abdullah Khan II conquered Badakhshan, the governors of Badakhshan and Kabul appealed to Akbar Shah for help. In response, Akbar Shah led an army to Kabul in 1585 and captured it [7. p. 100]. After this, Abdullah Khan II stopped his planned military campaign against Kabul and turned his attention to Iran.

In 1585, Abdullah Khan II sent new ambassadors to India. The ambassadors were led by Mir Quraysh. It was not without reason that Abdullah Khan chose Mir Quraysh. Mir Quraysh was a good diplomat who was well-educated and well-mannered, and with this upbringing he could easily find a common language with others. Abdullah Khan's task was to explain to the ambassadors the reasons for the conquest of Badakhshan and to persuade the ruler of India in military campaigns against Iran. Akbar Shah did not accept the ambassadors led by Mir Quraysh due to his insecurity. Mir Quraysh sought ways to meet the ruler and was able to meet with him. In 1586, Akbar Shah sent his ambassadors Hakim Nu'man and Mir Sadrjahon to Bukhara with Mir Quraysh. The ambassadors arrived in Bukhara in 1587. The ambassadors were received with great respect by



Abdullah Khan II. In 1589, the ambassadors returned to India. Abdullah Khan's Ahmad Ali Otaliq and Mir Sadrajahon were sent as ambassadors with them. These ambassadors handed over to Akbar Shah a letter stating that Abdullah Khan II had succeeded in conquering Khorasan and Herat with the favor of Akbar Shah [6. p. 102]. As a result, the ambassadors were able to strengthen trade relations between India and Bukhara.

During the Ashtar Khan period, the ruler Imamquli Khan restored relations with India. According to the historian Muhammad Yusuf Munshi [11. 89-page]. Imam Quli Khan sent his envoys to the Indian ruler Jahangir Shah. Jahangir Shah also warmly welcomed the envoys from Bukhara and agreed to maintain relations with the two countries.

According to the Indian historian Ramesh Varma, about the envoys from Bukhara in 1614, the envoys from Bukhara gave Jahangir Shah the title of Imam Quli Khan, and in the letter he emphasizes that he was in favor of restoring and reviving the diplomatic relations during the reigns of Abdullah Khan II and Akbar Shah [12. 328-page.].

In 1625, Jahangir Shah sent envoys led by Hakim Khozik to Bukhara. According to I. Nizomiddinov, Hakim Khozik was a famous scholar and virtuous person in India during his time, and made a great contribution to restoring and strengthening relations between the Ashtar Khans and the Baburs.

In 1625, the ambassadors of Imam Quli Khan, led by Uzbek Khoja, were received in Kashmir. An agreement was reached during the embassy on the free movement of merchants of the two countries in Bukhara and Kashmir. In the same year, the ambassadors, led by Mir Barak, arrived from India to the palace of Imam Quli Khan. Imam Quli Khan solemnly welcomed the ambassadors. He accompanied the ambassadors to their country with many gifts and greetings. Imam Quli Khan sent the last ambassadorial mission to India under the leadership of Abdurahman Jo'ybori. In his letter to Jahangir Shah, Imam Quli Khan asked the Iranian Safavids to work together to regain Khorasan [10. p. 89]. However, this matter remained unfulfilled due to the serious illness of Jahangir Shah when the ambassadors arrived and his death soon after.

Jahangir Shah's ambassadors sent Imam Quli Khan a tent decorated with rare and precious stones and many sea pearls, while Imam Quli Khan sent Jahangir Shah rare books decorated and copied by calligraphers and painters. This indicates that diplomatic relations between Jahangir Shah and Imam Quli Khan were strong.

During the reign of Nadr Muhammad and Shah Jahan, relations between Bukhara and India deteriorated. As Nadr Muhammad's relations with his children deteriorated, Nadr Muhammad Khan asked Shah Jahan for help. Shah Jahan sent an army to Balkh led by his sons Aurangzeb and Murad Bakhsh. When Nadir Muhammad learned that Shah Jahan's sons were not coming to help, but to occupy the Balkh region, he opposed him. In the battle on the Maimana road, Nadir Muhammad was defeated, fled to Iran and found refuge with Shah Abbas.



In 1647, the sons of Shah Jahan captured Balkh. The princes of India conquered Balkh and plundered the khan's treasures there. They behaved like invaders, oppressed the people and ruled Balkh for two years. The people of Balkh fled to Transoxiana with their entire families, fleeing oppression, hardship, and losses [7. p. 45]. Abdulaziz went to fight against the Indians. Shah Jahan was forced to call his troops. Thus, relations between India and Bukhara cooled.

In 1658, the Babur dynasty passed to Aurangzeb Alamgir. As a result of the ambassador sent by the Khan of Bukhara Abdulaziz Khan to congratulate him on his accession to the throne, relations between the two states were revived [8. p. 146].

In 1684, Aurangzeb sent an ambassador to Bukhara. Now, in this situation, Aurangzeb proposed an alliance to wage military operations against Iran. Aurangzeb had two goals in mind. First, to weaken the Shiites of Iran, and second, to annex Kandahar to the empire. An alliance against Iran was formed in Bukhara between Subhanquli Khan and the Indian ambassador. Due to Subhanquli Khan's struggle with the Khiva Khanate and Aurangzeb's focus on suppressing the Maratha rebellion and reconquering the Deccan region, the agreement to wage military operations against Iran failed.

Conclusions:

The conclusions obtained during the writing of the article show that diplomatic relations between the Babur Sultanate and the Bukhara Khanate were established quite stably. Secondly, the rulers of India and Bukhara were interested in developing trade and economic relations in their embassy relations.

Thirdly, although the rulers of Bukhara and India maintained strong embassy relations, they were cautious and suspicious of each other in their relations with the border regions. Also, in the second half of the 16th century, during the reign of Abdulla Khan II, relations between the Bukhara Khanate and the Babur state were conducted regularly. In this, it can be seen that both states were interested in establishing economic and political relations.

Fourthly, the Baburs also tried to make the Bukhara khans surprise each other when choosing ambassadors. They literally sent worthy people as ambassadors. When choosing candidates for the embassy, in accordance with the customs of that era, they often chose religious scholars. The rulers of Bukhara paid attention to choosing ambassadors from the Naqshbandi order, who had gained great prestige. In turn, the Baburi rulers appointed high-ranking officials from Mavoorunnakhr to the post of ambassador.

Fifth, while rulers such as Babur, Humayun, Akbar, Jahongir, Shah Jahan did not support the proposal of the Bukhara Khanate to conduct joint military operations against Iran, Shah Aurangzeb, due to his religious and political views, proposed to the Bukhara Khanate to form a military alliance against Iran.

Developing cooperation with India is one of the priorities of Uzbekistan's foreign policy. Regular political dialogue is being conducted between the foreign ministries of the two countries through the exchange of



delegations, and diplomatic relations are being established consistently. Projects on studying the history of relations between the two countries, on studying the history of trade caravans from Central Asia to India, and from India to Central Asia, will further enrich the historical geographical research between Uzbekistan and India. Most importantly, they will allow for the further development of diplomatic relations between Uzbekistan and India, and the acceleration of integration processes in various areas of cooperation.

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