

THE POLICY OF THE SOVIET POWER IN CENTRAL ASIA

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ANNOTATION

This article highlights the issues of the policy of the Soviet government towards the states of Central Asia at the beginning of the 20th century.

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In the process of globalization, the strengthening of political, socio-economic and cultural ties between countries, the strengthening of peace, along with the development of cooperation between peoples of different ethnic and cultural origins, remains one of the most urgent problems facing humanity. The need to study the policy of the Soviet government towards the attitude of the peoples of Central Asia at the beginning of the 20th century became an integral feature of the history of Uzbekistan.

In this context, there is a need for further research into the essence of the Bolsheviks' politics, referring to their historical roots.

A number of research centers and universities around the world are conducting research on the history of international relations in Central Asia. In particular, their results and features are being studied in scientific institutions in Germany, France and Russia.

As early as November 1917, the Soviet government of Turkestan recognized the sovereignty of Bukhara and Khiva. However, it intended to maintain its political influence in both states at the same level at which it was maintained by the Russian imperial government. This did not meet the interests of the Central Asian monarchies. Feeling increasing pressure from the Soviet authorities of Turkestan and foreseeing the threat of the spread of Soviet power in his possessions, the emir of Bukhara Seyid Alim Khan began to increase the size of his hitherto small guard[1].

For their part, the Soviet authorities urged the local communists to ally with the "Young Bukharians" in order to jointly overthrow the power of the emir. In the spring of 1918, after defeating the forces of Irgash in Kokand, units of the Red Army entered the territory of the Emirate of Bukhara to help the "Young Bukharians" and communists who had risen in revolt, but this expedition turned out to be poorly prepared militarily and the campaign did not achieve its original goal. In March 1918, peace was signed in Kyzyl-Tepe between Bukhara and Soviet Turkestan[2]. The Emir government established diplomatic relations with Turkestan, and the Soviet side promised not to interfere in Bukhara affairs. In June, the Bukhara embassy was opened in Tashkent, and in December a trade agreement was signed between Turkestan and Bukhara. After the suppression of the protests of the "Young Bukharians" and communists in

Bukhara, the survivors of them fled to Soviet territory, where they launched an active anti-Emir activity[3].

Relations between the Emirate of Bukhara and Soviet Turkestan remained tense. Realizing his military weakness and fearing the development of a conflict with Turkestan, in early 1919 the Emir of Bukhara turned to the Emir of Afghanistan, Khabibullah, for military assistance. In response to this request, a detachment of two thousand Afghan volunteers and weapons were sent to Bukhara. But this help could not provide Bukhara with the necessary advantage over the forces of the Bolsheviks. In the fall, Bukhara entered into a military alliance with Khiva, which, no doubt, was intended to contain pressure from Soviet Turkestan. Bukhara and Khiva again tried to obtain military assistance from Afghanistan, sending their representatives to Kabul for this purpose in the summer of 1919. The meaning of their new initiative was to try to use the weakening of the positions of the Turkestan Republic, which since the spring of 1919 was cut off from the rest of Russia by the Cossack detachments of General A.I. Dutov, who entered the fight against the Bolshevik government [4].

At the beginning of 1920. The Bolshevik army launched large-scale actions against the national liberation movement in Central Asia. In June 1919, the Red Army conquered Ashgabat, and then the territory of Transcaspia. By the beginning of 1920, Madamin-bek's detachments were defeated in Fergana. However, the offensive of the Bolshevik formations was not limited to the borders of the former Russian Empire.

At the end of December 1919, units of the Red Army entered the territory of the Khiva Khanate. The armed formations of the de facto ruler of Khiva, dictator Junaid Khan, were defeated, and Khan Seid-Abdullah abdicated. "Mladokhivintsy" together with local communists proclaimed the Khorezm People's Soviet Republic. Its sovereignty was nominal, and the government was completely dependent on Soviet Russia. The scheme of the former Russian protectorate over Khiva, with appropriate amendments, was reproduced under new conditions. In 1921, the Khorezm Republic signed a union treaty with the RSFSR [5].

The events in Bukhara developed according to a similar scenario. In August 1920, an armed uprising led by the young Bukharians took place there. With the direct participation of the Red Army units led by M.V. Frunze, the emir was deposed and fled with the remnants of his formations to Eastern Bukhara, to the Gissar valley. In Bukhara, the Bukhara People's Soviet Republic was formed, which in November 1920 concluded an agreement on mutual military assistance with the RSFSR, which made it possible for units of the Red Army to remain on the territory of the new republic.

The final defeat of the anti-Bolshevik forces in Bukhara was, however, fraught with a number of problems. In particular, the forces of the Emir of Bukhara received assistance from Afghanistan. The issue of extending Soviet control in Central Asia thus depended in part on how relations between Soviet Russia and Afghanistan would turn out[6].

The revolution in Russia made a mixed impression in Afghanistan. Rather, it caused the emir's government to be wary, but it attracted the sympathy of the anti-British Young Afghans, who sympathized with the Bolsheviks in their fight against the intervention of the European powers. Emir Khabibullah continued to avoid activity in the field of foreign policy, primarily trying to prevent a political confrontation with London. In April 1919, the new leadership of Afghanistan officially recognized Soviet Russia on the terms of reciprocity.

In August 1919, the plenipotentiary of the Turkestan Republic N.I. Bravin arrived in Kabul. He had the authority from the Soviet government to discuss with the Afghan side the issue of establishing diplomatic relations between the RSFSR and Afghanistan. In December 1919, Bravin was already replaced by Ya. Z. Surits as the plenipotentiary of the RSFSR in Kabul [7]. In October of the same year, an emergency diplomatic mission of Afghanistan visited Moscow and had a meeting with V.I. Lenin. Further, the Afghan delegation followed to the countries of Western Europe, seeking to achieve recognition of his new diplomatic line in France, Italy and Germany.

Britain's refusal in May 1919 to recognize the full independence of Afghanistan led to war. Despite the numerical and technical superiority of the British army, the Afghans put up stubborn resistance to it.

Building on the success, the new Afghan leadership in June 1920 opened the first Afghan diplomatic mission in Moscow, and in February 1921 signed a friendship treaty with Soviet Russia. This agreement confirmed the mutual recognition and independence of both states and contained the obligation of the parties "not to enter into a military and political agreement with a third power that would cause damage to one of the contracting parties." Russia agreed to give Afghanistan the right to duty-free transit of goods through Russian territory, provide it with financial and material assistance, and, importantly, promised to return to Afghanistan "the lands of the border region that belonged to it in the last century." The last obligation was not subsequently fulfilled[8].

Regarding the international situation in the region, the Soviet-Afghan treaty noted that both sides pledged to respect "the real independence and freedom of Bukhara and Khiva, whatever form of government exists there according to the desires of their peoples." Thus, the Russian side achieved recognition by Afghanistan of those political coups that, with the support of the Red Army, were carried out in Bukhara and Khiva. But at the same time, she, in turn, pledged to respect the sovereign status of the newly formed Khorezm and Bukhara republics.

The treaty with Afghanistan was important for Soviet Russia not only as an instrument of pressure on the British government, but also as a way to stop the aid that was provided from Afghan territory to military formations in Soviet Turkestan[7].

The treaty with Afghanistan made it possible to intensify Soviet policy in the region. In December 1921, the Red Army defeated the detachments of the Emir of Bukhara in Gissar and occupied Dushanbe. The emir fled with his followers to Afghanistan, where he found refuge with Amanullah Khan.

Enver Pasha, who had arrived in the territory of the Bukhara Republic in October 1922 from Moscow and met with V.I. The Bolshevik leadership mistakenly believed that it could be used for propaganda work among the Muslims of Central Asia. Arriving at the place, however, Enver Pasha became convinced of the anti-Islamic orientation of the Bolsheviks' policy and immediately took the side of their opponents. For a while, he managed to unite part of the anti-Bolshevik resistance. The forces of Enver Pasha ousted the Bolsheviks from Dushanbe and by March 1922 approached Bukhara. Enver demanded the withdrawal of the Red Army from Bukhara, Khiva and Turkestan and recognition of him as the head of the "Muslim state of the peoples of Central Asia"[6].

However, in August 1922, as a result of the counter-offensive of the Red Army, his detachments were pushed back to the Afghan border and defeated there. Enver Pasha was killed in battle. Combat operations against the surviving military formations led by Ibrahim-bek continued for another year. In the autumn of 1923, they suffered a new heavy defeat in the territory of Eastern Bukhara, and Ibrahim-bek himself fled to Afghanistan. But until the beginning of the 1930s, clashes between detachments of national military formations and units of the Red Army and border guards continued. These detachments infiltrated from Afghanistan, where the exiled emir of Bukhara continued to live in exile.

In 1924-1925, the victorious Soviet power carried out a radical national-state reorganization of Central Asia. On the territories of Khiva, Bukhara and Turkestan, the Turkmen and Uzbek Soviet Socialist Republics were formed, which became part of the USSR. The Tajik Autonomous Region and the Kara-Kyrgyz Autonomous Region were formed as part of the Uzbek SSR. The boundaries between them were not always drawn exactly in accordance with the ethnic composition of the population of the respective territories, and in a number of cases in spite of it. In particular, in Uzbekistan itself, in addition to the territory of the Tajik autonomy, other vast areas inhabited by Tajiks were included. The inclusion of the Central Asian territories in the USSR contributed to their reorientation towards economic and cultural ties with Russia and isolated them as independent political entities from the international political processes that developed in the Middle East.

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