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DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN THE BUKHARA EMIRATE AND IRAN IN THE 19TH CENTURY

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Abstract: This article analyzes the formation and development stages of diplomatic relations between the Emirate of Bukhara and Iran, as well as the specific aspects of political and diplomatic relations between the two countries. The study covers the impact of embassy exchanges and regional political processes on interstate relations based on historical sources.

Keywords: Emirate of Bukhara, Iran, embassy, diplomatic relations, emir, foreign policy, Turkmens, Merv, ambassador, prisoner, statehood, Central Asia.

Diplomatic relations between the Emirate of Bukhara and the Iranian state also play an important role in the history of the foreign policy of the Emirate of Bukhara. It should be emphasized that the activities of Emir Nasrullah in strengthening diplomatic relations with the Iranian state can be highlighted separately. Although he left a mark in the history of national statehood with the name "bloodthirsty emir", he managed to resolve issues of significant geopolitical importance in foreign political and diplomatic matters.

In this regard, an analysis of the activities of the embassy sent from Iran in 1844 under the leadership of Muhammad Shah serves to substantiate our above ideas to a certain extent. It is known from historical documents that this embassy was tasked with resolving the following issues:

1. Discussing the issue of releasing Iranian prisoners held in Bukhara;
2. Reaching a certain agreement on related issues with the Merv region and the Turkmens;
3. Resolving the issue of releasing the English citizen Joseph Wolfe, who was held captive in Bukhara, and others.

The Iranian ambassador, noting that the prisoners held in Bukhara continue to be held based on the fatwas of the ulama, according to ancient traditions and customs, and that the prisoners cannot be returned to Iran because they were bought for cash, accepts the emir's proposals aimed at further strengthening relations between the two states in order to eliminate such legal problems.

On the second issue, the Iranian ambassador, the emir of Bukhara explained to him how complicated the political situation was there, emphasizing that the governor of Merv had been appointed based on the demands of the population, that the Turkmen tribes had organized actions against the Emirate of Bukhara, and that it was necessary to restore the Merv oasis, otherwise no one would be able to take Merv.

The third issue was the most controversial, as it concerned British espionage in Bukhara and Central Asia in general. The espionage was carried out by British envoys Colonel Stoddart and Captain Connolly, who were sent through Iran. These two envoys were executed by Emir Nasrullah, who was aware of their malicious intentions.

The British, using Iranian mediation to free the two ambassadors, sent Joseph Wolfe through Iran. Joseph Wolfe was also arrested as a partner in the two spies. The Iranian ambassador asked the Emir of Bukhara to hand over the English citizen Joseph Wolfe with honor. The issue before the Emir was a very complex political issue.

In such foreign political and diplomatic relations, the Emir of Bukhara decides to release Joseph Wolfe and the Iranian prisoners in order to strengthen the reputation of the Bukhara state in international relations, the issues of internal and external security of the country, and future relations with the Iranian state, and in turn, to improve Iranian-English political relations.

The emir sent the Iranian ambassador and a man named Subhankolibek as an ambassador to the Iranian state with gifts and greetings. The Iranian ambassador took him, Joseph Wolfe, and Iranian prisoners and left Bukhara.

One of the most acute issues in the relations between the Bukhara Emirate and the Iranian state was the issue of prisoners, which was an obstacle to the development of foreign political and diplomatic relations between the two states. The important issue here was that nomadic tribes and clans that did not obey either of the two states carried out various robberies on the caravan routes and in the border areas, selling people in the markets of Bukhara or other cities.

It was difficult to completely eliminate this type of trade, since both parties, the sellers and the buyers, benefited from this type of trade. In addition to the socio-political nature of this problem, there was also an ideological basis, which was characterized by the differences between the Sunni and Shiite sects.

Considering the controversial nature of such an idea, and with the aim of establishing peaceful relations between the two states, the Emir of Bukhara would periodically send ambassadors to the Sultan of Turkey, trying to clarify the Sharia of the issue and requesting the sending of works of great scholars and mujtahids in order to find a legal solution to it. The emir entrusted two ambassadors with the task of obtaining legal sources that would allow resolving this legal problem. In conclusion, it should be emphasized that the foreign policy and diplomacy implemented during the reign of the Mangids serve as a historical and legal practical activity in the conduct of the foreign policy of the independent state of Uzbekistan today as a free, independent and equal member. Because, at every stage of the history of national statehood, foreign political and diplomatic relations have served as the basis for mutual friendship, cooperation, peace and harmony, and friendship between peoples and nations. Therefore, today, the most important criterion in our foreign policy is, first of all, acting in the interests of our national state and protecting them with all possible means.

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