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Sources of Information on the Ethnic Composition of the Population of the Kokand Khanate

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Abstract:

This article gives a few examples of how the migration processes that took place in the Kokand Khanate from the second half of the 18th century to the first half of the 19th century were left in the sources of that time. It also discusses the causes of these migration movements, the policies of the rulers, and the impact of military conflict. The conflict of interests between Kokand and the Sin Empire of China, especially in East Turkestan, also gives a brief account of the migration of many East Turkestans to the Kokand Khanate.

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Demographic changes are not only due to natural population growth, but also to migration. Military and political events can be cited as a key factor in the migration process in the khanate. Both types of population migration (internal migration and external migration) occurred in the Kokand khanate. Due to the military-political situation in the Kokand khanate, various sources provide information about the migration process.

For example, as a result of the Manchurian army's military campaigns in East Turkestan in 1750-1752, a large part of the region's population moved to the Fergana Valley. According to Muhammad Badakhshani's History of Badakhshan, in 1752, 12,000 families from East Turkestan moved to Badakhshan, of which 9,000 families moved to the Fergana Valley. In the work "History of Turkestan" by Mulla Olim Makhdum Haji on the 16th anniversary of the reign of Muhammad Alikhan (1838). It is reported that he sent troops to East Turkestan*. The operation was led by Commander-in-Chief, and

* Mulla Olim Makhdum hoji. Tarixi Turkiston... 48-page.

is reflected in other sources. After the conquest of Kashgar by the army of the Kokand Khanate, led by the rightful commander, negotiations were held between the Sin Empire and the Khanate. On his way back to Kokand, the commander-in-chief brought with him the Kashgars. Researchers estimate that 50,000 families have moved to the Fergana Valley[†].

An analysis of the data in the sources shows that the population from East Turkestan had a significant impact on the ethno-demographic changes in the Kokand Khanate. According to the sources, the migration of the population of East Turkestan to the Kokand Khanate took place in two ways, the first was to escape the pressure of the Sin Empire, and the second was caused by a special resettlement by the Kokand rulers. It is natural to ask why the Kokand khans relocated some of the population of East Turkestan to the khanate. It is known that the rulers of Kokand replenished the bulk of the state treasury through taxes and fees collected from the population. Of course, the size of the country's population was of particular importance.

The Kokand khanate was also populated by neighboring Uzbek khanates. In particular, there was a migration of people from Kokand khanate to Bukhara khanate. The migration of the population from the Bukhara khanate was the result of unrest and political pressure in the khanate. In particular, as a result of Farhod's activities in Samarkand, one of the commanders of Bukhara khan Abulfayzkhan (1711-1747), the inhabitants of this region fled to Kokand khanate.

From the second half of the 18th century to the middle of the 19th century, Karakalpaks began to settle along the Syrdarya River of the khanate. The integration (or assimilation) of the Karakalpaks who migrated to the Fergana Valley with the Uzbeks was significant only in the twentieth century.

It is reported that the Kokand khan Olimkhan formed a special army of mountainous Tajiks and conducted special military exercises with them. The special forces consisted mainly of Tajiks from Badakhshan, Darvaz, Qorategin, Kulob, and Gissar. Mullah Olim Mahdum Haji's "History of Turkestan" states that Alimkhan chose soldiers from the mountainous Tajiks to form two special groups within the army. As a result of Alimkhan's military actions, it can be assumed that the Tajik soldiers later settled in the capital of the Kokand Khanate and took an active part in the ethno-integration process.

During the reign of Umarkhan, Uratapa region was a part of Kokand khanate, which was ruled by Mahmudkhan. In 1816, Mahmudkhan was informed by some officials who were hostile to the governor that Umarkhan had secretly colluded with the ruler of Bukhara, Amir Haydar, and a military operation was launched in 1816. The poet Dilshod Barno, a direct witness to these events, notes in his book "History of the Immigrants" that 13,400 people were taken prisoner after the capture of Oratepa by the Kokand army[‡]. Some 13,000 captives were brought to the Fapgona Valley. Among these captives was the poet Dilshod Barno, who was brought through the steppes of Navkand, Bekat, Korkat, and Mahram, according to "History of the Immigrants"[§].

Marriages between different ethnic groups in the Kokand khanate also indicate the occurrence of ethnointegration. In Muhammad Hakimkhan's "Muntahab at-Tavorix", the governor of Khojand married the daughter of Akbutabiy Shahrukhbi (Abdurahimbi's sister), a descendant of a hundred, and

[†] Abdullaev U. Farg'ona vodiysida etnoslararo jarayonlar... 27-page.

[‡] Dilshodi Barno. Tarixi muhojiron... 77-page.

[§] That piece. 79-page.

took his brother-in-law, Abdurahimbi, to Khojand. takes him as his assistant in administrative affairs. The White House will hand over government affairs to Abdurahimbi, who will be in charge. According to the play, dissatisfied with the situation, Khojand's high-ranking officials turned their backs on Akbotabi and obeyed Abdurahimbi. An analysis of the data in the "Muntahab at-Tavorix" shows that the early rulers of Kokand sought to establish kinship ties with the Hundred Tribes in order to strengthen their power.

Thus, during the period when the Kokand khanate was an independent state, its population had a complex ethnic composition. This complexity is exacerbated by the ethno-demographic processes, socio-economic and political factors that took place in the region in the 70s of the XVII-XIX centuries. The interaction of different ethnic groups in the khanate had a positive impact on the development of integration processes. Immigrants from different regions and neighboring countries, far and near, brought with them new professions and occupations, assimilated their local ones. Under certain conditions, a certain degree of integration of different peoples took place on the basis of ethnocultural ties between the different ethnic groups of the khanate's population. This is confirmed to some extent by the data of the analyzed written sources.

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