Khanate of Khiva During Prime Minister Islamkhoja

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Abstract:
In the article, the activities of the famous political figure Sayyid Islamkhoja, who was of great importance in the socio-political and cultural life of the Khiva khanate in the late 19th - early 20th centuries, during the ministerial period, architectural and beautification works, and bringing the khanate out of the mire of ignorance and backwardness information about his efforts and tragic fate.

The Khanate of Khiva, established in the Khorezm oasis at the beginning of the 16th century and founded by Elbarskhan, experienced a very difficult situation at the end of the 19th century. On the one hand, the colonialism of the Russian Empire, on the other hand, the complexity of the socio-economic situation in the Khiva Khanate at that time, the miserable condition of the people, the discord between different classes and clans aggravated the situation of the Khanate. In such a difficult situation, Vaziri Akbar Sayyid Islamkhoja enters the political field.

In the second half of the 19th century - the beginning of the 20th century, the Khanate of Khiva lived under the colonial rule of the Russian Empire, but at that time, in this holy land, such mature statesmen as Mukhammad Rakhimkhan II, Prime Minister Syed Islamkhoja, Mukhammad Murad Devanbegi, Kamil Mirzabashi, and Mukhammad Rasul Mirza lived in this holy land. Munis, Ogahi, Bayani, Tabibi, dozens of talented poets, historians, musicologists, famous civil engineers, architects, painters, jewelers and other unique professions have grown up, and their honorable names are worthy on the pages of our glorious history. is taking place.
Indeed, the blessed name of Vaziri Akbar Sayyid Islamkhoja is of great importance to us among the scholars and representatives of science whose names have been respectfully mentioned above. Islamkhoja is one of the great statesmen who left a bright mark in the history of Khorezm despite his short life.

Islamkhoja, a progressive figure who started the reform movement in the history of Khiva, is one of the first leaders of the modernist movement in Khorezm. He is one of the great statesmen who left a bright mark in the history of Khorezm with the help of democratic reforms. With the help of democratic reforms, Islamkhoja is a person of high virtue who tried to save the Khanate of Khiva from backwardness, to make it among the economically and culturally advanced countries, to establish peace and tranquility in the country, and to add it to the ranks of the economically and culturally advanced countries. is considered one of the statesmen.[1]

Islamkhoja was born in 1872, the grandson of Sayid Mukhammadkhoja mutavalli, who was one of the influential Said Otayikhojas in Khorezm. He grew up in a wealthy and prestigious family. His father was the uncle of Ibrahimkhoja Feruzkhan and was the governor of Khanka. Later, he took the post of prime minister. Having received school and madrasa education, Islamkhoja previously worked as a zakat collector in the Khan’s palace. In 1889, 17-year-old Islamkhoja was sent by Mukhammad Rahimkhan II to Khazorasp, an important strategic and commercial city, second only to Khiva in the khanate. During his 10-year career in Khazorasp, Islamkhoja was recognized as a mature statesman. Finally, in 1898, Muhammad Rahimkhan II appointed him to replace the deceased Prime Minister Sayid Abdullakhoja.

After the death of Islamkhoja in 1910, his son Asfandiyarkhan ascended the throne. Asfandiyarkhan was the son-in-law of Prime Minister Islamkhoja. On September 4, 1891, Mukhammad Rahimkhan Feruz’s request to the Russian emperor to appoint Asfandiyar as the crown prince was the reason for his elevation to the title of khan while the other sons of the khan remained.

In this way, Islamkhoja started reforms with his son-in-law Asfandiyarkhan. Asfandiyarkhan was elected a member of the “Russian Geographical Society” because Islamkhoja knew geography well and was very knowledgeable about a number of subjects.

On the first day of Ramadan in 1910, Asfandiyarkhan, with the advice of Islamkhoja, issued a decree on the regulation of markets, the construction of bridges, the improvement of roads, and the recalculation of lands. Asfandiyarkhan’s decree came into force, taxes were slightly reduced, and improvement works were carried out.

Islamkhoja presented the program of reforms in three directions to Khan. In the same year, Islamkhoja developed the necessary reform plan, which he implemented in the khanate. The plan consists of 10 points and is based on progressive criteria for that time. Asfandiyarkhan also approved 10 of its points. After the reform is approved by Khan, it will be implemented. An accurate calculation of state land ownership, estate land ownership, foundation land ownership has been started. Construction engineers were brought from Russia and involved in this work. Together with them, the project of installing an iron bridge over the canals was drawn up, and all available areas were measured. A new project of the city of Khiva was drawn up, according to which the city was expanded three times.

Between 1910 and 1913, according to the reform program, a post-telegraph building, Nurullaboy Palace, a modern hospital, and a modern school were built in Khiva itself. During his trips to Russia,
the prime minister met with the governor of Moscow N. Guchkov and with his help used a number of construction projects, in this way, the projects of the post and telegraph building, the hospital were drawn by Islamkhoja himself to architects from Moscow established. Also, between 1910 and 1913, modern schools were established in the cities of New Urgench, Shavat, Gurlan, Kungirot, Koshkupir, and Muynak, in addition to Khiva, at the expense of Islamkhoja’s initiative and funds. The modern school in Khiva was built in a completely new way. In 1913, a school of the Russian system was built from baked bricks in the European style. In New Urgench, Islamkhoja opened separate modern schools for boys and girls, and more than 60 boys and girls were admitted to them. Russian-style schools, unlike old schools, had desks and blackboards, and Russian language, drawing, history, geography and other subjects were taught. Advanced pedagogues of their time such as Agaev, Abdurashidov, H. Koshaev, K. Koshaeva worked in these schools. Young people educated by them were sent to study in the cities of Orenburg, Tashkent, and Petersburg.[2]

Islamkhoja also supported Khudoibergan Devanov, who was the first in Central Asia to introduce film and photo equipment. With the efforts of Prime Minister Islamkhoja, the new method jadid school, built in European style in 1910 with two floors, became important for the khanate. The first teachers of the school were Khusayn Koshaeva and Komila Koshaeva, who worked in the schools of the new style that were opened earlier in the khanate. [3]

Minorsky, a representative of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, who was in Khiva in September-October 1909, also said in his report, Islamkhoja speak Russian easily. He carefully observes the literature published in Muslim literature. In 1912-1913, research works related to bringing a railway to the territory of the khanate were carried out. Also, in 1910-1912, a commission consisting of experienced mirabs was formed, and all canals and internal ditches in the khanate were inspected. This year, about 50,000 digging peasants took part in excavation works. Along with Uzbek farmers, more than 4,000 Turkmen actively participate in the cleaning of the Shovat, Ghazovat, Kilichboy, Lavzan, Sovbat, and Shomurot ditches. [4]

The newspaper “Turkestanskie Kurer” in its April 17, 1911 issue assessed the changes taking place in Khorezm as the most modern reforms and called Islamkhoja a great reformer. On January 4, 1911, the Russian diplomat A. Kalmikov wrote in his information: - I heard from Islamkhoja that Khan of Khiva built a large school building, where his son and other Khiva residents I learned that he wants to teach. The crown prince of Bukhara came to study in Petersburg alone, but Khiva khan wanted to educate his son and his peers as well.

In the period of Islamkhoja, there was a great rise in the cultural life of the Khanate of Khiva. Most of the buildings built in that period and still preserved in Ichankala belong to the Islamkhoja period. During this period, construction work in Khiva khanate was booming. In 1908-1910, Islamkhoja built a madrasa and minaret named after him. The madrasa was built by master Khudoyberdi Khaji, and the tile decorations of the madrasa and minaret were decorated by the son of Ashmukhammed Khudoiberdi. The minaret built in front of the Islamkhoja madrasa amazes the viewer with its luxury and beauty. The height of the tower is 51 meters and it is a unique architectural monument.

1912-1913 was a very prosperous period of Islamkhoja’s activity. At the same time that such reforms are going on, there is a conspiracy. There was no doubt that the democratic reforms of the Minister Sayid Islamkhoja would improve the economic and cultural life of the country and, as a result, improve the well-being of the people. Islamkhoja mobilizes all his strength and skills for this good work. Even though he is deprived of his comfort and personal income, he tries to implement the...
development movement. For construction work, he brings necessary building materials and specialists from Russia and Turkey. [5]

Unfortunately, Asfandiyrkhan’s efforts are not liked by Asfandiyyarkhan and the officials in the Khan’s palace who put their interests above the interests of the people. On top of that, Asfandiyyarkhan’s reputation among the people will increase. Inside the palace, there were more guards with hatred towards him. Islamkhoja’s many actions alarmed Asfandiyyarkhan, and he secretly organized the assassination of Islamkhoja, turning the palace officials to his side. In this way, Islamkhoja was tragically killed by the order of his son-in-law Asfandiyyarkhan.

The most interesting thing is that when he was killed, his valuables were not touched, except for his clothes. Islamkhoja was chased like barbarians. It was clear that the Prime Minister was killed for political purposes. Islamkhoja, who wanted to see the Khanate of Khiva among the developed countries, died in a tragic way. Many buildings built by him have been preserved in Ichankal’a until now, adding beauty to the beauty of Khiva and sealing its name for eternity.

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