

**THE STRUGGLE OF THE MUFTI OF BUKHARA EMIRATE KHOJA MUHAMMAD PORSO FOR THE FREEDOM OF THE COUNTRY, THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY AND HIS PLACE IN SOCIAL AND SPIRITUAL LIFE.**

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**Annotation.** *The manuscript in the personal library of Ravnaqi Shakhrisabzi, the famous historian and scientist, teacher Shodmon Vahid Husainzoda, he came across information that contained the history of the Mufti of Bukhara during the time of Amir Muzaffar Khan, Khoja Muhammad Porso, and his struggle for the country's freedom on the eve of the Russian invasion. Based on this, comparing the analyzed manuscript with sources published abroad, especially in Turkey and Russia, we tried to highlight a special part of the socio-political processes that took place in the Bukhara Emirate on the eve of the Russian invasion. At this point, the author once again draws attention to the fact that it is impossible to preserve and strengthen the supreme blessing called independence under the alms and patronage of others.*

**Key words:** *history of the Mufti, The Emirate of Bukhara, Muslims of Turkestan, ambassador.*

**Introduction.** The Emirate of Bukhara was a prestigious country among the Central Asian khanates from the beginning of the 19th century. Muslims of Turkestan turned to Bukhara Emirate in case of problems. The occupation of Tashkent and its annexation to Russia created problems for Bukhara as well as for all of Turkestan. The people of Tashkent, who met the Russian invasion with hatred, sent ambassadors to the emir of Bukhara and asked for help. Seeing Tashkent's cry for help, Amir Muzafariddin decided to save Tashkent from the Russian request, forgetting the long-lasting hostility of the Kokan Khanate. Amir Muzafariddin sent an ambassador to General Chernyaev and expressed his strong displeasure at the fact that the people of Tashkent were under the hands of the Russians. Through another ambassador, the emir offered to come to an agreement with Bukhara on the issue of Russian occupation. General Chernyaev rejected this proposal and asked that Bukhara would not interfere because they would occupy some regions around Tashkent. As if that wasn't enough, General Chernyaev said that the Emir of Bukhara would abandon the idea of liberating Tashkent, and in order to put pressure on him once again, he chased Bukhara merchants from Tashkent to Orenburg



and seized their goods. The emir of Bukhara still did not give up the hope of making peace. In 1865, under the leadership of Nasriddin Khoja, he sent ambassadors to the capital of Russia, Petersburg, on the issue of the liberation of Tashkent. But the emir's ambassadors were detained in Orenburg by General Krijanovsky by order of General Chernyaev and were not allowed to go to Petersburg. In response to this, the emir of Bukhara also forbade the return of a group of ambassadors sent by Russia to Bukhara to renounce the claim of liberation of Tashkent. Chernyaev, who was angry at Amir Muzafariddin's actions, immediately wrote a letter, protesting to the emir and asking him to make a decision immediately. Amir responded to the proposal of the Russian general as follows: "You prevented my ambassadors from meeting with the emperor. I am also detaining your ambassadors in response. I will protect your ambassadors until my ambassadors meet with the Tsar (Emperor).

Against this, General Chernyaev decided to use force to return his ambassadors, and in mid-January 1866, he crossed the Syrdarya and attacked Jizzakh and Chinoz. But Chernyaev was forced to retreat because the Bukhara army strongly defended these fortresses. The relentless pursuit of the Russian troops by Amir's cavalry forced Chernyaev to change his decision. At this time, minor skirmishes between the Bukhara and Russian troops continued. Using these wars as an excuse, General Romanovsky launched a new attack on the Bukhara armies on May 8, 1866. This change of events was unexpected news for the Bukhara army. On June 7, 1866, the Russian army armed with cannons occupied Khojand.

After that, Emir Muzafariddin immediately sent a group of ambassadors headed by Mufti of Bukhara Khoja Mohammad Porso to Istanbul. Taking into account that Muhammad Porso will go to Turkey through Afghanistan and India, Amir Muzafariddin wrote a special letter to the Queen of England, complaining about Russia's violation of human rights and occupying Turkestan, and asked for help to free Central Asian Muslims from this oppression.

Amir Muzaffaruddin said in a letter sent to the British Governor General in India: "We always promote the just administration of the people. Since I came to the throne, we are also trying to rule our people with justice. We are also sending letters to the Queen of England and India with Mulla Muhammad Porso, whom we sent as an extraordinary ambassador to our Caliph in Istanbul. Our ambassador will tell you about our concerns. We hope that with the help of Her Majesty the Queen and your recommendations, the Russian aggression and occupation against Muslims will be put to an end. With this letter, we express our friendship and best wishes."

Mr. Muhammad Porso said that he would send the reply of the British governor to Bukhara with some of his staff, when he learned that the ambassador sent by Kokan Khan to Stambul to ask for help had returned empty handed. In fact, on the eve of the



Russian invasion, Khoja Bek Ishaq Agha of Kokand was sent as an ambassador to the representatives of Turkey and England to ask for help.

Muhammad Porso, who received a rejection from the British, came to the capital of the Ottoman state in the middle of September 1867 with the intention of getting help from the Ottoman government. Mufti of Bukhara, Muhammad Porso, was allowed to enter the presence of the king on the market day of September 24, as one of his respected scholars. After being informed about the situation in Turkestan and Russian pressure, Muhammad Porso handed over the letter and gifts of Amir Muzafariddin to the king.

Muhammad Porso, who did not receive a positive response from John Lawrence, the governor of England in India, in order to find some salvation against the oppression of his country by the Russians, on December 24, 1867, turned to the British ambassador in Istanbul, Sir Henry Ellab, and asked to receive an answer to the letter written by the emir of Bukhara to the Queen of England. Henry Ellab told the government to get an answer to Muhammad Porso's request and hoped from the British Foreign Office, but the Ministry of Indian Affairs opposed him.

The policy of the Governor of India, who was indifferent to the occupation of the Russians in Turkestan, caused great concern to the British Foreign Office. Lord Clarendon, the representative of the British Foreign Ministry, sent a special message to Buchanin, the British ambassador in Petersburg, to remind the Russian ruler that the occupation of Turkestan by Russian troops poses a great threat to the independence of Central Asian khanates. In order to appease the British, who were worried about the Russian occupation of Turkestan, Russia cunningly set some measures. The Russian government created a special commission dealing with Central Asian issues under the leadership of Defense Minister Milyutin. At the beginning of 1867, this commission separated the occupied territories of Central Asia from the jurisdiction of the Orenburg governorship and separately approved it as the "general governorate of Turkestan". Alexander II approved this new governorate consisting of lands between Syrdarya and Ettisuv on June 11, 1867, and General K.R. appointed Kaufman. Kaufman, who worked as a military diplomat in the Russian Ministry of Defense, was given the authority to conduct military operations in neighboring countries and conclude peace agreements.

From January 1, 1868, K.R. Kaufman began to perform his duties in Tashkent. The emir of Bukhara immediately sends his ambassador to make peace without wasting time. KR Kaufman, in turn, prepared an agreement text and asked Amir Muzafariddin to sign this agreement text without any conditions. But the emir does not sign it because the contract was drawn up on the basis of very heavy demands of the Russian generals. As a result, the emir of Bukhara sent ambassadors to Istanbul, Afghanistan and Turkmen to ask for help. When it became clear that the Amir had been defeated and had to make a peace, the ambassador Mohammad Porso, who was in Turkey, instead of the weapons



and equipment requested from Turkey, sent several military experts to teach the secrets of military technology to the armed forces of Bukhara, and actually an Uzbek sheikh who came from Turkestan and was very familiar to the people of both countries. He asks Suleiman Effendi to be sent to Bukhara as an ambassador. This new proposal of Muhammad Porso was discussed in the Special Assembly of Turkey, and on February 20, 1869, a letter was prepared in the name of the king of the country. In it, it was noted that mutual differences and disagreements between the Emirate of Bukhara, the Khanates of Kokand and Khiva eventually made it possible for the Russian Empire to invade this area. In this regard, it was noted that two ambassadors came from Bukhara with a request to liberate Turkestan from Russian aggression, and they were told that the Ottoman state would directly help them if there was a question of peace between Bukhara and Russia. In the letter, one of the ambassadors returned to his homeland after hearing that Bukhara had made peace with Russia, and the second ambassador, Muhammad Porso, at least returned to Bukhara so that he would not return "empty-handed". it was reported that they are requesting to give 20-30 qualified officers who will teach military equipment to their armies. Also, in the letter, Sheikh Suleiman Effendi, originally from Bukhara, who settled in Turkey, was sent as an ambassador to Bukhara with 75,000 kurus. The King fully supports this decision of the Special Council of Turkey in this matter.

Muhammad Porso and Sheikh Suleiman Effendi left Istanbul for Bukhara in the spring of 1868. After arriving in Bukhara, Suleiman Effendi explains to Amir and his ayons that for certain reasons, it was not possible to send soldiers to Bukhara. After listening to the conclusions of Sheikh Suleiman Effendi, the emir and his archons sent him to Istanbul along with Syed Mirabdulkhay, one of the scholars. On April 4, 1871, the emir, who was trying to get rid of the occupation of the Russian Empire, sent Sayyid Mirabdulkhay to Turkey with hope. Upon arrival in Istanbul, Syed Mirabdulkhay and Sheikh Suleiman Effendi presented the letter and gifts of the Emir of Bukhara. In his letter, Amir asked for help with:

1. Sending qualified specialists to implement various reforms (especially military) in Bukhara;
2. To provide experts who are theoretical and practical experts in the sciences of engineering and extraction of material resources and necessary manuals for the sciences in this direction;
3. Taking into account the linguistic and territorial unity of Afghanistan and the Bukhara Emirate, the sending of instructions recommending that we always support each other, act in friendship and unity, etc. were indicated.

After these demands and requests were carefully studied and reported to the king, the Sultan of Turkey willingly "wished" to fulfill them, and did not go beyond various excuses and excuses. But it was agreed that education would be provided if suitable



students from Bukhara were sent to Turkey. In this way, all the hopes of the emir of Bukhara were dashed, and a long break in relations was evident.

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