

THE PERIOD OF RUSSIAN COLONIALISM: THE DESTRUCTION OF THE NATIONAL ARMY AND A BLOW TO NATIONAL IDENTITY

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Annotatsiya. *Mazkur maqolada Rus mustamlakachiligi davrida mahalliy harbiy tuzilmalarning tugatilishi, milliy armiyaning yo'qotilishi va bu jarayonning xalqning milliy o'zligiga ko'rsatgan salbiy ta'siri tahlil qilinadi. Bundan tashqari ushbu maqolada milliy armiyaning inqirozi milliy ong, vatanparvarlik ruhi va jamoaviy javobgarlik hissining susayishiga olib kelgan muhim omillar to'g'risida so'z yuritilgan.*

Kalit so'zlar: *imperiya, boshqaruv, miltiq, o'q-dori, qo'shin, mustamlaka, milliy g'urur, shon-sharaf, qoloqlik, qaramlik, harbiy, shariat, gubernator.*

Аннотация. *В этой статье анализируется ликвидация местных военных формирований в период русского колониализма, потеря национальной армии и негативное влияние этого процесса на национальную идентичность народа. Кроме того, в этой статье рассматриваются важные факторы, которые привели к тому, что кризис национальной армии привел к ослаблению национального сознания, патриотического духа и чувства коллективной ответственности.*

Ключевые слова: *империя, правление, винтовка, боеприпасы, армия, колония, национальная гордость, слава, отсталость, зависимость, военные, шариат, губернатор.*

Annotatsion. *This article analyzes the liquidation of local military formations during the period of Russian colonialism, the loss of the national army and the negative impact of this process on the national identity of the people. In addition, this article examines the important factors that led to the fact that the crisis of the national army led to a weakening of national consciousness, patriotic spirit and sense of collective responsibility.*

Keywords: *empire, government, rifle, ammunition, army, colony, national pride, glory, backwardness, dependence, military, sharia, governor.*

In this system, power from the central administration down to the lowest levels was transferred to the hands of the military. The Governor-General of Turkestan possessed both military and civil authority and simultaneously served as the tsar's viceroy, commander of the military district troops, chief of police, and chief prosecutor[1].

This process ended with the decline of the Kokand (1876), Bukhara (1868), and Khiva (1873) khanates as independent military-political entities.

The Russian Empire introduced a governance system based on military force in the colonial territories and established the Turkestan Governor-Generalship.[2].

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The Turkestan Governor-Generalship consisted of five regions: Syrdarya, Fergana, Samarkand, Semirechye, and Transcaspian, which were governed by military governors. The regions were divided into districts (uezds). The Syrdarya region included Tashkent, Avliyoota, Kazalinsk, Perovsk, and Chimkent; the Fergana region included Margilan, Andijan, Osh, Kokand, and Namangan; the Samarkand region included Jizzakh, Khojand, and Samarkand; the Semirechye region included Verny, Kopal, Lepsinsk, Pishpek, and Przhevalsk; and the Transcaspian region included Ashgabat, Krasnovodsk, Mangyshlak, Merv, and Tajan. The districts were divided into sections, and sections into administrative areas, which were governed by local officials.

Under the "military-popular administration," military authority was concentrated in the hands of tsarist Russian officers and soldiers. The "popular administration" – yuzbashis, aksakals, and "people's judges" (qazis) – were elected by the population. The central administration of the region consisted of the Governor-General and his Council and Office.

The executive body of the Governor-Generalship, the Governor-General's Office, initially consisted of four departments. The first department managed administrative and supervisory affairs. The second handled financial and economic matters. The third dealt with issues related to taxes and urban affairs. The fourth was a special department with diverse functions. Until 1886, this department operated independently and had the right to review court decisions, except for cases under the jurisdiction of the military and justice ministries.

Cities, depending on their status, served as political, military, economic, and cultural centers. Tashkent, Samarkand, Kokand, Andijan, Margilan, Namangan, Bukhara, and Ashgabat were considered the largest cities of the region. Cities of local importance such as Chimkent, Jizzakh, Kattakurgan, Qarshi, and Termez also experienced rapid economic development. Colonialism also gave rise to new cities, including Kazalinsk, Petro-Aleksandrovsk, Skobelev, and Chernyaevka..

In conquered cities, special residential areas were created for Russians. Cities were divided into two parts: the old city (where the local population lived) and the new city (where Russians lived). A special committee was established to organize the Russian part of Tashkent. Local residents were forcibly relocated from areas included in the plan.



Settled Russians lived in the new cities, while the local population remained in the old cities. Favorable living conditions were created in the new cities. Local residents were prohibited from entering the new city areas. Russians were granted significant privileges in trade, while restrictions were imposed to prevent the local population from becoming economically strong.

One of the goals of the Russian Empire was to turn the region into a raw material base and resettle Russian peasants on the most fertile lands. The relocated peasants were armed and used to maintain control over rural administration and suppress local protests, uprisings, and rebellions. For this purpose, around 4,000 rifles and ammunition were brought in and distributed to Russians. This demonstrates that Russia's resettlement policy was implemented with military-political objectives. Therefore, one of the first measures of colonial policy was the destruction of national military formations.

After conquering Central Asia, Tsarist Russia began constructing railways in Turkestan for military-strategic and economic purposes. From a military-strategic perspective, railways were intended to enable rapid deployment of troops to suppress anti-colonial resistance and to strengthen military capabilities to maintain colonial authority. From an economic perspective, the goal was to quickly transport raw materials and underground and surface resources to Russian territories.

Thus, after Turkestan was turned into a colony of the Russian Empire, a military-administrative governance system was introduced, which aimed to keep the peoples of the region under colonial control for a long time.

Rus bosqiniga qadar Turkiston hududida mavjud bo'lgan xonliklarda milliy Before the Russian invasion, in the khanates that existed in Turkestan, national military formations were considered one of the main pillars of state power. The national army performed the tasks of preserving territorial integrity, ensuring internal order and security, and resisting external threats.

Military forces mainly consisted of cavalry, infantry, and local military commanders (beks, amir commanders). Most importantly, military service was closely linked with national identity, obedience, and patriotism.

As a result of the Tsarist Russian invasion, national troops were disbanded, heavy weapons were confiscated, and military headquarters were closed. Consequently, strict restrictions were imposed on the possession of weapons by the local population, the importance of the national army was eliminated, local people were excluded from military service, military affairs were deemed "unreliable," and reliance was placed solely on the Russian army. Representatives of local nationalities were not accepted into the regular army and were instead used only in auxiliary roles or forced labor. This amounted to the institutional destruction of the national army.



By depriving the local military elite of political influence, removing military leaders from administrative positions, and punishing or exiling commanders who resisted, the transmission of military knowledge from generation to generation was disrupted, and national military experience fell into crisis.

As a result of the loss of the national army and the blow to national identity, national self-awareness weakened. The loss of the army, which symbolized national pride and statehood, undermined the people's trust in the state and weakened the idea of independence.

With the formation of a colonial mentality, alien ideas such as “military power belongs only to Russians” were instilled in the local population. The local people were viewed as obedient labor force. Even during the First World War, the decree to mobilize the local population for rear-front labor caused widespread protests. Due to the absence of a national army and the lack of organized resistance, any opposition was easily suppressed.

In conclusion, during the period of Tsarist Russia, the national army was completely eliminated, its military, political, and moral significance was destroyed, which dealt a serious blow to national identity, state consciousness, and the idea of independence. Where there is no national army, national independence cannot be stable.[4]. Therefore, the national army served not only a military function but also a moral and educational one.[5].

The local population was recruited into the Russian army not as full-fledged combatants, but through labor companies and auxiliary units[6]. This completely destroyed the institutional foundations of the national army and excluded the local population from the process of military decision-making.

The deprivation of the national army led to the erosion of national identity among local peoples. Historically, the army has been a symbol of national pride and honor, a practical manifestation of state consciousness, and an institution that shapes active civic engagement in society[7].

Under Russian colonialism, the local population was turned into an unarmed, defenseless, and politically powerless mass. This led to the formation of a psychology of dependence, obedience, and lack of self-confidence in national consciousness[8].

Colonial policy was implemented not only in the military sphere, but also in the cultural and ideological sphere. National military symbols, ranks, uniforms, and traditions were eliminated. Russian military culture was imposed as superior, while local military heritage was portrayed as “backward.” This limited the study and transmission of national military history and led to a rupture in historical memory [9].

In conclusion, the elimination of the national army during the period of Russian colonialism was a deliberate and systematic policy aimed at destroying the foundations of statehood of the peoples of Turkestan. By depriving the population of a national army,

the colonial administration succeeded in weakening the people not only militarily, but also morally and ideologically[10]. This historical experience clearly demonstrates that the formation and development of a national army in independent Uzbekistan is not only a matter of security, but also a crucial condition for restoring national identity.

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