

PECULIARITIES OF HISTORIOGRAPHY IN THE STUDY OF THE COTTON POLICY OF TSARIST RUSSIA IN TURKESTAN

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Abstract: *The historiography of the penetration of the Russian capital into the Central Asian economy as well the role of cotton production has long and intensely discussed and can be roughly divided into three parts. The first one was mainly developed between the late of 19th and 1917. Phase economic development defined the character of imperial historiography to illuminate the agricultural problems of the Turkestan region.*

Keywords: *historiography, cotton production, Massalsky, Dobromislov, Galuzo, Sven Beckert*

Vasilij I. Massalsky² describes the meaning of cotton production for the Turkestan region and the Russian Empire. He calls for the development of cotton production so as not to depend on imported American cotton. His work also outlines a consideration of the cotton business in Central Asia as well as provides measures for further development of the cotton industry in Turkestan. Nicolay Verkhovskoj and Mikhail Terentev focus on cotton culture and its profitability for the Russian Empire as well as the transportation of cotton by railway. In addition, Mikhail Malahovskij fails to talk in economic changes in Turkestan, but proceeds to emphasize on statistics of cotton production in each region. Detailed description of cotton cultivation is found in A.I. Dobromislov's work. He argues that the cotton fields before the conquest belonged to private individuals. It was collected from the cotton plantations so-called tanab (impost), which was 1/6 tithes from land. After Russian's conquest, this system was abolished.³ However, in these works a little highlight the participation of local nobility in the development of cotton. These authors even mostly concentrated on cotton trade, fertilizer cotton fields and activities for the development of cotton in the region hence the scope of this study will fill the existing scholarly gap discussed above developments.

It is also relevant to mention the works of Central Asian historians of imperial period. A historian Mirzo Olim Mahmud Hoji depicts that cotton was sold fairly for a good price in the Russian empire, mainly in Tver and Orenburg regions by local entrepreneurs.⁴ The author concludes that due to the imperial police bloomed Turkestan region. Another scholar Isokhon Tora Ibrat points out, since the advent of the Russian Empire, great changes took place in Fergana region. From the

² V.I. Massalskiy. *Khlopkovoye Delo v Sredney Azii i Ego Pudashee* (1892)

³ A.I. Dobromislov. *Tashkent v Proshlomi v Nastoyashem*. (1912).

⁴ Mirzo Olim Mahmud Hoji. *Tarikhii Turkiston*. (Tashkent: Yangi Asr Avlodi, 2009).

improvement to enlightenment in the valley.⁵ Thanks to the construction of the railway, life became easier for the population. Introducing the cotton industry ensured the appearance of entrepreneurship and entrepreneurs. Overall, historians as Akhmad Donish, Ahmad Sami and Musa Salimbek, whose activities took place in the middle of the 19th and early 20th centuries, positively assessed Russia's presence in Turkestan.⁶

The second part of historiography from 1918 to the 1990s of the 20th century. In contrast, from colonial period, Soviet historians predictably extremely negative react on the colonial policy by the metropolis. For example, Peter Galuzo points out Russian cotton cultivation policy became one of the main factor for social destabilization in Turkestan.⁷ By contrasting the native and Russian dominance, he suggests that the introduction of the Russian capital led to a contradiction between the metropolis and the colony. The contradiction was slowing down the economic development of the region.

Other scholars of the Soviet period⁸ also demonstrate in their works that capitalist economy of Russian Empire is 'failure' of economy politicians in the Turkestan region. In this way, I consider that the Soviet historians studied the capitalist economy in Central Asia from the perspective of socialist understanding of management. Methodologically, the issue of the Turkestan economy needs to learn from the perspective of market theory of economics.

The third part is from 1990s to present time. The majority of Russian scholars both methodologically and source studies are based on the work of historians, geographers and travelers of the late 19th - early 20th centuries. Most of them are unanimous in their conclusions: the Russian Empire has come to Asia in earnest for a long time and with due attention to Central Asian holdings, they were able to generate income to the Russian state.⁹

Sven Beckert describes that in Turkestan started large-scale infrastructure projects, especially the building of railroads for transportation cotton production. In addition, the article provides with the fact: "...as a result, as early as the 1880s, a quarter of all cotton used in Russian cotton factories was grown in Turkestan and more than half, enough for one historian to call the province 'the cotton colony of Russian capitalism'. Russia had turned into one of the most important cotton growing countries in the world, ranking fifth behind the United States, India, China,

⁵Isokhon Tora Ibrat. *TarikhiFargona*. (T:Maynaviyat,2005).

⁶ Akhmad Donish. *Navodir-Ul-Vakoye* (T:Maynaviyat,2005).

⁷ Petr Galuzo. *Turkestan-kolonija*. (1929).

⁸ Vladimir Lavrentev. *Burzuaznaya Kolonizatsiya Srednej Azii* (1930), K.ZHitov and V. YA Nepomnin *Ot Kolonia'nogo Rabstva k Socializmu* (1939), Mihail P.Vyatkin. *Monopolisticheskij kapital v Srednej Azii* (Akademiya nauk kirgizskoj SSR, 1962), Amin Muminov. *Ekonomicheskoe Razvitie Srednej Azii* (1959).

⁹ Vladimir Sokolov, *Turkestanskij Kraj v Sostave Rossijskoj Imperii, Vtoraja Polovina XIX v. –Fevral 1917g.:Problemi Sosialno-ekonomicheskogo i Obshestvenno-politicheskogo Razvitija*".(dissertation and abstract of HAC RF, 2002), I. Chibrov, *Perspektivy Ekonomicheskogo Razvitiya Turkestanskogo Kraya v Trudah Russkih Puteshestvennikov 60-80-h gg XIX v.* (2016)

and Egypt.”¹⁰ This issue shows that Turkestan became a source of enrichment for Russia, as India was for England. Actually, the author focuses on explaining the history of the emergence and spread of capitalism in Turkestan through the prism of cotton farming.

However, the historiography does not conduct a comprehensive special study of the history of economic policy of the Russian Empire in Turkestan. Moreover, the degree of industrialization and the effects of investment and its importance Turkestan region have been little studied. As can be seen from the above sources, the line of Russian economic policy assessments changes over time. If, for example, historians of the colonial period gave a positive assessment, post-colonial historiography does not give a favorable conclusion. Cotton was not the main case study, as all were interested in military capture and policy of the Russian Empire.

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¹⁰Sven Beckert.*Empire: Reconstructing the Worldwide Web of Cotton Production in the Age of the American Civil War.*(Oxford University Press, 2004).