



## IVAN KHOKHLOV IS A RUSSIAN AMBASSADOR SENT TO CENTRAL ASIA

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**Annotation:** *The scientific article provides information about the activities and achievements of Ivan Danilovich Khokhlov, who was sent by Russia to study the Central Asian khanates.*

**Key words:** *Khanates of Bukhara and Khiva, Imam Quli Khan, Arab Muhammad Khan, Russian prisoners, mutual wars, internal conflicts.*

Diplomacy in international relations has its own importance in every era. There are many rulers or individuals who left a name for their strong diplomatic policy in history. The Russian state also began to pay special attention to its foreign policy from the 16th century. Mainly attention was paid to the khanates of Central Asia. The reason is that during this period, the policy of colonialism began to spread slowly in the world, and the developed countries of the world tried to colonize other countries in various ways in order to expand their territory. At the same time, Russia also paid attention to the Khanates and organized various missions and embassy contacts to study these regions in all respects. One of the ambassadors sent to study Central Asia was Ivan Danilovich Khokhlov.

Ivan Danilovich Khokhlov is one of the talented Russian diplomats of his time. According to the information provided by N.I. Veselovsky (1848-1918), a great Russian orientalist who studied his life and work, he was born in a noble (boyar) family. In 1620-1622, Khokhlov visited the Bukhara and Khiva khanates as an ambassador by order of the king. Two important documents remained from I.D. Khokhlov: the king's special assignment and the information he wrote to the king about the state of Bukhara and Khiva khanates. The initial document mentions the duties assigned to the embassy. First of all, his task is to persuade the rulers of both khanates to make friends with Russia, to establish trade and back-and-forth relations, to convince the khans that Russia is a powerful country and that it has good relations with other influential countries, to free the Russian captives in the khanates, existing relations between the two khanates, the relations of the khanates with Iran, Turkey and Georgia, natural resources and military power.

Judging by the information he wrote to the Embassy, he fulfilled most of the tasks assigned to him. For example, Imam Quli Khan freed 23 Russian prisoners under his control. Regarding the captives held by rich people, emirs and merchants, Imam Quli Khan told the ambassador that "there is no opportunity to search for them yet, after suppressing the rebellion of his servant (Tashkent governor Tursun Khan), we will fulfill this request of His Majesty the Emperor and send what we find ourselves."

The Russian ambassador managed to collect a lot of information about the internal situation in both khanates. In the information of the ambassador, for example, we read the following; "... (while we were in Bukhara) there was a war between the Khan of Bukhara and the governor of Tashkent. Khan sent against him with 40,000 soldiers under the leadership of his great amir, Nadir Devanbegi. 10,000 of them were killed by the governor of



Tashkent in the war. After that, the princes of Imam Quli Khan went and defeated the young men of Tursun Sultan. The war between the two sides has not yet ended..." Khokhlov also collected important information about the internal situation of the Khanates of Bukhara and Khiva. According to his information, the country was in the grip of internecine wars, and the Bukhara government became weak as a result of the viceroys of Balkh, Tashkent and Samarkand refusing to submit to the central government and keeping themselves independent. The same situation prevailed in Khiva Khanate. Here, Arab Muhammad Khan (1602-1623) and his sons Avanesh and Elbars fought for the throne.

We read in the information written by I.D. Khokhlov to the Court of Ambassadors; "A rebellion has started in Urganch land. Arab Khan's sons, Avanesh and Ilbars, caught (his father) and shot him in the eye. Other sons of Arab Khan; Abulgazi and Sharif Sultan fled to Bukhara Khan." The message of the Russian ambassador also provides important information about the general situation of the cities and villages of Bukhara, Khiva. At the time of the ambassador's arrival, they had become quite desolate. According to the ambassador, it was caused by constant internecine wars, the struggle for the throne, and the frequent attacks of Kazakh, Kalmyk, and Yayan Cossacks. In the reference book, we will find valuable information about customs fees in Khokhlov. About the customs, firstly, not only when moving from country to country, but also when moving from one region to another within the same country. Secondly, it was paid both in cash and in goods. For example, 33 pieces of cloth were charged for each load.

He also collected some information about the relations of Bukhara and Khiva khanates with India and Iran. For example, in his report there is the following statement: "Imam Quli Khan's relationship with Balkh Khan Nadr Muhammad, the king of the Redheads, Shah Abbas." They are at war (with each other). Currently, there is no war between them. Peace has not been established. The reason for the lack of war is that there is a war between the king and India (for Kandahar). Relations between Bukhara and Balkh khans and India were not good at that time. The reason for this is explained by the Russian ambassador as follows: "Bukhara Khan Imam Quli Khan sent a falcon to the king of India. As for Balkh Khan Nadr Muhammad Khan, he took him away (from the Bukhara ambassador). For this reason, the king of India cut off trade relations with him, did not send merchants to Balkh and Bukhara, forbade Bukhara merchants to take Indian goods...". According to Khokhlov, relations between Khiva Khanate and Iran were not good at that time.

He writes: "Urganch people are not on good terms with Shah Abbas." Prince Ivan Ilbars (who was in Khorezm) attacked Obivard, who belonged to the Redheads, and took away the horses and camels of the Obivards. He also took 100 people captive and drove them away...". After returning to Russia on December 12, 1622, he lived in Moscow for some time. At the beginning of 1623, he was allowed to return to Kazan. He was called back to Moscow on December 8, 1624, and was tasked with organizing information about the Bukhara and Khiva khanates. The last information about Khokhlov's life dates back to 1629. In the same year, he escorted the Iranian ambassador Mohammad Silibek and the Iranian trade caravan from Kazan to Moscow and from Moscow to Kazan.

In conclusion, Ivan Danilovich Khokhlov collected a lot of information about Central Asian khanates. In his memoirs, he wrote about the internal disputes, socio-economic and



military situation of the khanates. In addition, he collected necessary and important information about the state of relations of my khanates with foreign countries. The information he collected later became important in the Russian Empire's campaign against the Khanate.

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