



Description of Bukhara Khanate in the Diaries of Tourist Antonio Jenkinson

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ABSTRACT

This article analyzes the data collected by the ambassadors as a result of his travels to the Khanate, his diaries, archival sources of different periods, sources of scientific literature were sent from Russian Empire to Central Asia.

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Since it is impossible to defeat a nation that knows its history and attains spiritual strength from it, we need to reinstate our fair history, furnish our people and nation with this history and supply it once again has become the spiritual weapon of our historians, nowadays.

It is known that history is a series of exertions, attacks and developments. "Vanquishers come and leave, however the nation will continue to exist even more, its spirituality will live forever". Lack of

knowledge about modernity has broken the generation of past and future, made them spiritually penurious and powerless, insensible to their country. Based on these ideas, it is important to study information about the history and culture of the Bukhara Khanate in the Middle Ages through the diaries, details and works of ambassadors and tourists from Russia and Europe in the history of our statehood. One of the such kind of ambassador is Antonio Jenkinson.

If we focus on the study of socio-economic and political processes that took place in the Khanate of Bukhara and Khiva in the 16th century based on the basis of Antonio Jenkinson's diaries, we can learn rich information about our history in the diaries written by Antonio Jenkinson as the first European traveler to Central Asia and his study is distinguished by its relevance today. The reason for this is that tourist Jenkinson writes his diaries not based on the works of ambassadors who have been to Central Asia before him, but describes the occurrences he saw and witnessed with his own eyes.

It is known that the end of the 15th century and beginning of the 16th century was the period of great geographical discoveries which in several countries of Western Europe: Spain, Portugal, France and especially in England, reinforced the process of deterioration of the feudal system and led to the appearance of capitalistic relations. In the late 16th century, the commencing of the sea Europe to India shifted intercontinental transaction from the Mediterranean to the Atlantic. To this end, European tradesmen and industrialist sought to open new markets and sources of raw materials in Central Asia, China and India.

For this purpose, in 1555, "Moscow Trading Company" was established. This company later played an important role in Anglo-Russian trade relations. In November 1555, negotiations with Moscow merchants led by the famous sea captain Richard Chancellor were successfully completed. English tradesmen in Russia received great privileges with the help of the "Moscow Trading Company", the British opened the way to East -Central Asia and Iran through Russia. In 1558-81, the British ambassador was sent seven times to the East. In 1567, 1569, 1671, the chief ambassador Antonio Jenkinson came to Russia three times.

Little is known about Antonio Jenkinson's life. His first journey dates back to his youth and he traveled until 1572. He was a sailor and skilled tradesman. He had been working for "Moscow Trading Company" for a long time and had successfully completed the company's tasks. English spy and diplomat Antonio Jenkinson (year of birth unknown-died 1610 or 1611) was son-in-law of John Marsh whom the Governor of the Moscow Trading Company. He traveled a lot in Europe, Asia and Africa. He was the first representative of the life of Lords of Liverpool and the ambassador of England in the government of Ivan Grozny. With the permission of the Russian Tsar Ivan Grozny, he visited Iran and Central Asia in 1558-59 and 1562 -64. He became the first ambassador of England in Moscow. He performed several tasks in addition to diplomatic duties. A map made by Antonio Jenkinson during his trip was published in London under the name "Description of Russia, Muscovy and Tataria". This map has historical and scientific value. Jenkinson's map was included in the atlas when Abraham Arteli's landscape of the Globe was published. Abraham Arteli (1527-1598y) was a Flemish geographer and cartographer.

In 1558, Antonio Jenkinson took a label from the Russian tsar and set off from Moscow to Central Asia. Antonio Jenkinson and his partners spent 3 month (December 12, 1558-March 2, 1559) in the Khanate of Bukhara with great difficulties. The tourist left valuable information about the city, its socio-economic life, the khan and his military forces, internal and external trade. In particular, regarding the geography of the khanate: "The city of Bukhara is located in the lower part of the country, surrounded by a high mud brick wall with gates. The city is divided into three parts. Two of them belong to the

khan. One part is reserved for merchants and the market. Every craft has its place and its store. The city is very large, most of the houses are made of wattle and daub. There are few brick houses and temples(mosques). Especially, the baths are so skillfully built that there is nothing like it in the world. A small river flows through the middle of the city. Its water is very dirty. Our horses got sick after drinking it. It is forbidden to drink the water of this place. Whoever drinks the water will be severely punished”.

Regarding the influence of religious authority in the khanate: “ In Bukhara, there is a religious leader who controls the implementation of laws in the city. People listen to him more than the governor. The khan changes governors according to his wishes”.

He also dwells on the spoken language of the people of Bukhara, the ethnic relations of the population of the khanate and gives the following information : “The state of Bukhara was once under the power of the Persians. That is why most of them speak Persian. Now, Bukhara is an independent state. There are brutal religious wars between Bukhara and the Persians. One of the main reasons for the war is that the Persians do not shave their mustaches. According to the Bukhara people, this custom of the Persians is a great sin. That is why the Bukhara people call the Persians infidels”.

He touched on the issue of the khanate’s income, money in circulation, its value, internal and external trade: “ The governor of Bukhara does not have large property and wealth. His income is not large. He lives mainly at the expense of the city. He takes a share of the goods sold by artisans and merchants. When money is short, he sends his officials to fetch goods and exacts taxes from the tradesmen to pay his debts. For example, the leader himself owes me 19 bales of cloth. Their money is silver and copper. There is no gold money in circulation. They have a silver coin worth 12 pence. Silver coins are in circulation. The khan raises or lowers the price of silver depending on his monthly income. Sometimes it doubles a month. All this causing the impoverishment of the people and the crisis of the country’s merchants. In Bukhara, the khan has a lot reigns for two or three years. During this period, he will ruin the country and the vendors. This difficulty falls mainly on the shoulders of ordinary people. Agriculture, crafts and trade were in crisis. The people was so poor that the goods brought by foreign traders would remain unsold for 2 or 3 years. There is no hope of profit from trade here”.

Regarding the foreign trade in the Khanate: “ Nevertheless, foreign merchants actively trade here. Fine white fabrics are brought from India. Tatars (Inhabitants of Central Asia) wrap their heads with this fabric. Various cotton fabrics and silk are imported from Iran. Leather and silk, raw materials, various utensils, saddles and harnesses are imported from Russia. In times of peace, satin and various fabrics were imported from China. From Bukhara, silk fabrics, leather, raw materials, horses(to India), Russian products, slaves of various nationalities(to Iran), cotton fabrics, various types of silk were imported from Bukhara; variety sorts were exported (to Russia)”.

Antonio Jenkinson says about the state of trade between Central Asia and China in 1555-1558:”Products are exported from Bukhara to the above mentioned countries (except China). It has been 3 years since I arrived in Central Asia and during this period not a single caravan went to China. The lack of caravans from Bukhara to China the reason is mutual wars between the people living through it. These cities are called Tashkent and Kashkar. The peoples who are at war with Tashkent are Kazakhs. The peoples who are at war with Kashkar are called Kings(Kalmyks). Both of these warring people are very rich. They live in the desert. They have not a city and a house. These nations close the caravan routes in such a way that no caravan passes through here without being plundered. Therefore, for the next three years, not a single caravan passed from Bukhara to China and from China to Bukhara. The two counties do not support each other’s trade. When the trade route is safe , the caravan from

Bukhara to China in nine months can go”.

Some information about the khan of Bukhara Abdullakhan II was recorded, including:”On December 24, 1558, I met the khan of Bukhara and presented him with the title of the Russian Tsar. The khan welcomed me and invited me to the table. The khan gave me the properties of the Russian tsar. The Russian state and its asked about the laws and the Turkish sultan”.

According to the information of A. Jenkinson, Abdullakhan II was interested not only in trade, but also in the political situation in Russia, Turkey and England, and the structure of the European army. Tourist’s diaries contain valuable information about Bukhara’s place in international trade, while Jenkinson was in Bukhara and other cities in Central Asia, the region was going through a severe political and economic crisis. The country was divided as a result of mutual feudal wars. Antonio Jenkinson wrote of this political situation :”When I was resting in Bukhara in the winter, I studied the conditions of trade with the neighboring countries and customs fee. When the khan of Bukhara went to war, all tradesmen accompanied the khan with their caravans. I decided to leave Bukhara and continue my journey in Iran. There are several reasons for my departure from Bukhara . Firstly, the war between the kings of the Persians and Tatars began. As a result, trade routes became dangerous. Trade caravans from India and Iran were plundered before they reached Bukhara. Secondly, the governor and officials of Bukhara did not pay the debt they owed me. For this and other reasons, I decided to return to the Caspian Sea. On March 8, 1559, we left Bukhara with a caravan of 600 camels. Ten days after our departure, the governor of Samarkand besieged Bukhara. At this time, the khan of Bukhara was busy with other wars. Such events happen in these countries every two or three years. Khan ruled for three or four years if he does , this is considered a miracle. This situation is ruining the country and the merchants. On March 25, 1559, we got rid of 400 bandits and returned to this city of Urganch. Two ambassadors returned with me. One of them was khan of Bukhara. These ambassadors were on their way to the Russian tsar in response to my visit. We spent 8 days in Urganch and Sellisure fortress, preparing the caravans of the road. On April 2, we left Cellisure. I had 4 ambassadors with me. These ambassadors were sent by the governor of Urganch and other sultans in response to the Russian tsar. As the tsar of Russia wrote on his label, I had to ensure the safety of these ambassadors. These consuls had doubts about going with me. Therefore, for many years no ambassadors from Tataria(Central Asia) went to Russia.

On June 10, 1559, we left Astrakhan for Moscow with 100 archers and Tatar ambassadors. We arrived in Kazan on July 28. We walked from Astrakhan to Kazan for more than 6 weeks. There are no houses on this road. On August 7, we left Kazan with our caravans for Murom. We arrived in Moscow on September 2. On September 4, the Russian tsar received me in person. I presented the ambassadors and freed Russian slaves to the tsar. The tsar entertained me and asked me about countries I had been to. I stayed until February 17th. Then, with the permission of the Russian king, I loaded my goods on the ships and returned to Kolmagor on February 21”.

In conclusion, I can say that it is worth nothing that the travel diaries of Antonio Jenkinson are valuable historical and geographical sources for the history of the peoples of Central Asia in the 16th century. Its value lies in the fact that it was the first European people to get acquainted with the population, lifestyle and socio-political history of Khiva and Bukhara khanates. After the publication of Antonio Jenkinson’s diaries and map(1562), European peoples got a certain idea about the territory and pupulation of Central Asia, and the geographical perception of Central Asia expanded. In addition, the map made by the tourist served as a basis for European tourists, soldiers and all visitors to Central Asia in later times. During his travels, Antonio Jenkinson collected valuable information about the Amudarya, Mangit

tribe, the political and economic situation of the Bukhara and Khorezm khanates in the middle of the 16th century, the lifestyle and customs of the people living in Central Asia. This information is reflected in his memoirs entitled “ Travel from Miscow in Russia to Bukhara in Bactria”. The work was published in London in 1562. Antonio Jenkinson dedicated his work to Henry Sidney (1529-86y) through the Earl of Wales.

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