Police and Penitentiary Activities in Colonial Turkestan

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Abstract: The article describes the organization and powers of police and penitentiary services in colonial Turkestan in the late 19th-early 20th century. On the basis of statistics-rich archival documents, the activities of the police, prison and other power structures have been analysed.

Keywords: Turkestan, colony, police, penitentiary, prison, guard unit, crime, sentence, prisoner.

Introduction
After the conquest of Turkistan by the Russian Empire and its transformation into a colony, along with changes in various areas, there were radical changes in the punitive bodies of the official authorities. In particular the police and penitentiary authorities played an important role in governing the country under colonial conditions. The police, like the regular army, were regarded as the weapon of the empire and the pillar and protector of its interests in colonial Turkestan. Relying on this police system, the colonial government controlled the office of the Governor-General of Turkestan from the lowest to the highest levels. The authority was vested in the provincial military governor, county governors, district and police bailiffs, as well as police generals and officers.

Main body
The post of police chief was introduced in towns, and their rights were put on an equal footing with those of county governors. In particular, police control was established in towns, the control of individual police departments in Russian and local parts of cities. Police administration was divided into chiefs of police, superintendents of police, and other civil servants for each division. The posts of city police inspectors were filled by Russian-speaking persons. Town bailiffs stood shoulder to shoulder with the county governor in punishing the local population administratively.

Town police officers were subordinate to the county governor. Their duties included: political and criminal investigations, administering administrative punishments, collecting statistical data about the population in the assigned territory, and controlling the population's military service and performance of duties. Bailiffs were usually appointed from among the imperial officials. They had the right to carry out preliminary investigations of various cases on the territory under their control and to impose a fine of up to 5 roubles or arrest for up to 3 days. The position of bailiff was in force until 1917 [60; 14]. In particular, district governors were given the rights of administrators in Russia's internal provinces, which equated them with the chiefs of district marshals. They had the right to administratively fine a person for up to 15 roubles or detain him for seven days [62-64; 6].

In fact, the imperial government gave great privileges to the lower levels of administration in Turkestan, thereby creating conditions for treating the overland population with extreme ruthlessness and severity.

Gendarmerie police were also introduced, the gendarmerie department and its branches were opened in their operation and use at railway stations (Central Asian railway in 1899, Tashkent railway in 1905-1906) and operated until 7 March 1917.
The town mayor, his assistant and police bailiffs have been carrying out police duties in the new city of Tashkent, the centre of Turkestan and home to Russians since 1868. Until 1884 the police service was carried out by a military unit. Since 1886, according to the Charter, in the Russian-populated part of the city there was introduced the post of police chief, subordinated to the mayor (governor) of Tashkent. In the old part of Tashkent this job was performed by the elder and his assistant tavgoch. Since 1874, the position of tavgoch was abolished. On November 28, 1894, the police department of the old part of Tashkent was created, subordinated to the city mayor [59; 6].

Representatives of the local population were fined or imprisoned for a month for petty acts and silence. Especially in those areas where the local population lived, the position of a Mirshab was strengthened. For example, only for the Russian part of Samarkand city 37 Mirshabs and 120 sentries were hired, except for one bailiff, for the local population 65 Mirshabs and 1665 sentries, except for one bailiff were hired according to the income of the population. Even the cost of police service was increased. It should be noted that the states under the police were also divided into classes. From this it would have been clear that the official government was prepared to rule the people under colonial oppression, under strict control and fear, to silence any voice raised against the official administration.

People elected from the "public self-government" were appointed to the county police, and they were not only to comply with the demands of the police, but also to take the primary measures to maintain order themselves. When imposing a punishment, the colonial administration deviated from the law in many cases. The possibility of punishment was interpreted very broadly. "For not entering into conversation", "for being rude", "for being disrespectful", "for not keeping order", etc.

Police chiefs and chiefs of gendarmerie departments were given the right to detain "all persons reasonably suspected of having committed state crimes and in connection with them, as well as of involvement in illegal organisations" for a period not exceeding two weeks. They were also given the right to search institutions, factories and plants and seize any property at any time[107; 10].

The police and authorised administrators could apply any punishment they saw fit, based on profit and interest[4]. That is, they themselves conducted the preliminary investigation. This was a clear manifestation of colonial policy, based only on the violence of the colonial administration cadres and their violence against the population.

The prisons were attached to the administrative authorities and the police and were located nearby. Civilian and military field prisons were built in all major cities and even villages. In Turkestan, the colonial government took 70-80 thousand rubles annually from the state treasury to strengthen its power, control and punishment measures [197; 5]. In particular, there were 4 large prisons in the Syrdarya Province, 5 in the Samarkand Province and 4 in the Fergana Province. In addition, there were district prisons, ober-police prisons and prefect prisons. At the same time, a large number of remand prisons, military barracks and other types of small prisons were built by the official administration in Turkestan. The Tashkent prison, one of the largest prisons, was originally established as a city prison in 1868, and on November 25, 1911, by order of the military governor of the Syr Darya Province, it was renamed a regional prison [61; 6]. It was actually completed in 1872 [90; 2]. Normally, defendants awaiting trial and prisoners sentenced to exile from Turkestan to the European part of the Empire and Siberia were held here temporarily. Also in this prison, those under investigation in the conciliation (magistrates') courts and insolvent debtors were held [21-23; 8]. The Tashkent prison was considered central and served to hold prisoners who were transferred not only from the Syr Darya region but also from other regions.

It should be noted that initially prisoners sentenced to exile were held in the Tashkent prison and sent via Tashkent to Orenburg and remote areas, and later the Samarkand prison also held prisoners sent into temporary exile and thus to Krasnovodsk via the Kaspiyort railway [2; 9].
It should be noted that the military guarded more prisons and detention centres in Turkestan (by a large margin) than in the internal provinces of the Russian Empire, and this situation persisted until the First World War [93; 2]. It was a manifestation of the imperial government's use of military rule on the basis of extreme severity in the management of colonial land. In spite of this, however, the activities of the prison administration were poorly controlled by the official administration, with the result that the use of force and various forms of torture against prisoners and defendants became habitual. Particularly painful were members of the local population, who did not understand the language and the demands of the prison officials. Tuberculosis, scurvy, malaria and other diseases were common among the prisoners as a result of the harsh conditions and brutal torture. Complaints of harsh prison conditions were also received by the official administration. According to the complaints, the quality of food was poor, prisoners were kept in illegal handcuffs, no shoes were issued, guards mistreated prisoners, etc. Naturally, there were objections and protests against such cases. In particular, escapes and direct escapes from places of detention were not uncommon, and in some cases it was also found that prison premises had been set on fire and guards had been murdered. The escaped prisoners were again searched [6; 12], handed over to the military courts. In June-July 1906, reflecting similar situations, there were riots by prisoners in Tashkent prisons. According to statistics for 1906-1908, there were 11 riots and rebellions in the country's prisons, seven of which were led by political prisoners [16-17; 11]. Thus, the anti-government activities of political prisoners, recognised as anti-government sentiments, were also reflected in prisons.

Prisons mostly served as a kind of fortress for the colonial government against criminals accused of various socio-political activities "against the existing system" and accused of various political charges. To this end their numbers increased year by year. At the same time, the number of prisoners there also increased.

The basis of the prison order was the detention regulation, the exile regulation, and the general prison regulations (guidelines) [116; 10]. In addition, for several years Turkestan prisons had been developing new rules for determining the status of political prisoners. According to one of the main orders issued on 29 February 1886, "Regulations on the Confinement of Political Prisoners in Provincial, District Prisons and Transient Prisons", political prisoners were separated from other types of prisoners and held in separate cells. Gendarmerie officers could enter a cell of political prisoners at any time [22; 7].

In particular, the conditions of the prisoners arrested during the uprising in 1916 were very harsh. Some of the prisoners died in the prisons before trial because they could not stand the fighting. Some came to trial with disabilities. The situation of those who were released later was far worse. In particular, one of the youngest rebels, Tojiboy Yunuskojaev (Tashkent), was released in 1917, but died of exhaustion due to beatings in prison [42; 3]. Below we see that by 1916, the situation in prisons was very difficult due to the trials of participants of national liberation uprisings.

In 1916, the Skobelev Prison, which was designed for 150-200 people, held 406, but in August their number reached 447. The number of prisoners in the Namangan prison was 580. In the first half of the year, the Kokan prison had an average of 100-120 inmates, and in the second half of the year the number of inmates tripled. There were 461 detainees there in August and 519 in September. Even the small Andijan prison held up to 300 people [117; 10].

In 1907, in conjunction with the police, the Turkestan Provincial Security Department was established. The reason for this was that revolutionary movements began to rise again in the country after the first Russian revolution of 1905. Concerned about the increase in such activity against the authorities, the official administration set up this structure to deal with persons "engaged in anti-government activities". Initially it was called the Special Branch of the Criminal Investigation Directorate under the Chancellery of the Governor-General of Turkestan. It was headed by a Colonel of the Gendarmerie. The Security Service conducted political searches in the country. The Security Department covered the five provinces of the Turkestan
Governor-General's Office, with investigative units directly subordinate to it also established in the cities of Ashgabat and Verni. It mainly carried out a number of tasks, such as monitoring, controlling and prosecuting politically dangerous persons. It was subordinate to the police division of the gendarmerie.

Particular attention was paid by the guard to secret agents-provocateurs. They played a key role in the search system. A secret police directorate directive instructed the authorities to 'recruit and maintain an internal and secret agency as the only reliable means of providing information'.

It was considered particularly important to have agents in various political organisations. In this regard, the methodological instructions stated: "It should always be borne in mind that even the weakest investigative officer will provide more material for solving a state crime than the head of an investigative department who can walk freely in public. Therefore no one and nothing can replace a clandestine worker in a revolutionary environment or in another investigative brigade." [134; 1]

The Secret Service used circular letters, departmental information from officials, reports from spies and spies, correspondence with various departments, searches and detentions.

Investigations were thus based on provocation (incitement, propaganda). Through this, the colonial government sought to strengthen and consolidate its rule. Because the special agents operated under special nicknames given to them by the security services, it was very difficult to expose them. They allegedly deliberately spread rumours of a pan-Islamic or pan-Turkic movement against the Russian population, which served the authorities as a convenient pretext for organising repression against the native population [134; 1]. In particular, such rumours were often spread among the local intelligentsia. Enlighteners, Jadids and even locals making pilgrimage to the national press were often subjected to surveillance, accused of pan-Islamism and pan-Turkism, and the slightest accusation led to their arrest as 'political criminals. There was also overt and covert surveillance of foreign nationals arriving in Turkestan. It should be noted that the official government feared that foreigners from outside would cause revolutionary ideas, especially those of the colonial lands, to revolt against the government. To this end, all information about pan-Islamist movements, foreigners from Turkey and Afghanistan and the population closely associated with them was transmitted by secret agents.

Especially since 1905 full military force was used in the areas of anti-government demonstrations, strikes, demonstrations, "politically dangerous" persons and movements to suppress and arrest them, the introduction of troops to "disperse illegal assemblies and disobedience and suppress insurrection". the right was granted to the military governor and the county governors. Increasingly, troops were called in to guard state institutions, post offices, telegraph offices, banks, etc. The report of the General Staff stated the following: "the exceptional circumstances in the life of the last state have made the service of the troops very difficult and inconvenient and greatly disrupted the normal deployment." [109; 10]

The methods of violence and repression characteristic of the colonial form of power were filled with 'purges', which greatly affected the process of national consciousness of the people of Turkestan, and these circumstances intensified the desire of the people to get rid of the existing system. The police and punitive bodies established in Turkestan were aimed at maintaining the peace and security of the country, strengthening the colonial power, especially in keeping the land peoples under strict military control, suppressing and preventing any opposition movements, demonstrations and revolutionary movements. The prisons, which formed the basis of the colonial government's penal institutions in the country, were filled with prisoners opposed to the government and dissatisfied with its policies. Especially the local population, considered 'politically dangerous' and making any slightest attempt to oppose the colonial government, as well as members of the Russian-speaking population who had incited revolutionary actions, were severely punished as 'particularly grave' criminals.
Reference


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12. MA proprietary fund I-36, list 1, collection 3985, fol. 6.


