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## REFLECTION OF POSITIONS IN THE BUKHARA EMIRATE IN FOREIGN RESEARCH

**Abstract.** *This study examines the historiography of the Bukhara Emirate by analyzing the works of local, Soviet-era, and foreign researchers. As one of the key political and cultural centers of Central Asia from 1756 to 1920, the Bukhara Emirate has attracted the attention of numerous scholars. The research highlights the diversity of historical approaches and the significance of manuscript sources, diplomatic reports, and archival materials in reconstructing the emirate's political, social, and cultural life. Special attention is given to the contributions of foreign travelers and orientalists, who documented the administrative structure, religious hierarchy, and daily life of the region. The analysis also emphasizes the need for further objective and comprehensive studies, particularly in the context of Uzbekistan's independence, which has opened new opportunities for unbiased historical inquiry. Overall, the study demonstrates the continuing relevance of the Bukhara Emirate's history for modern scholarship.*

**Keywords:** *Bukhara Emirate; historiography; Central Asia; foreign researchers; local historians; Soviet-era studies; Manghit dynasty; archival sources; historical analysis.*

## INTRODUCTION

The study of history has always played a crucial role in enabling humanity to understand past events, evaluate their impact, and draw meaningful conclusions for future development. As a discipline, history serves as both a mirror of past experiences and a guide for shaping a more informed societal trajectory. The history of Uzbekistan, rich in socio-political, cultural, and intellectual transformations, presents researchers with a wide range of scholarly challenges.

Historiographical studies on Uzbekistan can generally be divided into three major groups: local historians, foreign scholars, and researchers of the Soviet period. Among these, the Bukhara Emirate—one of the most significant political entities in Central Asia from 1756 to 1920—occupies a special place due to its political structure, socio-economic development, and cultural achievements. The emirate attracted considerable attention from both local chroniclers and foreign travelers, whose manuscripts, archival documents, diplomatic records, and ethnographic accounts now serve as valuable historical sources.

While Soviet-era scholars also studied the Bukhara Emirate, their works often reflected ideological constraints and political biases characteristic of the period. In contrast, foreign researchers approached the region from diverse perspectives—geopolitical, economic, and cultural—driven by strategic interests and scholarly curiosity about the East. Their observations, especially those gathered through diplomatic missions, contributed significantly to the broader understanding of the emirate's administrative system, social hierarchy, and daily life.

Modern historians continue to investigate the legacy of the Bukhara Emirate, expanding on earlier works and adopting more objective and interdisciplinary approaches. Today, the history of the emirate remains an important subject not only for academic researchers but also for the general public, offering insights into the political traditions, governance structures, and intellectual heritage of Central Asia. It has been important for humanity to study history and draw conclusions by analyzing the events that took place in it in every era. The science of history helps to learn from the past and build the future on this basis. The study of the history of Uzbekistan poses many challenges for researchers.

## **MAIN SECTION**

Historians studying the history of Uzbekistan can be divided into 3 groups. The first are local historians, the second are foreign researchers and researchers of the Soviet era. Local historians are conducting many scientific studies in the study of the country's history. The Bukhara Emirate occupies an important place in the history of Central Asia. The emirate existed in 1756-1920, during which it developed socio-economically and culturally, and played an important role in the development of statehood. The fact

that the Bukhara Emirate was the focus of attention of both foreign and local historians during this period indicates that it had a special place in the history of the Turkic peoples. Even today, the history of the emirate is interesting and important for historians, as well as for the general public. Manuscript and lithographic sources, archival documents, and letters of foreign ambassadors serve as the main sources in the study of the history of the emirate.

Soviet historians also studied the history of the Bukhara Emirate, but it can be understood from their studies that the studies written during the Soviet period served the interests of the existing regime and were studied one-sidedly, without adhering to the principles of fairness in some places. In turn, studying the history of Central Asia, in particular, Uzbekistan, has been important for foreign researchers. This was based on various factors, one of which is its important strategic importance, its geographically convenient location, as well as the long-standing interest of foreign researchers in the rich history and culture of the East. Especially during the khanates, the interest of foreigners in these regions increased and they studied their lifestyle, social, economic, and political life. These studies were mainly carried out by sending ambassadors, who tried to study the lifestyle of the peoples of the East, in general, every aspect of their lives.

Foreign authors have conducted a number of studies on the history of the Bukhara Emirate, in particular, on the functions of the positions and positions that operated during the Mangid period. Today, studying the history of Uzbekistan is one of the most pressing issues. After Uzbekistan gained independence, the truthful study of historical processes became an important task for researchers. In this regard, the history of the khanates also plays an important role in our history, and researchers are conducting extensive scientific work.

Foreign researchers who have written works on the history of the Bukhara Emirate can be divided into 2 groups: historians who wrote works during the existence of the Bukhara Emirate and researchers who are currently conducting research. It is known that during the existence of the Bukhara Emirate, Russia sent many ambassadors and gave them certain tasks from the tsar. They were mainly sent to bring information about the political, social, and economic aspects of the country.

The history of the Bukhara Emirate has been studied by many researchers, and their research has been brought to the attention of readers through scientific books.

Historians who have studied the Bukhara Emirate can be divided into 3 groups. These are: historians of the Bukhara Emirate, modern researchers, and foreign researchers.

The history of the Bukhara Emirate was written down by a number of historians who lived at that time, including Ahmad Donish “Abridged History of the Mangid Emirs”, Mirzo Salimbek “History of Salimi”, Muhammad Ya’qub Bukhari “Gulshan ul-muluk”, Khumuliy “History of Khumuliy”.

The Bukhara Emirate has also been studied by modern researchers, including J.M. Shodiev (Shodiyev J., 2009), A.A. Odilov (Odilov A.A., 2004), G.B. Normurodova (Normurodova G.B., 2020), I.Sh. Azizov (Azizov I.Sh., 2019), D.M. Jamolova (Azizov I.Sh., 2019), O.A. Klichev (Azizov I.Sh., 2019), L.S. Kholnazarova (Kholnazarova L.S., 2011), F.Kh. Bobojonova (Bobojonova F.Kh., 2011), G.M. Taniyeva (Taniyeva G.M., 2008), Y.A. Shukurillayeva (Shukurillayeva Y.A., 2007), Y.U. Avazov (Avazov Y.U.) were studied by such researchers.

The next group of foreign researchers is considered to be: Anke von Kügelgen, E.K. Meyendorf, N.A. Mayev, A. Burns, H. Landsell, J.N. Curzon, A.X. Vamberi, F.G. Skrein, E.D. Ros, Y. Breugel and etc.

E.K. Meyendorf (Meyendorff E.K., 1975), who traveled to Bukhara during this period and wrote the work “Journey from Orenburg to Bukhara” on this basis, wrote in his work about his trip to Bukhara and what he saw and experienced during this trip. Considering that Egor Kazimirovich Meyendorf was a captain of the General Staff, his main goal in this trip was to study the political, socio-economic, and military potential of the country. He tried to reflect in his work all aspects of what he saw and experienced during his trip. He also wrote about his meeting with the governor of Bukhara and described the appearance and dress of the governor of that period. He wrote the following information about the governor: “The governor looked to be about fifty years old; he had a long, dark brown beard that was starting to turn gray, he was tall, with a pleasant and kind face. He spoke fluent Persian. The governor had a white Kashmir turban on his head and he wore a fur coat made of the same fabric, covered with large flowers and striped Kashmir” (Meyendorff E.K., 1975). From the above information, we can draw conclusions about the individuals who held the position of governor of Bukhara at that time, and about the general features of the governors in general, and this is important for studying the period of the emirate. This work is significant because it is based on real events.

Anke von Kügelgen (Kügelgen A., 2004) analyzed historical works about the Bukhara Emirate in his work “The Legitimization of the Mangid Dynasties in the Works of Historians”. His work was written by studying and analyzing many sources. He emphasizes that the palace chroniclers were Qazi Wafo and Muhammad Sharif and the information provided in their records. Anke von Kügelgen divides the positions in the Emirate into 3 parts: military, civil and religious positions. He gives the following information about religious scholars: “Religious scholars were of great importance in the emirate, religious ranks consisted mainly of judges (unit: qazi), muftis, market and moral guardians (unit: muhtasib/ra’is) and teachers (unit: mudarris), most of the leadership positions were held by sayyids and hajis, who passed them on to their sons. The highest rank was considered sheikh-ul-Islam, which in the administrative code is included among the ranks of judges, since the chief judge was obliged to refer to him in his decisions. According to the Mang’it chroniclers, the ruler’s greatest trust in religious matters was held by the Sufi teacher (pir-i irshod) of the respective ruler. According to historians, the chief judge (qazi al-qudat, al-qudat/qazi-i kalon) was a teacher, muftis and received petitions sent to the ruler by other religious scholars. In addition, for example, during the reign of Muhammad Rahim Khan, he was responsible for maintaining order (istihkam/indizam) and protection (hasanat/muhofat) in the Bukhara region in the absence of the ruler. In addition, the administrative code states that he was the head of the military judge. Military judges (birlik qazi-i askar) are sometimes mentioned in the Mangid chronicles, but their duties are not clearly specified (Kügelgen A., 2004:102). He also noted in his work that religious and spiritual life during the Mangid era was poorly studied.

British orientalist F.G. Skrin: and E.D. Ross wrote the works “The Heart of Asia” and “The Bukhara Emirs and Their Periods”, in which they focused mainly on the political aspect of the emirate.

In conclusion, it can be said that foreign authors tried to study the history of the Bukhara Emirate in all respects, some authors paid attention to the important political and social aspects of the emirate, while others attached primary importance to the fact that Bukhara was a major cultural center and the main scientific center in Central Asia. Foreign researchers have written many works on the history of the emirate, and this is

very important for those who study the history of the emirate today. In general, the topic under study is relevant and requires further scientific research.

## **CONCLUSION**

In conclusion, the history of the Bukhara Emirate has attracted the attention of a wide range of scholars—local, Soviet-era, and foreign—each contributing to the formation of a complex and multifaceted historiography. Foreign authors, in particular, sought to document and interpret the emirate from various angles. Some focused on its political and social structures, while others highlighted Bukhara's rich cultural and intellectual life as the main scientific center of Central Asia. Their firsthand accounts, diplomatic reports, and analytical writings continue to be invaluable sources for contemporary historians.

The diversity of research approaches demonstrates the enduring significance of the Bukhara Emirate in regional history. Furthermore, the continued interest in studying its administrative system, religious institutions, and socio-economic development indicates that many aspects of this historical period still require deeper scholarly investigation. Overall, the topic remains highly relevant, offering fertile ground for future academic research and contributing to a more comprehensive understanding of Uzbekistan's historical heritage.

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