

Demographic Situation and Customs in The Social Life of The Population in the Southern Regions of Uzbekistan

Turapova Mokhidil Turdievna

Termez State University

Associate Professor of the Department of World History,

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Historical Sciences

turapovamohidil@gmail.com

Abstract: This article discusses the demographic situation and social life of the southern regions during the Bukhara Emirate, which had a unique and historical significance, and how it influenced the southern regions of the emirate, social life, customs, economic activity, and state policy.

Keywords: southern regions, demographic situation, social life, population, national structure, nationalities, traders, businessmen.

Introduction

The available sources on the social situation and administrative system of the southern regions, as well as the impact of the colonial policy of the Russian Empire on demographic processes, were studied, and important issues related to the number of the population, its national composition, and its specific socio-economic lifestyle were investigated. It should be noted that from the second half of the 19th century to the first half of the 20th century, the ancient population of the region experienced the historical stages of the period of the formation of the Uzbek nation [1.58]. The government of the Russian Empire took a number of measures to determine the number, national composition, and territorial distribution of the population of Central Asia. In particular, in the fall of 1897, the first general population census was held in the Turkestan region. According to its results, the population of the region was 5.3 million, of which 35.5% were Uzbeks, 44.6% Kazakhs and Kyrgyz, 6.73% Tajiks, 4.8% Turkmen, 3.5% Russians, 2.6% Karakalpaks, and 2.5% other nationalities. Thus, it was noted that the national composition of the population of Central Asia was diverse.

The main factor in demographic processes is associated with the emergence, growth, and the level of economic development that improves living conditions. The Bukhara Emirate was economically and politically strengthened by the middle of the 18th century, and its territory expanded. The population of the emirate was mainly sedentary and nomadic, and their exact number is not reflected in the lists. N. Pokotilo, who arrived in the Bukhara Emirate in 1886, noted that Uzbeks, Tajiks, Turkmen, Arabs, Roma, and Afghans lived there, and that close contacts had been established between the Uzbeks and Tajiks. He noted that ethnic and tribal identification (for example, Uzbek-Kungrad, Uzbek-Mangit) was often observed among the Uzbeks of the Surkhandarya region [2]. It is known that the Bukhara Emirate did not carry out population registration, social protection, or the necessary economic or cultural measures for the population. At the beginning of the 20th century, the territory of the Bukhara Emirate amounted

to 225 thousand square kilometers, and the population reached 3.5 million people. The national composition of the population of the emirate was formed by representatives of Uzbeks, Turkmens, Kyrgyz, Kazakhs, Tajiks, Jews, Arabs, and other peoples[3.25].

Materials and methods

After the Russian Empire conquered Central Asia, specific changes occurred in demographic processes. First of all, the imperial government took important measures to bring the Russian population to the territory of the Turkestan Governor-General. The issue of relocating the rebellious population and state criminals from the central regions who opposed the dominant political interests of Russia to Turkestan and thus “cleansing the center from criminal elements” was also resolved.

During the reign of the Governor-General of Turkestan, K.P. Kaufman, a special commission was created to settle the population moving to Turkestan. In order to protect the interests of the population moving to Turkestan and to control their social and living conditions, the Russian government adopted the “Temporary Regulations on the Migration of Peasants to Vacant Government Lands” on July 10, 1881 [4], the law on the regulation of mass migration in 1883, and the laws signed by Alexander III on the settlement of migrants from Russia in Turkestan on July 12, 1886. These laws, along with the economic and political protection of the migration of the Russian-speaking population to Turkestan, also resolved the issue of protecting their civil rights. [5] After Russia conquered Central Asia, along with traders, businessmen, and people sent on official duties, refugees and criminal groups began to come to the colonial territory in large numbers in search of work and residence. As a result of the political transition of the Bukhara Emirate to Russian influence, the settlement of the Russian-speaking population in the southern regions also increased. The Russian government, along with the socio-economic and legal protection of the Bukhara Emirate, including the Russian-speaking population that had migrated to the southern regions, systematically implemented a policy of national discrimination against the local population. The Russian government carried out the construction of social buildings such as trade and industry, administrative and economic, sanitary and hospital buildings at the expense of Russian merchants, industrialists and wealthy families.[6] It should be noted that during this period, the lifestyle, material and spiritual life of the population of the southern regions under the influence of the Bukhara Emirate was in a very deplorable state, and the oasis population lived on a diverse economic system and adapted to its daily life. At the same time, according to sources, the Russian-speaking population that moved to the oasis was under the administrative and legal protection of the local government of the empire, in particular, favorable conditions were created for their life. The small tribes existing in the southern regions were systematically and strictly controlled by the emirate politically, materially and spiritually, and their socio-economic interests were not protected.

For example, in the early period, the Bukhara qazis regulated the purchase of land from the local population in Termez, but later the khokims of the Russian town did not recognize the Bukhara government, and the qazis were deprived of the right to interfere in the sale and purchase of land around Termez. Only the head of the military department was allowed to do this in cooperation with the political agent [7]. The population of Termez was somewhat smaller than that of other cities in Eastern Bukhara, and in 1905, including the military, there were 6,000 Russians living there [8]. During the First World War, the influx of Russians and Russian-speaking people to Termez increased significantly, and in July 1917, 8,000 Russians lived in the city [8]. This figure included, in addition to the Russians in the military garrison and its surroundings, 1,500 Russians living in Pattakesar.

Results and discussion

During the establishment of a despotic regime in southern Bukhara, certain political currents dissatisfied with the policy of the imperial government carried out revolutionary changes. The Revolutionary Executive Committee, formed in Termez on March 23, 1917, included Russian citizens who had left Russia and representatives of the Russian-speaking nation. The main goals and interests of the Revolutionary Committee were based on Russian national chauvinism [10.128].

The Termez Revolutionary Executive Committee included representatives of the Russian-speaking population. This committee consisted of a city duma, which was engaged in urban management, a collective committee, which was engaged in administrative management, and military, food, and trade committees, and carried out some reforms in the region. The revolutionary coup d'état carried out under the influence of Bolshevik propaganda had a negative impact on the material and spiritual culture of the local people, led to the violation of national customs and traditions, increased internal conflicts, the shedding of innocent blood, and the destruction of prominent intellectuals of the nation.

In the cities of Termez and Sherabad, which became the revolutionary center of Southern Bukhara, special executive committees were also formed, and trade union organizations were established to protect workers and soldiers. 349 people were accepted as members of the 11 trade union committees formed in Termez. However, not a single representative of the local nationality was involved in this committee. Also, no practical measures were taken to study the living standards of the population and improve their economic situation. The Red Guard detachments, established by the decision of the Termez Regional Council on November 28, 1917, were recruited from central Russia, and representatives of the local nationality were not included. Because the main goal of the Red Army in the Bolshevik policy was to protect the lives of Russian citizens, ensure the "triumphant" progress of Soviet power, and also to capture the principalities in Eastern Bukhara.

In general, at the beginning of the 20th century, at the initiative of the Russian political administration in the Bukhara Emirate, the population of its eastern principalities was registered, the national composition of the population was taken into account, and the issue of tax collection began to be resolved. As a result of the study, it was found that the demographic processes in the southeastern principalities of the Bukhara Emirate were an integral part of the demographic changes taking place in the region, and the socio-economic backwardness of the emirate had its impact on the demographic processes taking place in the region.

Conclusion

During the reign of the Bukhara Emirate, the demographic situation and social life of the southern regions largely depended on interactions with neighboring regions, trade, religious beliefs, and the legal system. The demographic and social life of these regions was complex from a historical and cultural point of view, and state policy and economic activity played an important role in their formation.

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