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National Structure And Number Of The Population Of Zarafshan District: Historical And Source Analysis

Yu.Kholkhujaeva

teacher at the department
of Liberal subjects, Kattakurgan branch of SamSU
xolxujayeva91@mail.ru
(99893.2360537)

ABSTRACT

This article deals with the national composition, number and other characteristics of the population of Zarafshan district, which was a special administrative-territorial unit of the Governor-Generalship of Turkestan. To shed light on the problem, a historical-source analysis of written sources, archival materials, research, and historical literature involved in the research process was conducted.

Keywords:

ethnos, ethnic unity, primary written sources, oral survey, official statistics, Uzbek clans, lords, Jews, Iranians, Mazangs;

1. Introduction

The history of Uzbekistan, which for many thousands of years has embraced hundreds of ethnoses and ethnic units, is inconceivable without such key aspects as the ethnic composition and number of the population. Indeed, one of the main problems of historical science is the historical-source analysis of published sources, archival materials, scientific research and historical literature on the national composition and number of the population of a particular region.

This article examines and analyzes the data on the ethnic composition and number of the population of Zarafshan district and its capital Samarkand, founded in 1868 after the occupation of a large part of the Zarafshan Valley by the Russian Empire, as well as special historical literature. The tasks of determining the properties of the composition are set. As a

result of these tasks, it is planned to carry out a small historical-source analysis of primary sources and special historical literature on the history of Zarafshan and Samarkand. The article does not focus on the historiography of the subject, as it is essentially a historiographical analysis of the problem.

2. Methodology

In the study and analysis of written sources and historical literature on the ethnic composition and number of the population of Zarafshan district, the methods of comparative analysis, logical classification and structural analysis of written sources and historical literature on the subject, which are modern conceptual and methodological approaches to history.

3. The main part

Until 1868, Samarkand and the Zarafshan Valley were part of the Bukhara Emirate, and the lack of official statistics does not allow to provide accurate data on the ethnic composition and number of the population of Samarkand and the Zarafshan Valley. In this regard, the data on the ethnic composition and number of the population of the Emirate of Bukhara, in particular Samarkand, can be considered approximate until the official statistics are obtained.

In the works of Russian and foreign authors who were in the country until 1868, information was provided on the ethnic composition and number of the population of the city of Samarkand and the Zarafshan Valley. According to Ye.K.Meyendorf, who was in the Emirate of Bukhara in 1820-1821, the population of the emirate consisted of Tajiks, Uzbeks, Jews, Tatars, Afghans, Kalmyks, Indians, merchants and pilgrims from neighboring countries, Persian and Russian slaves and a small number of Abyssinians [1, P.95].

According to the orientalist N.V.Khanykov, who studied a large part of the Zarafshan Valley and was in Samarkand in 1841-1842, the population of the Emirate was mainly Tajiks, Arabs, Uzbeks, Persians (Iranians), Jews, Roma (Mazangs), Kyrgyz and Karakalpaks [2, P.53-75].

In the diaries of the great orientalist A. Vamberi, who was in the Emirate of Bukhara in 1863, it was noted that the population of the Emirate consisted of Uzbeks, Tajiks, Kyrgyz, Arabs, Mervians, Iranians, Indians and Jews [3, P.168-169].

Analyzing the information given in the above written sources, we can see that Ye.K.Meyendorf focused on Jews, N.Khanykov on Tajiks and Uzbeks, and A.Vamberi on Kyrgyz ethnicity.

Also, in the records of N.Khanykov and A.Vamberi, ethnic units (Afghans, Russians, Tatars, Kalmyks, etc.) temporarily located in the territory of the Emirate were not included in the general population. While the source data of the above data are of great importance, we must also take into account that they are

not based on any statistical data and in most cases are the results of an oral survey.

There are no accurate statistics on the population of the Zarafshan Valley and its capital Samarkand until 1868. According to N.V.Hanykov, even the emir did not have accurate and correct information about the population of the Emirate [2, P.76].

Ye.K. Meyendorf reported that the population of Samarkand in 1820 was about 50 thousand people [1, P.90], while according to N.V. Khanykov, in the early 1840s this number was 25-30 thousand [2, P.105], A. Vamberi, who was in Samarkand in 1863, states that the population of the city at that time did not exceed 15-20 thousand people [3, P.164].

In June 1868, a member of the detachment defining the boundaries between the Zarafshan district and the Emirate of Bukhara, orientalist V.V.Radlov and A.P. Fedchenko, who collected important materials on the Zarafshan valley in 1869-1870, information on ethnic composition and number. It means that about 30,000 people lived there [4, P.150]. The data provided by A.P. Fedchenko are also close to the results of the first official surveys on the population of Zarafshan district and Samarkand.

The first official data on the population of Zarafshan district was obtained in 1869, and the information submitted to the Military-Topographic Department of Turkestan in the same year stated that the population of the district was 315,533 [5, P.51]. Unfortunately, the document does not provide information on the ethnic composition of the district's population.

A.P. Khoroshkhin, who served in the chancellery of the head of the Zarafshan district, provided information on the ethnic composition of the district's population. For example, in the Sughd district of the Samarkand branch lived Uzbek tribes (Kipchak, Sarai, Kangly, Nayman, Qirq, Yuz, Chinese, Turkmen, Burkut, Mangit, Uyshun, Tuyokly, etc.), as well as Khojas, Tajiks, Iranians, Karakalpaks and Gypsies. The owners were counted among those who lived close to the Uzbeks or Tajiks. The gypsies here are known by the names mazang or jogi and are scattered

all over the Sughd district [6, P.146]. According to Khoroshkhin, 6/10 of Samarkand's population was Tajik, 2.5/10 was Iranian, 1/10 was Uzbek of various ethnicities, and the rest (0.5/10) is Jewish [6, P.209-215]. The Indians numbered no more than a hundred in Samarkand, and all of them lived in caravansarais [6, P.215]. The Gypsies (Jogis or Mazangs) numbered several dozen in Samarkand and could be seen mainly in the markets. Some of them were also engaged in animal husbandry. The Afghans were commercial guests in Samarkand, who brought a variety of products here. Some Afghans lived permanently in Samarkand. The author points out that they are remnants of the People's Army that took part in marches in 1868 [6, P.216].

Although A.P. Khoroshkhin's records put the population of Samarkand at 20,000, he said that no one had any exact information about the exact population of the city, and that it was the same for the Russian administration that the elders reduced or increased the number of people living in their neighborhoods [6, P.209]. His views can be explained by the lack of statistical activity in the district and the fact that the administration had no information other than that provided by the elders.

The records of G.A. Arendarenko, who headed the Samarkand division from 1877, contain only information about the ethnic composition of the population of Urgut, according to which the bulk of the city's population were Tajiks. A small number of Indians and Jews also lived here [7, P.3].

Based on the results of the census conducted in the winter of 1877-1878, Arendarenko notes that the total population of the district was 463,722 people, and 26,160 people lived in Samarkand [7, P.168-169]. However, the facts given by him about the population of the district, especially the courtyards and population of the Mountainous District Administration, cannot be considered completely reliable. Because, if we compare with the official data obtained later, we can see that the population of the Mountainous districts (129 thousand 672 people) is almost twice as much.

Draft of the most comprehensive report, which prepared by K.P. von Kaufman, the first head of the Turkestan region, provides information on the ethnic composition and number of the population of Zarafshan District, which includes Uzbeks, Tajiks, Kyrgyz, Arabs, Jews, Russians and Gypsies [8, P.21-29].

The report states that the total population of the district in 1881 was 330,000 [8, P.13]. However, this is not true in terms of a comparative analysis of the available data and the growth dynamics of the provincial population in 1868-1881. The fact that the Russian administration did not have accurate and reliable data on the population of Zarafshan district and the city of Samarkand can be justified by the following documents of the court of the head of Zarafshan district. In particular, the information provided by the head of the district to the head of the district on January 18, 1878 [9, P.159] and the reference prepared by the court of the head of the district of Zarafshan on May 3, 1883 for the secret adviser F.K. Girs state that the information provided by the local administration [9, P.159].

F.K. Girs, who inspected Turkestan in 1882-1883, noted that the district's population consisted of an insignificant number of Jews and Indians, Russians, Tatars, Uzbeks, and Tajiks. However, the data on the population of the district differ significantly from the data in the report of the head of state. According to Girs, the population of Zarafshan district was 422,840 at the time of the inspection. The population of Samarkand is not reported. Girs points out that about two and a half thousand military personnel were not taken into account in determining the district's population, and that the figures quoted are approximate [10, P.87].

This is especially true of archival materials, which are considered to be the main and reliable written sources on the history of the colonial period the chancellery of the head of the Zarafshan district urges to refer to the procedural documents.

In particular, according to the information provided to the Military-Topographic Department of Turkestan in February 1885, the total population of

Zarafshan district was 398,535 [11, P.40, 48 and 57]. Although the data on the population of the district in the official documents differ significantly from the figures given in the Girs report, as a result of their generalization we can assume that the population of the district in 1883 was in the range of 390-400 thousand people.

The introductory part of the report on the former Zarafshan district, submitted by the military governor of Samarkand region A.M. Yafimovich, contains information about the territory, ethnic composition and population of the district, which in 1886 amounted to 464,985 people. The ethnic composition of the population is shown to be Sarts, Russians, Jews, Indians, and foreign nationalities [12, P.1,10].

In the second half of the XIX - beginning of the XX century one of the leading researchers of Samarkand history T.S.Saidkulov focused not on the ethnic composition of the population, but on the class (social) structure and divided the total population into three groups: agricultural, commercial and non-industrial [13, P.111].

When we analyze the table of data on the population of Zarafshan and the population of Samarkand in the work of T. Saidkulov over the years, we see that they are contradictory and contradictory. Although they have a source basis, in 1868-1885 there was a sharp decline or rise in the dynamics of the population of the district and the city of Samarkand. The author has not commented on these cases.

G.Normuradova's case from new research notes that the population and ethnic composition of Zarafshan increased with the resettlement of migrants in the European part of Russia, the Volga region, Siberia and the Caucasus, and elsewhere. For example, the fact that Samarkand is a political, administrative and economic center has led to an increase in the number of immigrants. In particular, based on archival and statistical materials, the author notes that the population of the city in 1870 was 30-40 thousand people, in 1885 - 44 thousand 125, in 1897 - 55 thousand 128, in 1908 - 80 thousand 706 and in 1914 - 97 530 people [14, P.78].

The British historian A.Morrison spoke not only of Zarafshan district, but also of the whole Turkestan region in three colloquial languages: Tajik-speaking (Tajiks, Sarts, Jews, Afghans and Galchaks), Turkic-speaking (Uzbeks, Sarts, Kyrgyz, Turks, Kara-Kyrgyz, Kara-Kyrgyz, Iranians, Tatars) and Russian-speakers (Russians, Germans) [15, P.43]. On the population of the district, Morrison estimates that in 1886 it was 464,985 [15, P.47].

4. Conclusions

The following conclusions can be drawn from the study and comparative analysis of information on the ethnic composition and number of the population of Zarafshan district and its capital Samarkand, presented in primary historical sources and special literature:

- The information provided by the authors (E.K. Meyendorf, N.V. Hanykov, A. Vamberi) who were in Samarkand before the establishment of the Zarafshan district on the ethnic composition of the population of the Emirate of Bukhara and the population of Samarkand is based on the results of an oral survey. Despite their approximate nature, the lack of statistical data until 1869 determines their source significance.
- The collection of statistical data since 1869 allowed to obtain new facts about the ethnic composition and number of the population of the district and Samarkand.
- As a result of periodic separation of available descriptive and documentary data, comparative analysis and critical approach, as well as generalization of the obtained data, it is possible to provide relatively accurate information on the ethnic composition and population of Zarafshan district and Samarkand.
- As a result of the historical and source analysis, it was found that relatively reliable information on the ethnic composition and number of the population of Zarafshan and Samarkand can be obtained only from the documents of the court of the head of the district.

Indeed, as noted by the French source scholar Charles Senobos, 'history is written on the basis of documents. Nothing can replace documents. Without them, there would be no history'.

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