



BRITISH ESPIONAGE IN AFGHANISTAN IN THE 19TH CENTURY

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ABSTRACT

In this article, the objectives of spies, ambassadors and missions sent by the British East India Company to the territory of Afghanistan in the first half of the 19th century, their geopolitical activities in the region, the state structure of Afghanistan, the form of government, relations with neighboring countries, Afghanistan The topography of Afghanistan, the economic, political and social situation of the Afghan people, their customs, traditions, lifestyle, diversity of nationalities, the specific characteristics of this period are described. Also, at the end of the thirties of the 19th century, how the British colony carried out military-political and diplomatic preparations for the invasion of Afghanistan. what sources, political and economic conditions of the regions are carefully studied.

The essence of this article is that: the secret service networks of Great Britain go back for many years, their activities are systematically and continuously carried out, and they use any means. The preface of the article was about how the British prepared for the first Anglo-Afghan war (1838-42), and also reflected that the British Empire carefully prepared for this process for many years before conquering any territory.

Keywords: Afghanistan, Sherali Khan, Central Asia, ambassadors, Ost-Indian company. Afghan, Afghan people, geopolitical, ambassadors, expeditions spies, Elfinstown, William Morkraft, A. Byorns, Charles Messon, Robert Lich, Kabul, Khirot, Beaver, Lake Vahan

DISCUSSION AND RESULTS

One of the most important international problems of the 19th century was the problem of "Central Asia". As a result, throughout the century, Central Asia became a source of contention between England and Russia. As a result, by the end of the 19th century, the crisis between these two imperialist countries grew into a long-lasting political conflict. The main problem was the struggle between the colonial countries to occupy the territories that had not yet been divided. In this struggle, the specific features of the development of the capitalist system of the 19th century can be seen. The ruling circles of England and Russia have found many serious arguments to justify their aggressive actions in Central Asia, to justify their rights to certain parts of this region. The policy of both countries in Central Asia was carried out under some guise, no matter what pretexts were used for its implementation, the essence of this policy was aggressive colonialism.



In the 19th century, England was the largest colonial country in the world with huge land holdings. The East India Company was the main organization of the British bourgeoisie for invasion and colonial exploitation in the Indian subcontinent, which covered several countries and nations, and it constantly waged wars of conquest. The East India Company could declare any part of the Asian continent as a British possession and send troops anywhere. In particular, Afghanistan, which is located in Central Asia, has been in the center of interest from Britain in terms of trade, politics and strategy due to its convenient geographical location. In addition, it borders India, Iran, China, and the Uzbek khanates. It made a significant contribution to the development of world civilization in its time and lost its significance in the 19th century. The Silk Road had passed. This indicated how important Afghanistan is from a geopolitical point of view[1].

The East India Company was responsible for determining the economic and political situation of Afghanistan, all the roads passing through the territory, studying any objects located at important geographical points, researching the socio-political stratum of the population, and also convincing the members of the government to their side. In order to establish political relations with England, it regularly sends its employees. The employees were sent in different guises, they mainly moved in this area under the guise of merchants, dervish, tourists, pilgrims to holy places. The sent spies penetrated to the remotest places of the region, thoroughly studied the location of the region and diligently recorded the collected information. They knew the local people's language and their customs well, which helped them to operate in this area for a long time and not to be suspected [2]. J. Alder, an English historian who played an important role in the British policy on Central Asian issues, writes: "How important it is to study the region before diplomatic activity in the Central Asian issue, and especially geographical knowledge is always important for politics, economics, diplomacy and military. emphasizes that it is closely related to the movements, that researchers and secret spies play an important role in this rather than soldiers and politicians" [3].

The first British mission to Afghanistan was sent in February 1809 under the leadership of Mount Stuart Elphinstone. He will be assigned the task of studying Afghanistan in detail and in detail. In case the British invaded the country, it included instructions to establish contacts with individuals of particular interest among certain social strata, groups and tribes who could be relied upon by Britain to establish its rule in this area. British officers and spies made up the expedition and carried out in-depth military-political intelligence work on all sides in Afghanistan. Personally, M. Elphinstone will be assigned the task of collecting detailed information about the ruling circles of the country. The expedition will last almost five months. During this time, they get to know the country's caravan routes, Afghan people and tribes, and people of special interest. The British established relations with local officials by giving them expensive gifts. Bribery is a characteristic of British politics, and serves as a tool to establish its dominance in any war[4].

In June 1809, the first Afghan-English treaty was signed as a result of the negotiations conducted by M. Elphinstone with Shuja ul-Mulk in Peshawar. The agreement was that if France and Iran were to attack India, Afghanistan would take part in the war on the side of England [5].



In 1820-25, the East India Company, under the leadership of its experienced employee William Moorcroft, visited Afghanistan and its neighboring territories to study their economy, military-political situation, topographical location of the territories, and especially the passable mountains. sends a British expedition to collect information about trails, gorges, roads. William Moorcroft and other members of the expedition will be in Jalalabad in 1822 and Kabul in 1824. He and his companions were the first Europeans to see the huge Buddha statue in Bamiyan. The members of the expedition entered the Bukhara command in February 1825 with a group of seventy people[6]. As a result of this expedition, the British thoroughly explored the Bukhara Emirate and managed to find a common ground with the local officials. British army military intelligence lieutenant A. Burns, who did a great job in studying the economic and political opportunities, trade routes, and strategic points of Central Asia, was one of the most talented among those who served the East India Company. He also perfectly mastered the Persian language and other dialects close to it, which enabled him to communicate easily among the peoples of the Middle East and get into their midst. The information he collected is valuable information for military, diplomats, economists, linguists, merchants, geographers and tourists. In 1831, A. Burns went to Bukhara under the guise of an Indian merchant. His task was to find the shortest route from India to Bukhara, to study the local markets, to establish the first political and trade relations between the Emirate of Bukhara and India[7].

A. Burns starts his journey from Delhi and arrives at Khulum via Amritsar, Peshawar, Kabul. From Khulum, he heads east and explores the city of Kunduz in detail. From Uer it comes to Balkh, then passes through Amudarya and reaches Bukhara through Karshi. After spending several months in Uer, A. Byrnes goes to Mashhad through Chorjoi and Urganch. From there, Mohan Lal, an employee of the East India Company, accompanies him to Khirot. They go around the whole Khorasan and then return to India through Tehran and the Persian Gulf [8]. In fact, the essence of all the expeditionary missions conducted by Burns was aimed at conquering Afghanistan by military means. The leaders of the East India Company told him to get to know the country in every way, in particular, to collect information about its government, government leaders, officials, economy, its armed forces, wealth, as well as its relations with neighboring countries. gives instructions. To carry out these tasks, the expedition included Lieutenant Robert Leach, Lieutenant John Wood of the Indian Navy and doctor Percival Lords. R. Leach is assigned the task of monitoring the country's military and its types of troops, J. Wood to study the waterways, primarily the Amudarya, and P. Lord to study the natural resources of the places he visited. Lord studies the Kunduz Khanate for a long time, while Wood collects information about the Pamir regions, especially the upper Amudarya and Vakhan Sarikol basins. R. Leach stayed in Kandahar at this time and sent information to A. Burns about the happenings in Kandahar, Khirot and Iran [9].

In his memoirs, A. Burns provides detailed information about the rich nature and economic opportunities of the region. For example, it provides information about ruby mines in a place called Gharon, located on the river bank near Shugnon in Badakhshan. He also points out that the buyer has a huge reserve of silver deposits. A. Byrnes mentions the Bamiyan Gorge on the Hinduqush mountain and the surrounding areas as "a kingdom with amazing wealth". He also



reports that gold and silver are mined near Fuldoot, and ten or twelve lead mines are located not far from Bamiyan. A. Byrnes calculates copper, tin, sulfur, asbestos, iron, flint and various chemical elements with great accuracy[10].

Among the information he collected, the most valuable are: detailed maps of the roads from India to Afghanistan and Central Asia, information on the economic, political and military situation of the Central Asian khanates, on the left bank of the Amudarya were reports on the lands and various regions of Afghanistan and Sindh. This information was needed to quickly develop plans for a military attack on Afghanistan and other countries of Central Asia.

Charles Messon worked as an unofficial British resident in Afghanistan for a long time. Messon closely observes the large bazaar in Kabul, the caravans coming to and from Kabul, and the circulation of various products. As a result of his observations, in 1835, he published a memorandum in the press "On Kabul trade". According to this document, the city of Kabul is considered the most important trade center between India and Central Asia, because in 1834 its trade turnover is shown as 1 million pounds. He believed that this would facilitate the extensive development of trade between India on the one hand and the British possessions in Afghanistan and Central Asia on the other. This situation, in turn, became of major importance in Anglo-Afghan relations [11].

On June 25, 1836, the secret committee of the East India Company sent diplomats and spies to Kabul under the orders of Governor General Auckland and his foreign minister, Palmerston. The Governor-General of India recommends them to conduct a comprehensive study of the situation in Afghanistan and to take all measures against "Russian influence"[12].

In the thirties of the 19th century, in order to fulfill the secret tasks of General Malcolm, British officers carry out espionage work in the remote areas of Afghanistan, where no laws apply and where no explorer has ever set foot. At that time Captain Charles Christie and Lieutenant Henry Pottinger, officers of the Fifth Regiment of Bombay Infantry, set out on their mission. During their journey, they manage to gather enough information about the local tribes and their chieftains, the defense system of the cities and their fortifications. Charles Christie explores the strategically important city of Herat in Afghanistan and manages to send the reports he collects on it to the Governor General of India.

It should be noted that the main residence of the British secret service in Afghanistan was the city of Herat. This clandestinely founded center in Herat was headed by Major Arcee Todd[13]. Colonial Britain did not stop exploring the territory of Afghanistan for a moment. They regularly conducted a thorough study of the country in order to find the political and economic situation of Afghanistan and favorable trade routes. Employees of East India Company operating in the country delivered various information and information to Calcutta and London.

Why? Why is this poor nation doomed to live in war? Why has this land, left behind by civilization, turned into a huge political battleground in the last two centuries?

There are regions and regions of the earth that attract the attention of large empires not because of their natural and various mineral resources, but because of their geographic location. This is the main reason why Afghanistan, located in a strategically important region of Asia, is becoming the center of political struggles and conspiracies. "It's good to go back to Mozi" If



we do this, it will be easier to study the nature of the geopolitical games taking place in and around Afghanistan (also in other hot spots).

At the beginning of the 19th century, England did not focus on Afghanistan simply as a country, but saw it as the northwestern threshold of India. In the case of military campaigns against Iran and Central Asia, which was due to the plan of the British invasion policy, Afghanistan should serve as a starting point for preparing the most important military operations. For this reason, England sends its secret spies and agents there to research and study Afghanistan in detail. For example, the information collected from them by the secret agents of the East India Company, such as M. Elphinstone, C. Christie, W. Moorcroft, Trebek, Fraser, Stirling, Connolly, C. Messon, A. Burns, for many years, not only England, but other imperialist also served as a valuable resource for countries.

Thus, at the end of the thirties of the 19th century, the British colony completed military-political and diplomatic preparations for the invasion of Afghanistan. They carefully study the detailed maps of every road in the country, waterways, government officials, any sources, political and economic conditions of the regions.

After the defeat in the first Anglo-Afghan war with Afghanistan in 1838-1842, it became very difficult for the British to travel through it to the Uzbek khanates. There was now a way for the British to enter Turkestan through the Sin Empire, but before that the Chinese government had banned Europeans from entering their borders after Moorcroft's expedition. China's defeat in the first "opium war" of 1840-1842 gave hope to enter Central Asia through East Turkestan (Xinjiang). However, local authorities did not allow the Cunningham and Streche expeditions to enter Khotan and Yorkent. Thus, in the middle of the 19th century, British explorers, traders and spies could enter Afghanistan from the east through China, from the north through Russia, and from the south through Iran. Taking advantage of the temporary improvement in relations with Russia, the British tried to enter Afghanistan through Russian Turkestan. Thus, in the 50s of the 19th century, the British espionage system in Central Asia, especially in Afghanistan, entered a kind of crisis. This situation led to a lack of information about Central Asia, especially Afghanistan, and a decrease in the perception of the current socio-political situation of this region in the East India Company, which carried out British foreign policy and invasion operations. In order to get out of this situation, the British created a spy system consisting of representatives of the local population. The British will use all means to achieve this goal, especially by providing the hired local spies with the modern and necessary equipment of their time and how to use them, teaching them the secrets of espionage and sets a large monetary reward for each valuable piece of information. This system was developed by Walker and especially developed by Major T.S. Montgomery and gave its result. Previously, the recruitment of spies from the local population was rare (Mir Izzat Ullo, Munshi Mokhanlal), but now it has become a very large scale [14]. The Taiping movement in 1850-1864, China's defeat in the second "opium" war in 1856-1860, Xinjiang (Xinjiang), which broke away from the Sin Empire as a result of a local Muslim uprising, and with the support of the British in the 1860s during the reign of Yaquzbek, who came to power, the British entered Afghanistan from the east through Ladakh and Tarim.



In 1860-1861, Abdul Majid, a local spy from the Pashtun clan, left Kabul and traveled through Badakhshan, Wakhan and Aloy mountain ranges to Kogan. He was hired by the East India Company and brought various gifts and letters to a person named Mullah Khan in Kokon [15]. In 1863, another Mughal mercenary spy, Muhammad Hamid, arrived in Yorkent, and remained there until 1864, when he traveled to the Ladakh region of Jammu and Kashmir, but died of an unexpected seizure on the way.[16]]. In the 60s of the 19th century, Muhammad Amin, the former guide of A. Shlagintveit, visited the Pamirs and Eastern Turkestan. was to collect information about the military, the state of the fortress facilities and their number, socio-economic, trade routes and markets. In addition, he makes a list of all the passes through Pamir and analyzes the political situation of Sarikul at that time[17].

In 1865, another mercenary spy, Faiz Bakhsh, made a trip to Badakhshan, Wakhan, Pamir, Kunduz, Bukhara and Khiva, and ended his journey in Balkh in 1869. The task entrusted to him was to write down on paper detailed drawings of the roads he traveled.

In 1867-1868, another pandit (mercenary spy) Manful was in Badakhshan. In the winter of 1868-1869, a pandit named Mirza, a native of Mashhad, sent by Major Montgomery, arrived in Eastern Turkestan through Badakhshan and Pamir. His real name was not known, meaning that the names of all the spies who worked for Montgomery were kept secret until they died. Mirza worked as an employee of the East India Company's "observer" service in India. In 1867, he was assigned the task of finding a short road leading from Chitrol to Badakhshan, and checking the safety of the roads between Kokand and Koshghar[18]. Mirza was a well-trained spy who was proficient in the use of modern equipment and fluent in Turkish and Persian languages. Among mercenary spies (pandits), he studied Pamir in detail and consistently[19]. In fact, Mirza was the first to describe the Pamir roads in detail for military purposes. He meticulously recorded the distances between residential areas without forgetting even minor roads. He also mapped suitable locations for troop camps, fodder, fuel, and storage[20]. He also recorded all the fortifications in the country and marked the places that were favorable and unfavorable for defense. He described the Qarovul fortress as follows: "the fortification was located on a favorable ground, it was built on a cliff, it was possible to control all roads over it, and it was impossible for the enemy to climb over the fortress." Mirza also collected information about the defense fortifications belonging to the Russian military in Tien Shan: for example, he said that "400 archers were in the Tojia fortification, 500 soldiers were guarding the bridge over the Narayan river, and Tomsk fortress was located ten days from Narayan. 100 soldiers have 4 cannons, and ten days' distance from there there are 2 thousand soldiers and 8 cannons at the starting point of the Aloy ridge[22].

Agent Agar Khan, who occupied a special place among the British spies, was the leader of the Shias in Bombay and the Pamirs. his sphere of influence was very strong in Kabul and Kashgar. In order to maintain his reputation, he often traveled to Kabul and Kashghar, and during his travels, he tried to collect detailed information about these countries[23].

In the 1870s, several expeditions were organized by British "explorers". Senior officer Havildar explores the regions of Hisor, Kulob, and Karategin[24]. In 1872, Havildar was on a secret mission in Chitrol and Faiziabad, from where he was in the territories of Darvaz and Koqon Khanate, which at that time belonged to the borders of the Bukhara principality.



Havildar describes in detail the roads of Peshavor and Faiziabad and collects information about the lifestyle, living conditions, and customs of the people of Badakhshan[25]. Sergeant Sappers commissioned Montgomery to survey the roads from Peshawar to Faiziabad[26]. But according to the results of many researches, it is stated that Havildar and Sappers are the same person[27].

At the beginning of the 1970s, there was a slight decline in British intelligence activities in Afghanistan. But soon the situation changed due to the activity of British agents. The reason for this was the annexation of Khiva Khanate to the Russian Empire in 1873.

Pandit Ibrahim Khan went to Koshghar with D. Forsayt, who accompanied him, through Darkut pass in Balistan, Yasin Valley in Tien Shan, to a place called Langar in Badakhshan [28]. In 1873-1874, the expedition carried out by D. Forsyth to Koshghar was extensive, and Colonel Gordon, Captain Trotter, Biddulph, Bellew, Chapman and Dr. Stolichka accompanied the expedition. Supposedly, the main purpose of the expedition was to conclude a trade agreement with Yaqubbek and to scientifically study the territories it passed through. "Researchers" did not come to Koshghar empty-handed, they brought with them 2200 rifles, 8 3-foot caliber stone weapons to Yakubbek's palace[29]. The original purpose of the foresight was to determine and record complete and accurate information about the current situation in Afghanistan and Kashgar border regions with Russia. In his report, he listed the residential addresses of all the people he met on his way, as well as the number of people living in the villages, roads, trails, natural and climatic conditions, defense capabilities, military fortifications, even in these places. also provided information about common diseases [30]. In March 1874, Gordon, Trotter, Stolichka and several other pandits left Koshghar and went to Pamir via Hisor and Sarikul. They mainly focus on roads. Trotter mapped the entire landscape of the roads based on astronomical coordinates. He also calculated the distances between the residences of every resident he met on his way and marked the places where he could stop. Stolichka explored passable gorges, mountain heights, rivers and pastures. Gordon was mainly engaged in gathering information about the conditions and military fortifications of the troops of the regions he visited[31]. He is especially interested in the fortress located in Tashkurgan, but the local government does not allow him to approach the fortress at a distance of not less than 450 meters. It was Captain Biddulph's special mission to find a short cut from Chitrol to Badakhshan, which he succeeded in doing. The route he identified was the passage through the Barogil Pass, which was a very short (3777 m) pass and 5,000 meters above sea level. K. P. Markham, secretary of the British Royal Geographical Society, says about this route: "The Barogil pass was the most accessible of all known passes"[32]. At that time, Dr. Potagos, a secret officer of the Indian Surveillance Service, originally from Greece, also made his expedition to Koshghar through the Pamirs[33]. The main plan of the Grand Trigonometrical Service in India was to carry out trans-Himalayan and trans-boundary surveys.

Despite the development of the British intelligence system in the 1880s, it became very difficult for British spies to enter Central Asia. The reason is that the tsarist government prohibits the entry of all non-Russian Europeans into Turkestan, which also applies to British travelers engaged in "scientific" activities, and now it is dangerous for them to pass through Turkestan to Afghanistan. became Because of this ban, a "hunt" against British spies began in



Turkestan. For example, Captain Barneby is captured and taken prisoner on his way to Afghanistan via Khiva. In 1880, Gopal Singh, who was disguised as an Indian merchant in Bukhara, L.G. Xuereba and Sheikh Abdulla Majid, who came to Turkestan, were arrested on suspicion of espionage[34]. Thus, it became more dangerous for the British to enter Afghanistan through Turkestan. Therefore, the British were now forced to enter Afghanistan only through their northern borders.

In 1885, Elias crossed the Pamirs and went to Koshghar on a political mission. In 1888-1889, Little del, Yungensband, and Americans O. Connor and Ridgway organized an expedition to explore Pamir. Curzon, the future foreign minister of Great Britain, visited the Pamirs in 1892-1895 to conduct scientific research [35]. In 1895, Lieutenant Pich will also be in Pamir.

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