

SOCIO-ECONOMIC LIFE OF TURKESTAN DURING THE FIRST WORLD WAR.

<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.10113295>

Parvina Ismoilova

*Lecturer at the Department of the History of Uzbekistan,
the Ferghana State University*

Abstract: *the article describes the socio-economic life in Turkestan during World War I. Analysing sources, the paper finds that in order to cover the state budget deficit, the government increased the pressure of tax payments on the working population. The rates of existing taxes were raised and new types of taxes were introduced. In particular, taxes on sugar, matches and other consumer goods were raised. A special tax on cotton was introduced by the government's decision.*

Keywords: *First World War, banking system, tax, Turkestan Governor-General's Office, bread, shortage, products: the*

The First World War, which began in the summer of 1914, aggravated the political and socio-economic situation of the Russian Empire. Despite the programmes and measures undertaken by the tsarist government, it became clear that the country was economically and militarily weaker than Germany and even Austria-Hungary. 15.8 billion in 1914-1915. The national income of the country was 12.2 billion roubles in 1916-1917. fell by roubles. Military expenditures 4.3 billion. 7.1 billion rubles, half of the country's national income.

The war had a serious negative impact on the socio-economic and spiritual life of the Turkestan people. At the same time, the budget expenditures of the Turkestan Governor-General's Office increased. The daily growth of military expenditures caused a reduction in the gold reserve of the State Bank. In fact, on 16 July 1914 in the State Bank was 1744 million gold on 23 July was worth 1218 million rubles fell to rubles. In one week, the gold reserve of the State Bank increased by 26 million converted into rubles. [1, 22] Thus, from the first days of the war, the question of where to get funds for military expenditure and how to conduct financial policy became the main problem facing the government and financial organisations.

To cover the state budget deficit, the government increased the pressure of tax payments on the working population. The existing tax rates were raised and new types of taxes were introduced. In particular, taxes on sugar, matches and other consumer goods were increased. A special tax on cotton was introduced by Government decision. In the report of the rapporteur on the conclusions of the budget and finance commission of the State Duma A. Shingarev noted that the budget deficit was filled, primarily at the expense of existing direct and indirect taxes, customs duties. Thanks to the measures taken for

eight months of 1915 on 18 articles of the state list of revenues was collected 260 million increased to ruble [2, 45]. The largest revenue was received from the special tax on cotton in the amount of 121.9 million rubles.

Thus, the increase in tax rates and the opening up of new sources of payment have been of great benefit to the Government. In particular, these taxes and payments totalled 500 million. roubles in 1915, 725 million in 1916. 1075 million roubles in 1917. Revenue is expected to be received in roubles.

During the First World War, the oppressed peoples living on the territory of the empire were driven to poverty, lost their property and possessions due to taxes and various levies, and were impoverished under conditions of severe inflation. The Russian Empire tried to shift many of the problems and hardships of the war to the peripheral colonies. The Turkestan people were not spared these problems and hardships.

The participation of the Russian Empire in the First World War had a serious impact on the economy of the peoples of the Turkestan region and, as noted, increased its role in providing the army with food, horses and raw materials for the country. The social and economic policy of the colonial government in the country was primarily aimed at keeping the local population in a maelstrom of domestic and economic problems.

During the First World War, the importance and role of Turkestan as a supplier of important and valuable military-strategic raw materials increased immeasurably. In such a situation, the process of exploitation of a significant layer of the local population of the country intensified.

At the same time, the influence of representatives of the Russian bourgeoisie, i.e., trusts, syndicates and banks, increased in the economic life of the empire and its national colonies [3, 56]. It was under their pressure that the national economy of the country was completely put on a war footing, and work was carried out under the motto "everything for the front", "everything for the war". This process was particularly intensified from the summer of 1915.

Analysis of the available official data showed that in 1914-1916 only 2154,738 poods of goods were exported from Turkestan.

Products taken in years (on the account of pood)			
Product name	In pood account	Product name	In pood account
Cotton	40.899.244 pood	Castor	50.000 pood
Cottonseed oil	3.109.000 pood	Sesame seed	12.000 pood
Soap	229.000 pood	Bone grain	2.700 pood
Meat	300.000 pood	Tomat	845 pood
Fish	473.923 pood	Wine	4.985 pood
Dried fruit	95.648 pood	Vinegar	2.701 pood

Almond	1600 pood	Rosehip	38.004 m ²
--------	-----------	---------	-----------------------

The consumer goods and raw materials that were rapidly exported from Turkestan were not proportional to the foodstuffs that had to be imported into the country. Nor were the ruling circles of the Russian Empire content with exporting only raw materials from the country. To provide the troops with means of transport, pack animals and wagons were also brought from Turkestan.

From 1915 special state commissions and private agents operated in the Turkestan region, buying necessary products from the population and preparing them for dispatch. For example, from the Semirechye region private agents stole from 6000 to 10000 horses. More than 20,000 horses were confiscated from the Ferghana region, which was in need of working animals. Of these, only 2893 horses were purchased in accordance with the established procedure. There was no mercy for those who did not obey. For example, Damin Saidkhodzaev, Karaboy Abdukasimov and Mukhitdin Madraimov living in Margilan district of Ferghana province were punished for not transporting their 4 horses worth 1400 rubles. [3, 150]

From 1914 to the second half of 1916, 2,925,000 poods of wool, 70,000 horses, 12,737 camels, 270 wagons, 13,441 hay were sent from Turkestan to the needs of the front. Also in 1916, 2,400,000 roubles were collected by the Turkestan branch of the Red Cross Society.

As noted above, during the First World War, Turkestan forcibly began further development of the cotton industry, which was of military importance and served for defence. Under the powerful onslaught of Russian industrialists, the government turned its attention to cotton growing, and the main reason for the slow development of this industry was the sharp reduction of raw materials imported from abroad due to the war and the increased demand for Turkestan cotton. Certainly, the forced expansion of cotton growing in this way, i.e., at the expense of appropriated lands, caused further crisis of farming and agriculture in general. All this made the growing peasant even more dependent on the market, which had become unstable due to the war, and led to a sharp rise in food and bread prices. This caused an imbalance in the price of cotton and bread, which led to famine and starvation.

The over-specialization of Turkestan agriculture on cotton production made the country dependent on imported grain and increased the freight load on the railways. Grain was transported to Turkestan, where the main product of consumption is bread, from distant regions of the North Caucasus and the Volga region. Semirechye district, the largest grain producer, the closest to the country, was not connected by railway with the main districts of Turkestan. During the years of the First World War the importation of grain from distant places of the metropolis to the country, naturally, sharply decreased. Already in 1915, bread was brought five times less than the needs of the country's population. In the following years this figure decreased even more, and in 1917 no bread was brought to

Turkestan at all. [4, 52] During the war years, bread prices in the country increased by 400 per cent. If in 1913, the price of bread in the country increased by 400 per cent. 18 million with imported goods of grain, the country's population's need for bread by 1916 was 22.5 million. organised good. During the years 1915-1917 the bread shortage in the country took the following form:

Years	Consuming bread	Shortage
1915	107.477.880	12.158.764
1916	111.575.083	22.539.226
1917	110.023.205	57.432.954

But such a complicated situation in Turkestan did not bother either the leadership of the Russian Empire or the colonial administration in the country. The colonisers were only interested in taking out of the country more raw materials and products to continue the war.

In order to increase the number of raw materials and products exported from Turkestan, special attention was paid to the construction of railways. In particular, during 1914-1916 the Bukhara railway, including the Kagan-Termez and Karshi-Kitob railways, considered as its branch, the Ferghana and Semirechye railway, including the Kagan-Namangan and Namangan-Andizhan-Dzhalalobod railways, was built. The length of all these railways was 1,125 kilometres.

Despite the economic difficulties of the First World War, Russian statesmen and the commercial and industrial bourgeoisie tried to increase their attention to the construction of railways in the country. The purpose of this was to transport agricultural products grown by the people of the country at low prices and to help the people of the country. [5, 75]

This was to increase the dependence on bread products, gas, building materials and other things imported from Russia.

REFERENCES:

1. Мустабид тузумнинг Ўзбекистон бойликларини талаш сиёсати: тарих шохидлиги ва сабоқлари. Муаллифлар жамоаси. – Тошкент: Шарқ, 2000.
2. Усмонов Қ., Содиқов М., Обломуродов Н. Ўзбекистон тарихи. I қисм. – Тошкент: Абдулла Қодирий номидаги халқ мероси нашриёти, 2002.
3. Ismoilova P. Formation of Banking in Turkestan. Late 19th-early 20th century //Finland international scientific journal of education, social science & humanities. – 2023. – т. 11. – №. 4.

4. Ismoilova P. Peculiarities of historiography in the study of the cotton policy of Tsarist Russia in Turkestan //pedagogical sciences and teaching methods. – 2023. – т. 2. – №. 21.

5. Исмоилова П. Капиталовложения российского банковского фонда в Туркестане: на примере ферганской области, в начале XX века //Новости образования: исследование в XXI веке. – 2023. – Т. 1. – №. 9.