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## THE STRUGGLE FOR CONSTITUTIONAL MONARCHY IN THE KHANATE OF KHIVA AT THE BEGINNING OF THE XX **CENTURY**

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Abstract: There is written the political processes which taken place in the Khiva Khanate in the early twentieth century in this article. Article describes about trying to implement the constitutional monarchic system by young Khivans and these reforms impact, and about the influence of the Interim Government and the Russian military on the basis of various historical sources and archival materials.

Keywords: The Khiva Khanate, young Khivans, manifesto, interim government, freedom, constitutional monarchy, Bolsheviks, February revolution, elections.

**Introduction.** At the beginning of the 20th century, democratic progressive ideas began to spread in the Khanate of Khiva, as well as in Turkestan. A number of citizens of Khiva, mainly merchants, officials of the Khan, as well as people with a democratic progressive mood, visited Russia and some countries in Europe, where they studied the way of life, scientific and cultural achievements of the people of these countries, as well as state administration. As a result, progressive people appeared who realized the need to make changes in the system of government of the khanate under the control of the Russian colonial government. These people, who began their work as an enlightening movement during the Khiva Khanate, gradually became a serious social and political force. From the summer of 1914, they began to call themselves young Khiva [1. 89]. The emergence of this movement was significantly influenced by the growing national, political and economic oppression of Mustabid Khan and the colonialists of the Tsar Empire, as well as the growing political consciousness of the population. Also, the events that took place in Russia, Turkestan and Turkey at the beginning of the 20th century were also important.

The members of the Young Khiva movement were people who understood the need for economic, social and political reform in the Khanate of Khiva. Their social structure consisted of representatives of trade and industry, craftsmen, a number of khan officials and other layers of the population. At the beginning of the activity of young Khiva people, attention was mainly focused on enlightenment. They were of the opinion that the development of the country, improvement of people's living conditions, putting an end to arbitrariness and violence, justice and equality before the law can be achieved by enlightening the people. As a result of the tyranny of the Khan and Russian colonists, the arbitrariness and violence of the officials, and the aggravation of the people's condition, their movement began to take on a political tone. They came to the opinion that it is necessary to put an end to the rule of Mustabid Khan in order to free the people from oppression, arbitrariness and violence.



The February bourgeois-democratic revolution of 1917 in Russia had a great impact on the socio-political and spiritual life of the Khiva Khanate, the political activity of the population increased. For example, on March 20, 1917, the head of the Petro-Alexandrovsk garrison, Colonel Lvov, sent to the Governor-General of Turkestan: "... some people in the city are spreading news among the local population that the tsar has been overthrown and that an uprising is being prepared" [2. 22], wrote.

The inhabitants of the Khiva Khanate learned about the February - bourgeois democratic revolution only at the end of March 1917. P. Yusupov, the leader of the young Khiva people, writes the following about the February revolution in his work: It was seen in an issue of "Vakt" newspaper. A revolution took place in Petersburg, Nikolai Romanov was captured, deposed, imprisoned, and Kerensky was elected chairman. I was happy to read these events" [3. 77]. Young Khiva people fully supported this revolution. They believed that the revolution would bring freedom to Khiva as well. Young people of Khiva hoped for the support of the Provisional Government in making changes in the khanate. Active members of the "Yosh Khivaliker" movement Otajon Sapaev, Bobojon Muhammadyor Abdullaev, Husaynbek Matmurodov, Sultanmurodov, Nazir Sholikarov and others welcomed this news with joy. They spread the message of the bourgeois-democratic revolution in Russia among the people and called the masses to fight for the establishment of democratic order against the autocratic system in Khiva Khanate [4. 13].

At the end of March 1917, Asfandiyarkhan returned from Russia together with Major General Mirbadalov, who was appointed as the Russian military commissar in the presence of Khiva Khan [2. 12]. Mirbadalov was given wide powers by the Committee of the Provisional Government in Turkestan [5. 47].

Young people of Khiva exchanged opinions and held meetings about how to proceed in the current political situation. Shokir Tineev and Abdishukur Latipov, soldiers of the Russian garrison in Khiva, also took part in the meetings. They advised young Khiva people to ask Russian troops for help in overthrowing the Khan's rule. According to this advice, on the day when the Russian soldiers take the oath, young people of Khiva gather in front of the house of Husaynbek Matmurodov. They hide the real purpose of the demonstration from the people. Because the masses of the people suffered endlessly from the tyranny of the khan, but they had no idea about the special management and democratic changes. For this reason, young Khiva residents say that they will go to the participants of the demonstration to congratulate the Russian soldiers on their holidays [3.79]. At the suggestion of P. Yusupov, representatives of 17 people were elected among the gathered people to negotiate with the khan. Young people of Khiva go to the military unit and negotiate with the head of the unit, Colonel Merzlyakov, and in Khiva they ask for help in dethroning the Khan and making democratic changes like in Petersburg. Colonel Merzlyakov left Khan in his place and said that he would help only if the Constitutional Monarchy was established. Desperate young Khiva people were forced to limit themselves to organizing a meeting. A company of soldiers, led by young Khiva residents, marched to the Khan's palace, chanting "Long live freedom!", "Long live



freedom!" who marched under the slogans [6. 16]. Young people of Khiva sharply demanded from Khan to organize a meeting on the basis of the constitution, to manage the state together and to arrest some officials who are oppressing the people. Nazir Sholikorov, one of the leaders of the young Khiva movement, looks at the khan and angrily says, "If our demands are not accepted, we will depose you and replace you with another khan, and we will get freedom and advice from him" [4. 14]. Afraid of the political events in Russia, the dethronement of the Russian tsar, as well as the political demonstrations taking place in Khiva, Asfandiyar Khan expressed his readiness to accept all the demands of the young Khiva people, and signed the manifesto prepared by the young Khiva people if they had written requests [5. 66]. According to the request of the young people of Khiva, Qazikalon Khudoibergan akhun, Hikmatulla Eshon, Ibrahim akhun also put their seals on the manifesto. Among the close associates of the Khan, the son of Ibrahimkhoja Yaqubkhoja, the son of Ashir Makhram Ali, the son of Rozimuhammad Makhram Muhammad Amin and the son of Ata Makhram Mamatmakhram are handed over to the young Khiva [4. 15].

The manifesto consisted of 7 points. In the first paragraph, it was established that the country will be governed by the people elected by the people according to the needs of the times, if they follow the rules of the Sharia on the basis of the constitution.

In the second paragraph, it is stated that the elected people should fully maintain justice in the administration of the country, following the rules of Sharia.

In the third paragraph, it is stated that all the peoples in the territory of the khanate live peacefully in harmony with each other and that they are given freedom and equality by the khan.

In the fourth paragraph, it was determined that the appointment of people who have won the trust of the people and elected them to the positions of ministers and other high positions, that the officials and begs who are displeased by the people should be immediately dismissed from their duties and if their illegal actions are detected and proven, they should be punished according to the rules of Sharia.

In the fifth paragraph of the manifesto, salaries were assigned to all ministers, officials and other public servants according to their positions.

According to the sixth paragraph, the State Treasury will be established to manage the financial affairs of the Khanate of Khiva. It was established that all state revenues will be deposited into the treasury and spent by the decree of the constitutional government based on Sharia rules.

Also, in the manifesto, it was decided to establish a Temporary Committee consisting of 30 people through popular election to control the work activities of high-ranking officials [5. 67].

On April 6, 1917, young Khiva residents gathered a large number of people in the Old Ark Square and demanded the Khan to publish a manifesto. Khusainbek Matmurodov read the manifesto to the gathered people in the presence of Asfandiyar Khan and his close associates [7. 19]. From April 6, 1917, the young people of Khiva began to form the "Administrative Organization" and the Council of Supervisors, as defined in



the manifesto. A message was sent to all the Beliks in the Khanate asking them to send a representative to the meeting, and the Turkmen were also invited to send their representatives [5. 134].

Elections were held at the end of April. First of all, the number of members of the assembly was 30 people, as indicated in the manifesto. Later, at the suggestion of Grandfather Okhun Salimov, Turkmen, Kazakh, Karakalpak representatives representing the interests of all nationalities were included in the khanate, making it 49 people. 21 young people from Khiva were elected to the Council of Majlis and Supervisors. On April 26, 1917, the first meeting of "Idorai mashrutiya" was opened. Husaynbek Matmurodov was elected as the chairman of the supervisory board, and Bobo Okhun Salimov was elected as the chairman of the meeting [8, 122]. P. Yusupov was assigned the task of conducting negotiations with the Russian government and military [3, 84]. Representatives of young Khiva people were mainly elected to other important positions in the Majlis and the Board of Supervisors.

The young Khiva citizens, who limited the power of the khan and took control of the state to a certain extent, built roads and bridges for themselves, formed a committee to establish new method schools throughout the territory of the khanate, reformed water distribution, abolished forced labor, and established a finance ministry to control the use of state funds, who started practical activities in order to build hospitals and solve other urgent tasks of their time. The meeting discussed the question of measuring the lands in the khanate in order to regulate the tax system, which was started by the former progressive minister of Asfandiyar Khan, Islamkhoja, but stopped after his death. The property of young Khiva residents and other Khiva citizens seized by the khan was returned in accordance with the decision of the assembly. A number of activities were carried out on giving land to farmers, endowment, and educational work. Apart from these, the issue of Turkmen representatives at the meeting on Uzbek-Turkmen national relations was discussed [3, 12].

On April 5, 1917, a telegram was sent to Petrograd signed by Asfandiyarkhan and Khusainbek Matmurodov to the Chairman of the Russian State Duma, M.V. Rodzyanko, the Chairman of the Council of Ministers, Prince Lvov, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Milyukov, in which it was announced that the Khanate had been transferred to constitutional rule based on Sharia and that the Council of Supervisors had been formed [9, 110].

The members of the government lacked the experience to manage the country based on a completely new method for the Khanate of Khiva. Great difficulties were encountered in the field of elections and finances. They sent a telegram to the Central Council of Russian Muslims, asking them to send Muslim experts with experience in public administration as help [10, 120].

The Provisional Government of Russia was very dissatisfied with the appeal of the Young Khiva government to the Central Council of Russian Muslims for help. In the Khanate of Khiva, it was forbidden to make any changes without the permission of the Provisional Government [11. 185]. Major-General Mirbadalov, the military commissar of



the provisional government under the Khan of Khiva, was assigned to strictly control the reforms of the government of the young Khiva people.

The support that young Khiva people expected from the new Russian government in carrying out democratic reforms in the khanate did not materialize. The provisional government, let alone helping in the implementation of reforms, strengthened the relationship with the khan and worked against the government of the young Khiva people.

Young Khiva people fought as much as they could to fulfill the tasks they had set before them. However, the khan, his supporters and general Mirbadalov organized various conspiracies and attacks against the young Khiva people and hindered their work. In February 1917, when the tsarist government was overthrown in Russia, Asfandiyar Khan lost his main support and was isolated for some time. Later, with the support of the representative of the Provisional Government, General Mirbadalov, he began to try to remove the young Khiva people from the government. Khan and his supporters tried to derail the political situation in the country in order to discredit the government of the young Khiva people. Asfandiyar Khan even gave various gifts to the leaders of Turkmen armed groups and encouraged them to attack cities and villages [3. 86]. Such groups attacked the towns of Porsu, Iloli, Manoq, Kokhna Urganch, and Tashkhovuz for road robbery. As a result, the affected population begins to complain to the government. However, the government of the young Khiva did not have the weapons to fight against the robbers. Khan hides the weapons he has and does not give [3. 86]. Russian troops were under Mirbadalov. The appeal of the government of the young Khiva people to Tashkent for weapons also ended without result [5. 134].

In June 1917, an extraordinary political situation arose in Khiva Khanate. A group of priests and officials who were supporters of the Khan organized a demonstration against the rule of the young Khiva near the Old Ark. Members of the Young Khiva movement were declared "apostates". After the demonstration, 17 active members of the assembly were arrested along with Prime Minister Khusainbek Matmurodov. Khudoybergan Devonov, Otajon Sapoev, Nazir Sholikorov, Bobojonboy Yakubov, among the leaders of the movement of young Khiva people, were forced to flee to Tashkent.

New members were elected to the Majlis, the clergy and feudal lords who were supporters of the Khan. The inspectors sent from Tashkent were bought by the khan, and Asfandiyar Khan, after that, increased the pressure on the young Khiva people and began to persecute them. Khan and his supporters accused the young Khiva people of violating Sharia law and brought them to the Qazi court. They were found guilty on the basis of false witnesses and it was decided to be punished. A group of young Khiva people fled in all directions with the help of Russian soldiers. Those who did not manage to escape were captured and imprisoned according to the Khan's order.

In conclusion, it can be noted that at the beginning of the 20th century, a progressive democratic movement began to form in Khiva Khanate under the influence of changes in countries such as Russia and Turkey. The February democratic revolution in Russia in



1917 caused further activation of the democratic movement in Khiva Khanate. At first, young Khiva residents hoped for the support of the Provisional Government and tried to implement democratic reforms in the khanate in a peaceful way. Asfandiyar Khan immediately signed the manifesto prepared by young Khiva people in order to save power and pass the time. Later, the conservative forces led by Asfandiyarkhan and with the support of General Mirbadalov, the representative of the Provisional Government, succeeded in removing the young Khiva people from power. Young Khiva residents were persecuted, some were executed, some fled to Petro-Alexandrovsk and Tashkent to save their lives. Young Khiva people did not have the necessary armed forces to fight against the Khan. Therefore, they were forced to ask for help from the Soviet authorities established in Turkestan and Tortkol and pretending to support democracy, equality, and freedom. Taking advantage of this, the Bolsheviks intensified their interference in the internal affairs of the Khiva Khanate under the guise of "freeing the people of Khiva from the tyranny of the Khan."

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