



## **KHIVA KHANATE AND BEKOVICH-CHERKASSKY EXPEDITION**

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### **ABSTRACT**

*This article deals with the actions of the Bekovich-Cherkassky expedition to the Khiva khanate, the purpose of the expedition, the loss of the expedition, the causes of the crash, the embassy missions of the Khiva khanate to Russia sent by Peter I's ambassadors to the Khiva khanate.*

The existence of a rich and heavenly Khiva khanate on the banks of the Amu Darya, which in ancient times flowed into the Caspian Sea and later into the Aral Sea, and its sand-mixed gold reserves prompted St. Petersburg officials to launch an offensive. Information about the presence of gold reserves in the territory of the Khiva khanate led to the organization of an expedition to the territory of the khanate. In addition, Russia was struggling to make up for the losses it had suffered in the wars with Turkey and Sweden, and to fill the void with gold reserves. It is clear from world history that Russia had the most powerful army and navy in the world. was trying to lick. In order to achieve this goal, of course, financial resources were needed. At that time, the information of the ambassador of

Khiva Khoja Nafas about the existence of sand-gold reserves on the banks of the Amu Darya pleased King Peter I and aroused his interest. began to prepare special decrees for the acquisition of gold and began to draw up plans for the conquest of the Khiva khanate. Historian Hamid Ziyoyev writes in his book *The Struggle against Russian Aggression and Dominance in Turkestan* that Peter I sent a decree to the Senate on May 19, 1714, to conquer the Khiva Khanate. On February 14, 1716, Peter I personally interviewed Bekovich-Cherkassky, who had been appointed commander of the first military campaign, and assigned tasks.[1] The tasks set by Peter I included the construction of a 1,000-strong fort at the confluence of the Amu Darya and the Caspian Sea, a careful study



of the Amudarya's streams and dams, and the transfer of the Khiva Khanate to Russian rule. We can cite the example of a number of other missions, such as leaving this military unit to the khan, asking Russian merchants for ships to go to India along the Amu Darya, knowing whether the Khiva khanate wanted to transfer the Emirate of Bukhara to Russian subordination. Historians are amazed at Peter I's decrees, believing in the existence of sand-mixed gold. Thus began an expedition against the Khiva khanate. A 70-strong trade caravan of Tatars will also set out. Bekovich-Cherkassky was to present himself to the Russian government as an ambassador of friendship and peace. Reports that the Russian emperor's army had set out to conquer the Khiva khanate attracted the attention of European countries as well as the khans of Iran, Bukhara, and Kalmykia. Arriving on the banks of the Amu Darya, Bekovich-Cherkassky sent an envoy to the Khiva khanate under the leadership of Kereytov, one of the most influential rich men of Astrakhan. thrown into prison. The khan of Khiva begins his march against Cherkassky with his army, and the battle lasts for three days. In this three-day battle, the superiority of the Russian troops becomes clear. Khiva khan Shergozikhan took a different approach in this situation. That is, he sent his ambassadors to Cherkassky and said that the khan's troops misunderstood the policy of Khiva khan and started a war. According to historian McGahan, Bekovich-Cherkassky agreed to a truce proposed by Shergozikhan's ambassador, given the casualties and losses of his army as he marched through the sand dunes in the scorching heat. Cherkassky sent his ambassador to Shergozikhan. Negotiations

between the two sides began and peace agreements were reached. [2] Shergozikhan uses a number of tricks in negotiations with Bekovich-Cherkassky. The khan, who thought of the interests of his state, was forced to use a trick. On his way to Khiva, he met Cherkassky, who was depressed and separated from his family. he swears by the Qur'an that he has accepted the label of peace and tranquility. This gave Cherkassky a little consolation. Then the khan of Khiva sent Cherkassky to the khan's palace in Khiva.

These events were of interest to Russia in Cherkassky's view. This is as long as the Khiva khan dwells on the issue of keeping Russian troops in Khiva states that it is not possible to keep the army in the khan's small fortress, and offers Cherkassky to place his army in the fortresses in several parts. This proposal was approved by Cherkassky, who issued an order to divide the army, which was one of the decisions that led to the destruction of the Russian expedition. Thus, on August 29, 1717, Bekovich-Cherkassky and his comrades were beheaded. will be lost. The khan of Khiva, with his wisdom and cunning, defends the interests of his people. Shergozikhan Bekovich-Cherkassky sent his severed head to the Emir of Bukhara to show his courage and wisdom. The defeat of the Russian expedition caused a great stir in Europe and even among the peoples of Asia. That is why dozens of works dedicated to this expedition are written. In the sources on the history of the Khiva khanate we can find the name Bekovich-Cherkassky as the State Girey. The works of Munis and Ogahi also contain information about the destruction of this expedition. In particular,



in the work "Firdavs-lighol" it is written about this expedition: "In the Year of the Chicken My uncle, gold and silver culture, his dream, but with the desire of the conquest of Khorezm, he descended to the Aral region. Khan bell Kulmuhammad Atalik and Nayman Amir Avaz inoqni junudi unknown bila adoi millet bayzoni hotel [3] Thus, this defeated expedition terrified Peter I and was forced to change his position slightly towards the Khiva khanate. Peter I's dream of conquering the great land of Khorezm did not come true. According to sources, Peter I respected Bekovich-Cherkassky's military prowess and was very proud of him. The defeat of such a commander did not even occur to Peter I. Unfortunately, the khan of Khiva left the emperor with a plot. Emperor Peter I died with a wish. According to the Khorezmian elders, Peter I bequeathed to my grave that they had surrendered the land of Khiva. After the defeat of the Bekovich-Cherkassky expedition, Russia began to study the Khiva khanate. Many spies are sent to Khiva as merchant tourists. They make topographic maps of each region. At the beginning of the 18th century, in the Khiva khanate, Shahniyazkhan, Shohbatkhan and Khoja Nafas, a Turkmen, betrayed their homeland. However, in the pages of Khiva's history, there were rulers who were ready to do anything for the interests of their people. One of such rulers, Shergozikhan, ascended the throne of Khiva in 1714 and sent letters to other states about his accession to the throne. Later this year, he will send an ambassador to Russia named Ashurbek. History records that this ambassador was extremely wise, enterprising, and courageous. According to the orientalist Zhukovsky, this ambassador was also loved

by Peter I and treated with kindness. The ambassadors were perfect people who loved their country and felt a sense of pride. The ambassadors of the Khiva khanate to Russia were the pride of Khorezm. Although Shergozikhan defeated the Bekovich-Cherkassky expedition, there was a sense of fear of the Russian Empire. He sent his ambassadors to Peter I for the second time in 1720 under the leadership of Uvays Muhammad to restore relations between his state and Russia. The label handed to Uvays Muhammad stated that Khiva was fighting Iran, attacking the Bekovich-Cherkassky expedition in the interests of its own people, but that he respected Peter I. Shergozikhan asked to restore the suspended trade relations. However, the emperor, saddened by the defeat of Bekovich-Cherkassky, imprisoned these ambassadors in St. Petersburg and allowed shame in the pages of world history embassies. went with a proposal to restore political ties. Uvays Muhammad and his comrades die in prison and in exile. The people of Khiva will not forget these perfect ambassadors. Shergozikhan, who heard about the death of the ambassadors, is very sad.

Analyzing the path taken by Shergozikhan as a historian of Khorezm, we undoubtedly consider it a reasonable path. Because the khan did this for the sake of the independence of his state. If Shergozikhan was replaced by a ruler like Shahniyazkhan, I think the period of the Khiva khanate's transformation into a Russian state would begin at that time. Peter I canceled all his wishes. Peter I sent his trusted commander Bekovich-Cherkassky to Khiva in charge of the expedition without a detailed plan,



because the fantasies about gold had taken over his whole mind. Russia has not given up its intention to occupy Khiva. On the contrary, efforts will be made to prepare more thoroughly. As a historian, this expedition is of great importance in the history of Khiva. Firstly, this expedition will radically change Russia's position on Khiva. Secondly, it will cause Russia to prepare carefully. This in turn is later the conquest of the Khiva khanate will certainly come in handy. It is no exaggeration to say that it will help to conquer not only Khiva, but the whole Turkestan region, because the Russian government, which drew conclusions from the collapse of this expedition, will now begin to study the Central Asian khanates secretly. This, of

course, was achieved through spies sent as ambassadors and tourists. The defeat of the Bekovich-Cherkassky expedition was as painful for the Russian Empire as it was for the people of Khiva. Shergozikhan wisely destroyed one of the most trusted commanders of the Russian emperor. But it was the defeat of this expedition that led to the severance of trade relations between the two countries. The embassy missions sent by him were also destroyed by order of Peter I. Although trade relations between the two countries were restored during the reign of Russian emperors after Peter I, Russia's main goal was to conquer the Khiva khanate. Unfortunately, Russia achieved this goal 156 years after the defeat of the Bekovich-Cherkassky expedition.

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