

THE POLITICAL SYSTEM OF BUKHARA KHANATE

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Annotation: This article examines some of the court and administrative positions during the Ashtarkhanid dynasty's rule. It also analyzes their duties. The article provides an overview of the governance system of the Bukhara Khanate through various high and low-ranking positions.

Keywords: devonbegi, devonbegi-yi kalon, mahram, chig'atoybegi, mushrif and mushrifi kalon, parvonachi, dodkhoh, inoq and inoq-i kalon, mehtar and mehtar-i kalon, xoja-yi kalon and their duties.

Annotatsiya: Ushbu maqolada Ashtarxoniylar hukumronligi davridagi ayrim bir dargoh va devondagi mansab-lavozimlar tadqiq etilgan. Shuningdek, ularning vazifalari tahlil etilgan. Ushbu maqolada Buxoro Xonligining boshqaruv tizimiga katta kichik lavozimlar orqali nazar solinadi.

Kalit so'zlar: devonbegi, devonbegi-yi kalon, mahram, chig'atoybegi, mushrif va mushrifi kalon, parvonachi, dodxoh, inoq va inoq-I kalon, mehtar va mehtar-I kalon, xo'jayi kalon lavozimlarining vazifalari.

Аннотация: В данной статье исследуются некоторые должности в court и административной системе в период правления Аштарханидов. Также анализируются их обязанности. В статье рассматривается система управления Бухарским ханством через различные высокие и низкие должности.

Ключевые слова: девонбеги, девонбеги-и калон, махрам, чигатойбеги, мушриф и мушриф-и калон, парвоначи, додхох, инок и инок-и калон, мехтар и мехтар-и калон, хожайи калон и их обязанности.

INTRODUCTION AND RELEVANCE OF THE TOPIC. In the 17th century, certain changes in the system of governance in the

Bukhara Khanate began to be observed. The issue has been discussed several times in the research of some local scholars. In the early 20th century, V.V. Bartold introduced a very important excerpt from the final part (conclusion) of the 6th volume of Bahr ul-Asror, which is dedicated to the ceremony at the court of Nadr Muhammad Khan, into scientific circulation. [1.38] Later, A.A. Semyonov also contributed to this field, and with his efforts, the article (Бухарский трактат о чинах и званиях и об обязанностях носителей их в средневековой Бухаре // On the Ranks and Titles of Bukhara) was published in 1948 year. In M.A. Abduraimov's monograph, information about the governance system of the Bukhara Khanate is also provided. B.A. Ahmedov investigated the governance system of Balkh during the Ashtarkhanids period. State governance information is also found in the works of Akbar Zamonov, the Turk historian Selim Serkan, and others. There is a large amount of material related to state governance and the description of certain state officials holding power during the Ashtarkhanids period in sources such as Bahr al-Asror, Tarikh-i Muqimkhoni, Ubaydallanoma, and Tarikh-i Abulfayzkhon. Valuable material on this topic can also be found in the memoirs of Russian ambassadors who were present at the courts of Central Asian rulers and participated in various palace ceremonies.

DISCUSSION AND RESULTS. The system of governance in the Ashtarkhanids state gradually developed, and during the time of the Khans, the scope of powers for various positions changed. By the Ashtarkhanids period, one prominent feature in the state governance system became clear: power was primarily concentrated in one institution-the

dargah (high court or highest devon), both at the center and in the provinces. During the reigns of certain Khans, central power was held by palace officials, while local power was in the hands of provincial rulers. Also, the scope of powers for certain positions expanded, changed, or contracted over time. The Khanate included the Majlis-i Alo, Mashvarat-i khoni, and divisions without advisors (devon). At this time, certain positions were traditionally held by members of specific tribes. Later, this became a customary tradition and led to the development of a bureaucratic system. For example, the city of Shahrisabz was governed only by the Kenagas. This, however, led to the negative consequence of encouraging separatism.

The main goal of any monarchical state is to consolidate the Khan's authority through coercive powers such as judicial authority, the army, and others. At the same time, the settled population almost always supports the state system, as the system's reliable and efficient functioning provides security and, correspondingly, economic prosperity for the settled population. According to Semyonov's article (Бухарский трактат о чинах и званиях и об обязанностях носителей их в средневековой Бухаре// On the Ranks and Titles of Bukhara) all positions in the Bukhara Khanate and Balkh were divided into 4 categories and more than 10 classes, based on their importance. According to Russian ambassador B. Pazukhin's data, M.A. Abduraimov believes that the reason for this classification can be found in the organization of the ceremonies themselves. Pazukhin wrote: "The king was at his place, the Khan's sitting place was called the appearance place, and this place was elevated by 6 steps." The 2 steps closest to the Khan were unoccupied by anyone, and from the 4th step onward, officials sat on them. The throne itself had four cushions, on which the Khan would sit. As mentioned earlier, in Ashtarkhanids courts, the left side was considered the most respected during official ceremonies.[2.140]

Devonbegi: An official who deals with state finance. He took into account the income and expenditure of the treasury. This position was

called "sahib-i devon" in Iran. [3.137-153] He was considered the second most important person after the ruler. Although the title of Devonbegi is mentioned after the names of some amirs in various sources of Central Asia, the related duties are rarely mentioned. Some of the available data analysis indicates that Devonbegis performed military, economic, and diplomatic tasks. While Eastern sources do not show Devonbegi's role in diplomatic documents, Russian sources indicate that Devonbegi received trust and praise labels from ambassadors and handed them over to the Khan at the time of their reception. [2.143] According to Pazukhin, Devonbegi presented letters to ambassadors on the Khan's orders.

Devonbegi-yi kalon: The person responsible for collecting the kharaj tax, ensuring the accuracy of the records in the register. He transferred the collected cash taxes to the treasury, which was managed by Mextar. The taxes collected in kind were transferred to the landowners. Additionally, the supervision of water distribution in the Qorakul district was assigned to the Great Devonbegi.[3.147] According to Alikseev, under certain conditions, the Devonbegi-yi kalon might have performed the duties of the state treasurer.[2.143]

Parvonachi: According to Semyonov, the third most important position in the Khanate was the "Khan's Secretary" (Parvonachi, from Persian-Turkic meaning "administrator"). This role involved delivering the Khan's decrees or orders to the amirs or officials. The official's decree was uniquely folded by the Parvonachi and placed in the official's hat or turban. [4.149] He often held positions as commanders of large military units or governors of significant provinces. Thousands of both nomadic and settled Arabs in the Bukhara Khanate were under the command of the Parvonachi as heads of the Arab divisions (Arab Mingbashi, Mir-Hazara-yi Arab).[3.147]

Dodkhoh: A person who advocated for justice and delivered petitions or complaints from the people to the Khan. He also ensured that responses to complaints or requests were delivered back to the petitioners.[4.157] During the rule of Imamquli and Nadr

Muhammad in the Ashtarkhanid dynasty, the position of Dodxoh was considered very high and honorable. Mahmud ibn Wali in the final part of the sixth volume of "Bahr al-Asrar" mentions that Nadr Muhammad Khan assigned the duties of the Dodxoh in Balkh, which included "eliminating state enemies, punishing rebels, military affairs (important military affairs), the affairs of the common people (subjects), devon affairs, and the work of the kingdom in various regions, with the exception of these tasks." Additionally, Mahmud ibn Wali also mentions the dodkhoh as the head of the palace attendants, noting his modest position in organizing palace ceremonies. Given the duties of Mansur Khoja outlined earlier, these are very interesting facts. Sometimes, significant diplomatic missions were entrusted to the Dodkhoh. Mansur Khoja played an important role in the negotiations with India in the 1638 year.[2.144] The significance of the dodkhoh's position is also noted by the author of "Ubaydullanoma," Mir Muhammad Amin Bukhari, who in his account of his life and entry into the service of the Bukhara Khan's court, referred to himself as the "protector of power" and wrote extensively about the patronage he received from Bek Muhammadbiy, the Dodkhoh.[5.13]

Chighatoybegi: The leader of the Chighatoy tribe. He was assigned the task of managing the Amirobod district and overseeing the irrigation system.[3.150]

Inoq-i kalon: A person responsible for delivering decrees or orders issued by the Khan to representatives of the non-aristocratic classes (those who are not amirs).[3.148]

Inoq-i khurd: A lower-ranking inoq. He was responsible for sealing decrees or orders issued by the Khan or an Amir. He also carried out the task of delivering letters from ambassadors to the Khan or transmitting the Khan's letters to the ambassadors.[5.190]

Mehtar: The person responsible for collecting the zakat tax, which was 1/40 of the wealth of Muslims, 1/20 of the wealth of non-Muslims subject to Muslims, and 1/10 of the wealth of non-Muslims who were forcibly made subjects. He also oversaw property, goods, livestock, and other assets whose

ownership was unknown. [4.142] In 1708, Ubaydullakhon carried out a monetary reform in consultation with Mehtar Shofe and the treasurer Khoja Bolta Saroy.

Mehtar-i kalon: According to B. Ahmedov, the primary duties of the Mehtar-i kalon were to provide for the Khan and his family through taxes such as ushr and zakat, as well as to purchase property for the needs of the palace. [4.19] The Mehtars in the devon (court) reported to the chief Mehtar. They were responsible for receiving, registering, and ensuring the accuracy of the wealth in the Khan's storerooms. [2.152]

Mushrif-i kalon: The person responsible for keeping records of the salaries of the army, military personnel, and scholars, as well as the weapons and military supplies.[6.17]

Mushrif: The person in charge of distributing various gifts and rewards from the treasury, and keeping a record of them.[3.141]

Khoja-yi kalon (khoja-yi buzurg): The person responsible for guarding the khan's harem and providing food, clothing, and other necessary supplies to the harem.[4.148]

Mahram: A lower-ranking official in the palace who performed various minor tasks in the presence of the Khan. During the reign of Ubaydullakhon, the status of this title slightly increased. According to the Ubaydullanoma, it is mentioned that the Mahram took advantage of the conflicts between Ubaydullakhon and the military, disregarded the military, and gave them orders. [4.147]

CONCLUSION. The intricate system of governance within the Bukhara Khanate reveals the deep intertwining of administrative roles, power structures. The categorization of positions, from the highest echelons such as the Devonbegi and Parvonachi, to the lower-ranking officials like the Mahram, demonstrates the functional complexity and hierarchical nature of the Khanate's bureaucracy. Each official, whether tasked with economic, military, or diplomatic duties, played a vital role in maintaining the stability of the state. The careful allocation of titles and responsibilities, as detailed in Semyonov's article and supported by various sources, not only ensured the efficient administration of the

realm but also reflected the importance of Khan's prestige.
ceremony and protocol in reinforcing the

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