



# THE AGREEMENTS OF RUSSIA AND GREAT BRITAIN IN CENTRAL ASIA

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## Abstract:

The article shows that the diplomatic agreements between Russia and Britain on Central Asia, as a result of Russia's invasion of Central Asia, the Central Asian region has become an arena of political disputes between the two great empires.

**Keywords:** Russia, Britain, Central Asia, colonial policy, aggression, struggle for foreign markets, Afghanistan, sphere of influence between empires, demarcation of borders, escalation of international relations.

## INTRODUCTION

At the end of the 19th century, Russia's military actions in Central Asia confused the British government. That is why the Russian troops. He managed to bring British troops into Afghanistan under the pretext that his approach to the Amu Darya would pose a threat to the British colonies in the East. The Treaty of Laziness, signed in March 1869 between Amir Sher Ali Khan and England, was the first step in the intensification of Britain's foreign policy expansion in the Middle East.

After the signing of this agreement, Britain began to seek an agreement with Russia. This agreement, on the one hand, was to draw Russia's attention to the resistance to Russia's movement in Central Asia and, on the other hand, with various unfounded and dry games, while itself was preparing for a drastic act of aggression. The British government also acknowledged that there should be a neutral zone between the British and Russian colonies in Asia. Russia also supported the British government's idea. For example, he noted that Afghanistan could play the role of such a neutral zone, especially since the territory of Afghanistan is completely different from the territory of Britain.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

The Russian government has shown that two important aspects of the issue need to be addressed. First, Russia recognized Afghanistan's independence and said it would not interfere in its affairs and oppose intervention. Second, it was stressed that the area between the two properties should be independent and not be pressured by either side. These aspects were important. He suggested in written agreements between the British and Russian governments that a solid border should be established in Afghanistan, which could be crossed by the upper reaches of the Amu Darya.

The Indian government, which was informed that the deal was being carried out, also intervened in the interests of Britain asking for permission to comment, he acknowledged that it would be appropriate if the border line was to pass through the northern part of Afghanistan. The British government suggested that the territories of Maymana, Saripul, Shiberghan, Oqcha, Andkhoy, and Balkh, which are predominantly Uzbek, and the Shunan, Roshan, and Vokhan estates of Badakhshan on the left bank of the Amu Darya, that is, Afghan Turkestan, should be left to Afghanistan. These small estates retained their independence until 1849.

It was occupied by Dostmuhammad and included in his property in the same year. Afghan garrisons lived on large estates such as Balkh, Mazar-i-Sharif, Akcha, and Tashkurgan. The internal management of the population was in the hands of the local Uzbek and Tajik rich. After the death of Amir Dostmuhammad, as a result of civil wars, these properties became independent again. When Sher Ali Khan became the Emir, he subdued them again. Before 1874, Maymana, then Saripul and Shiberghan were subordinated to the Emir of Kabul. Andkhoy remained a semi-independent khanate until 1878. In 1873, Badakhshan was added to the Sher Ali Khan state. The British state had two goals in helping to annex these territories to the lands of Sher Ali Khan. The first was to divert the attention of the Afghan emir to the northern provinces, concentrating his forces in the area and keeping them within his sphere of influence. Second, the British believed that Sher Ali Khan's state would still be subordinate and vassal to them. It was therefore expedient to occupy the upper reaches of the Amudarya, which were of strategic and economic importance.

According to the British press, Britain will never be interested in the interests of Afghanistan. "If we comment on the Oxus line or any border, we will determine it based on our own interests, not on the interests of the Emir of Kabul. We are not concerned about the unity of the Afghan kingdom, but about the security of British India. This will be a real assessment of our relationship with Badakhshan." According to Russian General MA Terentev, it is not a question of Britain's attitude to Badakhshan and Vakhon, which are poor and of little use, but to the territories bordering the

Amu Darya. The purpose of the British was clear, when the Afghans came out to the river, they could use the Amudarya fleet under the Afghan flag. At the suggestion of the British government, the Indian government claimed that it would support the idea of including the Khiva, Bukhara, and Kokand khanates of Central Asia in the Russian-occupied territories, which had assumed Russian recognition of their independence, as Afghanistan's border areas included. The memorandum of the Indian state included the territory up to the Amu Darya in the time of Dostmuhammad, which Sherahli Khan not only inherited but also ruled directly. The appeals of British diplomats to Alexander II were denied by the Russian Foreign Ministry.

In September 1869, after a meeting of Clarendon with the foreign ministers of the parties in Heidelberg, the Anglo-Russian treaty entered a new phase. G. Clarendon expressed the dissatisfaction of the British government, saying that in the last five years, after the Russians occupied Bukhara and Samarkand, their territory moved to the south. In the near future, the Russian army will march on Balkh, so Britain must defend its interests. In this regard, Britain again raised the issue of a neutral zone and acknowledged that the Amudarya would be the border line. Russian Foreign Minister Gorchakov refrained from giving an open response. From October 30 to November 1, 1869, the head of the Indian government department, Forsyth, met with the Chancellor of the Russian Government, A.M. Gorchakov, and the Minister of War, D.A. Milyutin. The issue of trade with Central Asia was discussed at these meetings. Forsyth has largely sought to soften Russia's trade policy in the country. Stremoukhov and Milutin, realizing the British move, agreed that Russia did not want to squeeze Britain out of Turkestan's trade, but instead developed a special definition for Britain with the Foreign Office and, of course, established trade through Turkestan.

Gorchakov then reports on the outcome of the conversation in his report for Alexander II:

1. The borders of Afghanistan are, in fact, the places where Amir Sherahli Khan occupied. The British government guarantees that it will not expand to the north.
2. Russia has a great influence on Bukhara, but it cannot be allowed to expand its territory at the expense of Afghanistan.
3. If Russia then launches war against Bukhara, it will not march on Afghanistan, even if it occupies part or all of the emirate. Because the British government will not allow this to happen. He demands that the Afghan ruler warn his northern neighbor.
4. Russia has no intention of occupying Kashgar, but is in favor of establishing neighborly and trade relations with it. But it does not recognize it as a state. First, it does not believe in the stability of the state. Second, it was not even recognized by China. British diplomats began to point out that the Russians had allegedly recognized Badakhshan as the property of Sherahlikhan as a result of the discussion. In particular, during a discussion with the representatives of Bukhara, Amir Dostmuhammad began to recognize that Badakhshan was the property of Afghanistan since the occupation of Herat. Both sides could not convince each other. According to Russian diplomacy, both sides have their vassals on the border issue, Russia considered it necessary to consult with the Governor-General of Turkestan and Britain with the representatives of India. At the same time, as Sherahlikhan consolidated the internal situation of the country, he began to seize the small estates behind the Hindu Kush one by one. In the middle of 1869, Sherahlikhan first conquered Maymana and then Kunduz. In 1870, the Afghan army intensified its attack and captured Andhoy, where a fortress began to be built. This rapid expansion movement was being carried out by the Afghan emir with the advice and support of the British.

In order to justify the invasion of Sherahli Khan, England seized property on the north bank of the Amu Darya blamed the Emirate of Bukhara for the covert occupation. Russia has not yet recognized these occupied territories. In May 1870, the Indian government sent a letter to the Minister of the Indian Department, Duke Argalsky, proposing a new solution to the problem. It raised the issue of the strict division of the Afghan border and the division of political influence in Central Asia. Apparently, the issue of neutral territory seems to have been abandoned in this letter. At the time of the demarcation of the Afghan border, the territory under Dost Mohammad was to be taken as a basis at the suggestion of the Indian government. In the north, the main border was to be drawn along the Amu Darya from Balkh in the west and in the eastern part of Badakhshan in the east. In the north-west, the border was to pass between the Khoja Salih and Kerki crossings, and to include Afghanistan's Balkh, Andhoi, Maymana and Herat, and the Herirud and Murgab rivers. The main focus of this agreement is on the strategic point of Hodja Salih. A. Burns also noted the importance of the address. But Stremoukhov suspected him. However, England in government correspondence he asked to keep Hodja Salih as part of Afghanistan, albeit at the expense of the Russians, if necessary. The new proposals of the Indian government signaled a change in the previous policy of the British government. The territory of Afghanistan was to include all the provinces of the time of Dost Mohammad and the territory that was part of the state of Sherahlikhan.

The Russian government has acknowledged that it is not opposed to the entry of Khoja Salih into Afghan territory. It is only necessary to determine which territory its boundary passes through. It is noted that Turkmenistan and Merv are of great trade importance for Russia. Because on the territory of Turkmenistan, Russia was fighting against the British spies in Iran.

## CONCLUSION

In short, Russian-British relations have become an arena for Central Asia to pursue new economic goals and expand its territories in order to sell its products.

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