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MILITARY TITLES AND POSITIONS IN THE MILITARY SYSTEM OF THE EMIRATE OF BUKHARA

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Abstract: The article examines the structure of the military organization of the Emirate of Bukhara, the ranks and positions within the army, and their functions. It also analyzes the system of rewards for military service, the provisioning of troops, and the essence of the reforms carried out under Amir Nasrullah.

Keywords: Emirate of Bukhara, Manghits, military rank, qushbegi, parvanachi, tuqsaba, mingboshi, sarboz, artillerymen, tankho, qazi askar.

INTRODUCTION. The Emirate of Bukhara was formed in the mid-eighteenth century with the rise of the Manghit dynasty to power, and the title of amir was adopted by Shahmurad (1785–1800). During the period of its existence until 1920, the emirate's military organization passed through several stages: from a traditional system based on tribal cavalry forces to attempts to establish a regular army, and subsequently to the restriction of military independence as a result of treaties concluded with Russia.

Eshov B. History of State and Local Administration in Uzbekistan. Tashkent: Yangi asr avlodi, 2012.

The tasks of mobilizing troops, supplying them, preparing them for combat, and organizing guard duty were assigned to holders of specific positions. Therefore, studying the system of military ranks and positions in the emirate is important not only for understanding military history but also for understanding the history of state administration. The aim of this article is to demonstrate the composition, functions, and directions of change of these ranks and positions on the basis of scholarly literature.

MAIN PART. The amir was officially considered the supreme commander of the army in the emirate. In practice, however, military affairs were administered through high-ranking

officials. Sources mention the parvanachi as a person who exercised leadership over the army, while in the absence of the amir, the qushbegi was responsible for inspecting the troops. This demonstrates that military and civil positions in the emirate were closely interconnected: a bek, who served as the governor of a province, also commanded the troops in his territory, while his close assistants were the yasavuls under the leadership of the yasavulboshi.

Meyendorff E.K. Journey from Orenburg to Bukhara. Moscow: Nauka, 1975.

Shodiyev J.M. The Formation and State System of the Emirate of Bukhara. Tashkent, 2008.

The lower and middle levels of the army were organized according to a decimal system. A group of ten men was commanded by a dahboshi (leader of ten), fifty men by a panjaboshi (leader of fifty), one hundred men by a yuzboshi (leader of one hundred), five hundred men by a pansadboshi, and one thousand men by a mingboshi. Such an organizational structure was characteristic of almost all Central Asian khanates, and its origins can be traced to much earlier periods. As the head of a major military unit, the mingboshi had the right to carry a banner (tug). The official responsible for stables and fodder was called the mirokhur.

History of Military Affairs in Uzbekistan (From Ancient Times to the Present). Edited by D. Ziyayeva. Tashkent: Sharq, 2012.

Fortresses and large military units were commanded by commanders holding the title of tuqsaba; this rank was considered close to that of a regimental commander in the Russian military system. The naqibs were responsible for planning military campaigns and deploying troops on the battlefield. They were required to have a thorough knowledge of the organization of the army’s vanguard and rear, right and left wings, center, and ambushes. Among the higher military titles, sarkarda, amiri lashkar, dodkhah, and qurbegi are also mentioned.

Vohidov Sh., Xoliqova R. From the History of State Administration in Central Asia. Tashkent: Yangi asr avlodi, 2006.

One distinctive feature of the emirate’s military system was the existence of a separate judicial

and fatwa mechanism for military personnel. Disputes among soldiers and their offenses were examined by the qazi askar, while the mufti askar checked whether the judgment complied with Sharia. Thus, legal issues within the army were resolved separately from civil courts.

History of Military Affairs in Uzbekistan (From Ancient Times to the Present). Edited by D. Ziyayeva. Tashkent: Sharq, 2012.

In the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, the main part of the army consisted of cavalry forces recruited from nomadic and semi-nomadic tribes, including the Manghits, Qungrats, Turkmens, Kipchaks, and others. When war was declared, the beks gathered a certain number of warriors from their territories and joined the amir's forces. Military service was often rewarded with land grants known as tankho, which tied the serviceman to his territory. The weakness of this system was that the army was not permanent: its size and combat readiness depended largely on the loyalty of local rulers.

The formation of a regular army accelerated during the reign of Amir Nasrullah (1827–1860). The new foundation of the army consisted of infantry soldiers known as sarboz and artillerymen, many of whom were recruited from among captives. Each group of ten sarboz was provided with a tent, while weapons and ammunition were transported by horse-drawn carts. Initially, the soldiers' needs were met through food provisions, but later salaries were introduced: a sarboz and an artilleryman received one gold coin every three months, while the salaries of higher-ranking officials were several times greater. Soldiers of the regular army were exempt from taxes and compulsory obligations during their service, and the families of those killed in battle were provided with funds for burial. These measures were intended to transform military service into a profession.

Ravshanov P. History of Shahrisabz (From Ancient Times to the First Quarter of the Twentieth Century). Tashkent, 2011.

Changes also took place in the field of armament. From the middle of the nineteenth century, the importance of firearms—rifles and cannons—increased, while traditional weapons such as swords, spears, and bows became secondary. Cannons were cast in

workshops in Samarkand, gunpowder was produced in Qarshi, and gunpowder specialists were called dorukash. The condition of the cannons was supervised by foreign specialists, including Persian experts. Nevertheless, the scale of weapons production remained limited, and technologically the emirate lagged significantly behind the Russian army.

Shodiyev J.M. The Formation and State System of the Emirate of Bukhara. Tashkent, 2008.

The tradition of rewarding military personnel is also noteworthy. Soldiers and commanders who distinguished themselves in battle were rewarded with money, land, robes, turbans, gold-brocaded and silk fabrics, knives, belts, and swords; high-ranking officers were presented with weapons decorated with gold and precious stones. Such rewards determined not only material benefits but also social status.

The wars with the Russian Empire in the 1860s, particularly after the defeat in 1868, sharply restricted the emirate's independence in foreign policy and military affairs, and the emirate became a Russian protectorate. During the reigns of the subsequent amirs, Abdulahad and Alim Khan, the army retained the traditions of military command, but its significance was largely limited to maintaining internal order and performing ceremonial functions. During this period, the granting of honorary military ranks of the Russian army to the amirs was also one of the signs of the emirate's dependence on the empire.

Eshov B. History of State and Local Administration in Uzbekistan. Tashkent: Yangi asr avlodi, 2012.

CONCLUSION. In conclusion, the system of military titles and positions in the Emirate of Bukhara developed through the combination of the ancient decimal organizational structure, military traditions characteristic of nomadic tribes, and legal regulations based on Sharia. Military and civil positions in the emirate were interconnected, which increased the authority of officials in military command. The establishment of a regular army consisting of sarboz and artillerymen, together with the introduction of a system of salaries and privileges, were among the most important changes in the military sphere during the reign of Amir

Nasrullah. However, these reforms did not produce stable results because they depended on the amir personally and lacked a sufficient technical and economic foundation. After the 1860s, the military potential of the emirate was sharply restricted under the conditions of the Russian protectorate.

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