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INFORMATION ON THE ETHNIC STATUS OF THE FERGANA VALLEY IN THE WORKS OF FOREIGN RESEARCHERS

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ABSTRACT

This article analyzes information on the ethnic status of the population living in the Fergana Valley in the late 19th - early 20th centuries in the works of foreign researchers. The following sources provide important information about the economy, anthropological structure, ethnic composition, customs and rituals of the population of the Fergana Valley.

KEYWORDS: Turkestan, ethnic composition, economy, customs, tribe, ambassador, tourist, Kokand, Andijan, Namangan.

Introduction

In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the Fergana Valley was also studied by foreign researchers, in particular, in works written in English, German, and French, important information about the ethnic situation of the valley was provided.

Relevance and current status of the topic

The work of the American ambassador and researcher Eugene Skyler, "Turkeston", plays an important role in the historiographical analysis of the topic¹. Because this work contains interesting information about the population, ethnic composition, customs, and rituals of the Kokand Khanate².

According to the information in the work, in the 70s of the 19th century, the population of the Kokand Khanate was about one million, and the population lived both sedentary and nomadic. Eugene Skyler's work "Turkeston" states that the majority of the settled population was Uzbek, while the Kokand and western regions were inhabited by Tajiks, and that a small number of peoples such as Jews, Indians, Afghans, and Gypsies lived in the Fergana Valley.

¹ Schuyler E. Turkestan: Notes of a journey in Russian Turkestan, Khokand, Bukhara and Kuldja. Vol.II.- New York, 1885.

² Зиёева Д. Ҳ. Ўзбекистон тарихига оид манба ва тадқиқотлар ... Б.392

Relevance and current status of the topic

Another important work written in English is the work of the traveler Henry Lansdell entitled "Russian Central Asia including Kuldja, Bokhara, Khiva and Merv"³. This work provides information about the famous cities of the Fergana region of the Russian Empire, their population, their ethnic composition, and the location of certain ethnic groups⁴. For example, the work mentions the settlement of the Tajik population in one of the ancient cities of the Fergana Valley, Koson.

According to Henry Lansdell, in the 1880s, the total population of the Fergana region was about 730 thousand, with 60 thousand people living in its major cities of Kokand, 50 thousand in Namangan, 40 thousand in Margilan, and 20 thousand in Andijan and Osh.

Conduct research

Also, the English researcher Annette M. B. Miken, in her work "In Russian Turkestan", wrote important information about the ethnocultural processes, hunting traditions, and material and spiritual culture of the population in the Fergana Valley in the late 19th and early 20th centuries⁵.

Some issues related to the ethnic situation of the Fergana Valley in the late 19th and early 20th centuries are also found in the works of French scholars. For example, the French geographer and historian Jules Tonnelier's "Description of the Kokand Khanate" written in 1868. The work "Geographical Dictionary of Central Asia" contains ethnographic information on the linguistic characteristics, economy, and customs of the population living in the cities of the Kokand Khanate such as Andijan, Osh, Uzgen, Namangan, Khujand, Kokand, and Margilan⁶.

Analysis of the obtained results

Studies in German are also of great importance for the topic of the dissertation. Among such works, the work of the German scientist, General Hans-Hermann Graf von Schweinitz entitled "Orientalische wanderungen in Turkestan und im nordoestlichen Persien" (Oriental Travels: Turkestan and North-Eastern Iran) was created based on the information collected by the author during his travels to Central Asia, including the Fergana Valley, at the beginning of the 20th century⁷.

In his work, the author described the sedentary Uzbek population as follows: "The Russians call the sedentary population west of the Oxus "Sarts". "But this name is not common in Khiva and Bukhara. The population there is known as Uzbek and Tajik. The turbans on the heads of the Sarts always remind them of death."⁸

The work contains information about the ethnocultural processes and the national economy that took place in the Fergana Valley in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. For example, according to the information in the work, during this period, the population of the valley grew cotton, rice, and grain crops. The city of Kokand was a major center for cotton trade. The work also studies the impact of the 1902 Andijan earthquake on the economy of the local and Russian population⁹.

One of the important aspects of this work is that it provides interesting information about the participation of Germans in the process of migration and interethnic integration that took place in the Fergana Valley. The work states that Germans lived in the Fergana Valley at the end of the

³ Russian Central Asia including Kuldja, Bokhara, Khiva and Merv by Henri Lansdell, London. Sampson Low, Martson, Searle and Rivington. 188.Fleet Street.1885.

⁴ Ўзбекистон тарихи. 6-жилд. Асқаров. А ва бошқалар. – Тошкент. О'zbekiston. 2023. Б.246-247.

⁵ Annette M. In Russian Turkestan. A garden of Asia and its people. London. 1903.

⁶ Thonnelier Jules. Geographique de l'Asie centrale. – Paris. Maisanneuve&Cie. 1868. – P.53

⁷ Hans-Hermann graf von Schweinitz. Orientalische wanderungen in Turkestan und im nordoestlichen Persien. Berlin, 1910.

⁸ Hans-Hermann graf von Schweinitz. Orientalische wanderungen in Turkestan...P. 65

⁹ Ўзбекистон тарихи. 6-жилд. Асқаров. А ва бошқалар. – Тошкент. О'zbekiston. 2023. Б.277-281.

19th century and that they had entered the country several years earlier as scientists, merchants, artisans, and technicians. However, at the end of the 19th century, the Russian Empire settled the Russian population in the country and granted them many rights and privileges, which led to a decrease in the number of remaining foreign citizens. In particular, according to the law of 1885, the financial opportunities of foreign citizens, including Germans, in the country were limited. As a result, some Germans who owned large enterprises were forced to accept Russian citizenship, and later the Germans who accepted Russian citizenship integrated into the Russian population living in the valley¹⁰.

Conclusion

In conclusion, important information about the ethnic situation of the population of the Fergana Valley in the late 19th and early 20th centuries can be found in the works of foreign researchers.

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¹⁰ Hans-Hermann graf von Schweinitz. Orientalische wanderungen in Turkestan...P. 88-90.