

## The role of the Governor-General of Turkestan in the relations between Russian Empire and Iran

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### **Abstract:**

This article analyzes the political processes of the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century including diplomatic relations and the role of the Governor-General of Turkestan in this process, proven facts, related to political, trade and economic relations. The Governor-General of Turkestan, the most authoritative body of the Russian Empire in Central Asia, as the Plenipotentiary Representative of the Empire, completely took under control the socio-economic and cultural life of the country, as well as its political life. First of all, the internal and external relations of the khanates were directly subordinated to the interests of the center, and the chain of centuries –old ties were broken. Existing limited contacts were also carried out under the control of imperial officials. Among the survivors of the Central Asian khanates, the Emirate of Bukhara first through a diplomatic representative (until 1885), then through a political agent of the Russian Emperor (1886-1917), the Khiva khanate through a 7-member council and the Amudarya branch of the Sirdarya region and their relations with foreign countries were carried out on the instruction of the Imperial Ministry under the supervision of the Governor-General's Court. Diplomatic relations related to the process are covered in the article by modern methods of historiography and source studies. The data presented were analyzed comparatively. The fact that the data and conclusions drawn from this small scientific study have been confirmed by the competent authorities increases the reliability of the research. Statistical collections, annals and commentaries on the imperial period are proof of our opinion. In the process of global redistribution, Iran, like other Asian countries, has become a battleground for colonial powers. Economically weak and unable to compete with Western European countries in terms of industrial development, Iran became a battleground for the British and Russian empires, which eventually put Iran under economic and political pressure. Iran, dominated by medieval traditions and religious factors was also unable to resist the imperialist powers. The escalation of internal conflicts and the predominance of anti-authoritarian sentiments also took the process out of control. As a result, the future of semi-colonial Iran depends on the mood of imperialist powers.

**Key words.** Persian imperialism, monopoly, khanate, diplomatic relations, empire, colonial policy, Governor-general, office, annal, commentaries, statistics, revolution, Cossak, Official boundary, Diplomatic representative, Sales agency, Bank, economic policy, Dept policy, Delimitation, Vassality, protectorate.

**Introduction:** The history of the 19<sup>th</sup> century is distinguished by the complexities that have arisen in the

history of mankind for economic opportunities.

During this period, economic colonies such as Asia, Africa and Latin America

were conquered by colonial powers. The imperialist states first of all tried to adapt the occupied state not only to maintain its dominance in it for a long time. In the Asian region, Iran, like Central Asia and Afghanistan, has not escaped the attention of great powers. Britain, France and Russia have lost interests in Iran, which was Asia's gateway to India.

Until 1935, Iran's relations with Russia, known as the Persian state, began in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. At the same time, the Russian empire began to organize expeditions to Central Asia, to explore the corridors to India. Historical sources state the Russian expedition led by Alexander Fyodorovich-Jirovogskiy-Zatskin was in Iran from July 8, 1598 to July 1599.[10.12]

The arrival of the expedition to Iran was a period of prosperity of the empire, and the influence of foreign countries was not felt. Iran had also sent ambassadors to Russia. On May 19, 1946, King Abbas I of Iran sent envoys to Russia.[9.3]

The relations between don't deviate from trade and economic relations, taking into account the balance of power. The issue of trade duties was resolved as a key issue in embassy relations. Yurefovich's article "Russia's treaties with the East" details the agreements between Iran and Russia. On September 12, 1723, the first treaty was signed between two states.[6.185] The main issue in the agreement was the transfer of the Caspian region to Russian control.

By this time, Iran weakened by internal social and economic tensions and the invasion of foreign powers, especially Afghanistan, was forced to sign an agreement in the interests of the Russian empire. Following the death of Peter the Great, Russia's policy toward Iran changed. In particular, in 1725 the issue of the return of the Caspian territories to Iran was raised. [4.317] With the Turkish sultanate and the Western European power supporting it at the time the Russian Empire was in the centre of attention, and there was a need to "retreat" for a while on Iran.

On February 13, 1729, a treaty on the same subject was signed in Resht. [6.190] With the signing of the treaty, the Tsarist government tried to save itself from such a sharp blow as waging war on two fronts, the result of which was reflected in the Russian-Turkish war of 1769-1774.

The Russian-Iranian treaties signed in Resht on January 21, 1732[6.194], in Ganja on March 10, 1735, combined economic and trade features. [6.202]

By the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, signs of inequality in Russia's policy toward Iran began to fall. Relations between two countries began to deteriorate as the empire began to try to enter the Caucasus at this time. As a result of the Russian occupation of Georgia in 1801, the borders became closer. Abbas, the successor to the Iranian throne in Azerbaijan, considered the occupation of Georgia by the Russian Empire as a future threat to Iran. That is why Iran chose to distance itself from Russia and rely on British support in a possible war with it, Russian Empire meanwhile insisted that Georgia joined the empire voluntarily and tried to prevent France and Britain from entering the Caucasus. [7.32] In his monograph "History of Iran", M. S. Ivanov also mentions that King George XII of Georgia asked to be annexed to Russia. [5.226]

Georgia's incorporation into the Russian Empire in 1801 upset the balance between two countries and led to political conflict. In this process, Iran gained international significance and began to make political and military combinations with western countries on the basis of common interests. Napoleon Bonaparte had emerged as a new ally for Iran, which was seeking British support in the war against Russia. Napoleon, who believed that India was in the hands of those who ruled the world was planning to form an alliance with Iran and Afghanistan and go to India by land. In 1807, a Franco-Iranian treaty was signed in Finkeinstein for this purpose. In the agreement France guaranteed Iran the restoration of its dominance in the South Caucasus and the reorganization of the Iranian army. [2.31]

Iran signed the treaty and began preparing for war with Russia. The same year, a French army led by General Gardan arrived in Iran. [5.226]

However, the course of events was reversed for Iran. The signing of the Treaty of Tilsit between Russia and France in 1807 and Russia's annexation of Britain to the "Continent Siege" led to the neglect of the Franco-Iranian treaty. Taking advantage of the situation, the British Empire sent a mission led by Elfinston in 1809. The mission's main task was to destroy the French-Iranian-Afghan alliance and strengthen Britain's position in the region. The Elfinston mission achieved its burning goals.

Eventually a war broke out between Russia and Iran. The war ended in 1813 with the signing of the Treaty of "Gulistan" on the defeat of Iran. According to the Treaty, Iran, together with Georgia, lost the territories such as Shuragel, Imeretia, Mingrilia, Abkhazia, Karabakh, Gandja, Shirvan, Derbend, Kubinsk, Bakinsk, Talishlar. [2.32] In this way, Iran came under the influence of the Russian Empire. The Russian Empire used Iran's economic clout to forcibly transfer to the Iranian government the agreements and demands it agreed with. This was reflected in the Treaty of Turkmenchoy of February 10, 1828. [6.214]

By the 1970s, relations between Russia and Iran began to move forward. First of all, there was a need to rely on the Russian army in the internal conflicts that were brewing against the tyrannical regime, secondly. This was explained by the need to delimit the border between the Turkmen lands in Central Asia and Iran, which was occupied by the Russian Empire in accordance with the interests of the Empire. In 1881, as a result of the conquest of the Akhal-Teke oasis in Turkmenistan by Tsarist Russia, an agreement was signed between the lands of the Russian Empire in Central Asia and Iran. [1.277] Even before the Russian tsar, Iran was trying to create conditions for itself in the international arena on Afghanistan and Central Asia. For example, Gokov O.A. wrote that the 1878

Berlin Congress gave Russia an opportunity to move to Herat. [1.275]

The consolidation of the Russian Empire in the Iranian army was important for both Iran and the empire. According to G.Potapov, The Iranian army was reorganized by Russian and a Cossack regiment led by Russian officers was formed. [3.142] In this way, the Russian empire strengthened its position in the royal palace of Iran and in the army. Russia's position in the army could also be seen in the suppression of the Iranian revolution of 1905-1911. Under the auspices of the Russian army, the Iranian revolution was completely suppressed. Empire's participation in the suppression of the revolution also contributed to the further consolidation of the empire in Iran. O.A.Gokov gave a detailed account of the signing of the Russia-Iran Treaty of 1881 and the delimitation of borders in his article "Russian-Iranian demarcation of 1881-1886". According to the Boundary Commission began its work on October 15, 1881. [1.278] The representative Commission by the Russian Empire was I.A.Zinovyev. From November 18, 1880 to January 28, 1881 I. A. Zinovyev served as an adviser to the Iranian king of the Russian Empire [1.280].

Of course, the Iranian government had not always been accustomed to the policies of the Russian Empire. The main reason for this was the revolts of various classes in Iran against the horn regime and the domination of foreign capital. The slow development of capitalist relations in Iran, the fact that leadership of the masses was only in the ashes of the clergy who wanted the order, had prevented the emergence of bourgeois revolutions in Iran as in Western Europe. Under similar pressure, the Shah of Iran opposed Russian capital and their policies in the country. The tsarist government sent N.I.Yangiula to help I. A. Zinovyev. [1.284]

Although, Iran's border with the Turkmen was drawn in 1881, by August 12, 1884, the population, land and water were divided between Atek and Dergiyaz, Kelat. [1.289] The delimitation process had not always been followed. This was

due to the fact that the borders with Afghanistan were not demarcated and the agreements of the opposition were not recognized. Therefore, the secret treaty of December 10, 1881, was formalized only in 1893, when the borders with Afghanistan were demarcated in 1885-1887. Historian Jean-Paul Roux argues that this treaty was written in 1882.[39.328] Thus showing that Iran was a semi-colonial state in the ashes of great powers.

**Material and methods:** The main sources of information on the subject are the works of Russian historians, statistical collections of the Imperial period. Because most of the information and archives of this period were written in Russian, as well as the issue of coverage of new history in Uzbekistan, requires a careful re-analyses of the sources, to take a hackneyed position without expressing the views of classes or systems. In covering the topic, the focus was on the method of comparative analyses. Contradictory information was supplemented by scientific articles prepared on the basis of information confirmed by the competent authorities.

**Results:** The results of the study show that the Russian Empire, like other capitalist countries, took an active part in the transformation of Iran into a semi-colonial state. The study confirmed the foreign policy of the Russian Empire and other imperialist states on the basis of relevant sources. At the same time, the data on the historiography of interstate trade and economic relations were supplemented on the basis of proven evidence. The activity of the Governor-General of Turkestan, who took an active part in the relations of the Russian Empire with Iran since the 1980`s, was revealed. The main source for the coverage of the object of study was the documents of the Court of the Governor-General of Turkestan, which was the plenipotentiary Representative in Turkestan and the reports and statistical collections based on its instructions. The political and economic relations of the Russian Empire with Iran covered the activities of the

Governor-General of Turkestan; and the history of Turkestan in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and the early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries was filled with new information.

**Discussion:** As a result of the colonial policy that arose as a result of the development of economic relations, along with Turkestan, Iran became a disputed territory between the Russian Empire and the British empire. It was the regions of Central Asia that fell to the edge of the Russian Empire as a result of inter-imperial agreements.

Since the establishment of Governor-General of Turkestan in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century as a result of military operations in Central Asia, the Russian Empire began to function as an organization that consistently pursued the foreign policy of the empire in the Asian region. As a result of military expeditions in 1879- 1885, the empire conquered the Turkmen territory and formed the Caspian region. Although the empire was heavily opposed in the region, sources such as Merv, Iolatan, Serakhs and Tadjan joined voluntarily in 1884, according to sources.[35.4]

The conquest of the territory of Turkmenistan and the struggle of the local people against the invaders are also reflected in local sources. The Ministry of Defense of the Russian Empire sent a written report of the Governor-General of Turkestan on the Turkmen march and its results. With the formation of the Caspian region, under the control of the Governor-General of Turkestan, the region began active economic relations with Afghanistan, Iran and the Caucasus through the Caspian sea, European countries.

The office of the governor-General of Turkestan annually received the reports of the governors of the regions, through which the relevant documents were issued. The location of the Caspian region, the availability of water and land routes in trade relations also had a positive impact on trade relations in the region.

The foreign policy pursued by Tsarist Russia directly through the Governor-

General of Turkestan can be conditionally described as follows.

1. In the Turkestan-Iranian direction.
2. In the Turkestan-Afghanistan direction.
3. Turkestan-Bukhara and Khiva.
4. Turkestan and other bordering or Muslim countries of Asia.

It is clear from the above division that the Governor-General of Turkestan was the main foreign policy body of the Russian Empire in Asia. The Caspian region, with its convenient geographical location, played a major role in Tsarist Russia's relations with Iran.

Turkestan-Iranian relations during this period were an integral part of Russian-Iranian relations and they were conducted under the direction of St. Petersburg and the Governor-General of Turkestan. It should be noted that the interaction between two countries was carried out not only through Turkestan, but also through the protectorates of the Russian Empire in the region such as the Bukhara Emirate and the Khiva Khanate. The Caspian region had also played an important role in the Russian Empire's political and economic relations with Afghanistan as we have seen in previous studies. [36.53]

Relations with Bukhara, which became a protectorate, were first controlled by a diplomatic agent (1873-1885) and then by a political agency of the Russian Empire (1886-1917). [37.117-120] And the Khiva Khanate was controlled by the Amudarya branch (1873-1917). [38.29-30]

The socio-economic situation in Iran at that time also made it difficult to compete with the colonial powers. Due to the international process in the Caucasus, the Russian Empire clarified its relations with Western European countries. The empire skillfully used a treaty with Iran to gain a foothold in the country. Historical facts confirm that the relations between two countries were originally related to trade and economic relations. One such source is the information of the Russian Senate of July 3, 1779, which states that wine and grapes were imported from Iran to Astrakhan. [8-55] These data show that the relations between two countries have a

historical basis. It should be noted that Russia's relations with Iran were carried out mainly through the Caspian region. For this reason, the statistics on the Caspian region are the main source of trade and economic relations between Russia and Iran in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Because one of the obligatory orders of the tsarist government was the annual reporting of the governors of the provinces under the Governor-General of Turkestan. These annual reports were included in the annual commentary in the form of statistics. For this reason, in the coverage of Russian-Iranian trade and economic relations in this period, it is necessary to choose the Caspian region's commentaries based on the reports of the military governors of the Caspian region as the main source and pay attention to its importance in covering events.

The 1882-1890 treaty for the Transcaspian (Zakaspiysk) region of the Russian Empire covered trade relations less than the treaties of other years. Because this is the first commentary that contains 8 years of data. In addition, the commentary provided general relations not only with Iran, but also with Khiva, Bukhara, Maymana, the total cost of imported goods was 2,700,709 rubles, and the total cost of exported goods was 1,308,321 rubles. [11.175] The description does not contain separate indicators of the goods listed or of the exported goods. The data on trade relations are based on the reports of the heads of customs and border services and railways. In any case, the data give an idea of the Russian-Iranian trade relations through the initial data on the first trade and economic relations conducted through the Governor-General of Turkestan after the conquest of the Turkmen lands.

The commentary of 1890-1896 is more complete than the commentary above. This is explained by the considerable formation of statistical offices. Among the goods mentioned in the commentary, it was mentioned that cotton occupied a significant place. For example, in 1890, 29,000 pounds, in 1891, 100,000 pounds, in

1892, 140000 pounds, in 1893, 141000 pounds, in 1894, 103000 pounds, in 1895, 100600 pounds of cotton were brought. [12.418] We can see that the value of the imported cotton products has decreased since 1894 in comparison with previous years. This can be explained by the fact that the imperial government increased excise taxes on products such as cotton and sugar. After the Russian Empire turned Turkestan into a major cotton plantation, the supply of cotton was sufficient for the imperial textile enterprises, and it was not surprising that the excise tax on imported cotton products was therefore increased.

It is unreasonable to conclude from the above that Iran exported only cotton to Russia via the Caspian Sea. This is due to the fact that products such as rice and tea were imported from the Uzun-Ada border post. [12.434] The fact that in 1895 the total value of Russian goods exported to Iran was 664172 rubles in the concluding part of the trade section of the treaty indicates that trade and economic relations were continuing at a steady pace. [12.451] In the 1896 commentary, we can see that the information on trade relations began to be entered more accurately due to the information provided by the border and customs services. The customs duty on trade relations was 5%. [18.145] These trade relations were not affected by high custom duties. Not to mention the fact that Iran had become a semi-colony of the British and Russian Empires, the Qajar government was a possible burden without agreeing to the harsh terms of the metropolitan powers. It should be noted that the Qajar government did not always obey the orders of the Russian Empire. As a result of the launch of sugar production in Iran with the participation of British and local capital, the Qajar government also increased the excise tax on sugar products imported from Russia. Commodity turnover and its value have decreased significantly as a result. But this did not discourage the continuation of trade relations, albeit in a reduced state.

By 1897, the Russian emperor had approved a temporary charter for foreign

trade in the Transcaspian region, and the Cabinet of Ministers had sent a similar order to Turkestan. [19.169] According to the imperial government these decrees and orders were to regulate the foreign and internal trade relations of the Caspian region. Iran's foreign trade relations had also been harmonized with this regulation. The internal political situation of the Iranian government, that is the worsening of the internal social situation and the fact that the tsarist government was seeking help in overcoming this situation, forced the imperialist states to march. The commentary said that 13 types of products were imported from Iran through 8 customs posts and railways, and 20 types of products were exported from the Russian Empire through the Caspian region. [19.185] Given Iran's economic stagnation and the fact that national production was still in its infancy, the above figures are not surprising.

On the eve of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the intervention of colonial powers such as Britain and Russia in the Iranian issue had intensified. The monopolists of both countries were trying hard to plunder Iran economically. According to the 1879 treaty, the Russian Empire was located in the north of Iran but then it had an appetite and was trying to penetrate into the interior of Iran. The introduction of commercial and industrial production in this regard was a disgrace to both empires. In 1898 commentary noted that Iran's interest in relations with Russia had also increased. This is evidenced by the fact during this period the volume of Iranian exports to the Russian Empire increased by 8 times compared to the 1897 commentary. During this period, Iran exported 21 types of goods worth 4.972.258 rubles and received imports of 25 types of goods from the Russian Empire in the amount of 4.742.653 rubles. [20.174] It is noteworthy that when it comes to the value of goods, the amount of credits was also mentioned, which indicated that the bank's capital began to be involved in trade and economic relations, the emergence of financial oligarchy. The Ashgabad State Bank in

the Caspian region served the same purpose. In the commentary of 1899, new means of trade began to be given, with specific information about the caravans that arrived. For example, in 1899, 248 caravans of 2099 camels arrived in the Korakul area. [21.268] It is noted that 7802 camels and 326 trade caravans arrived Tajan district. And the main source of the charter is the reports of the country chiefs. According to the commentary, there were 100 and above merchant boats between two countries. During the same period, Iran's exports to Russia expanded to 26 types. The inclusion of waterway data in trade relations indicated the opening of new trade routes, and both sides were working to develop relations. However, the value of interstate trade turnover had declined. Only the trade turnover of the Russian Empire decreased by 64 rubles from the total value of the previous year, according to statistics. [21.276] Due to the importance of roads in trade and economic relations, both sides had worked to eliminate shortcomings in the transportation and delivery of goods. But there were both objective and subjective reasons why this was not completely eliminated. The issue of natural conditions alone did not go unnoticed.

The source of the commentary of 1900, unlike other sources, is the report of the head of Turkestan customs district. [22.207] According to the report, exports of goods also increased in imports and exports compared to the previous year. Trade turnover of the Russian Empire through the Governor-General of Turkestan expanded to 4.523.950 rubles, the cost of Iranian goods imported to Turkestan was 4.072.242 rubles. [22.209] The report shows that the government of the Russian Empire was pleased with the strengthening of trade relations. While the Russian Empire's trade circles focused on the export of manufactured goods and metal products, agriculture and livestock products, as always, played a major role in Iran's exports. The structure of Iranian exports did not differ much from the composition

of the goods of ancient trade with Central Asia. The process can be explained not only by the slowness of production, but also by the low level of consumer demand.

The data for 1901 are separately covered in the sales section of the commentary, and the names, prices, and volumes of exported and imported goods are expressed in specific numbers. In this source, the sea trade relations are also mentioned separately. For example, Russian goods were shipped to Iran in 166.148-pound ships on 75 steamships, while 20 ships shipped 11.369-pound Iranian goods. [23.110] The colonial policy of the Russian Empire, based on economic relations, envisaged capitalist processes, but also the pursuit of profit, the export of raw materials and the sale of domestic goods in the country. During this period, trade turnover increased compared to previous years. The total cost of goods imported to Russia from Iran was 5.632.893 rubles and 942.900 pounds, while Russia imported goods to Iran in the amount of 919.459 pounds and 5.288.963 rubles. [23.107] It is clear from the above data that trade turnover in the current reporting year was at a level that was conducive to the rule of imperial officials. All of these were of great benefit to metropolitan relations. By the beginning of new century, the development of relations had become dependent on the relationship between Great Britain and Russia. Only the intensification of international relations paved the way for the mutual agreement of these two great empires. The development of relations, especially in the trade and economic relations of 1902, did not go unnoticed by these processes. For example, according to a report based on the reports of the head of the Caspian region's border, goods were exported from Russia to Iran in the amount of 1.147.734 pounds and 4.826.185 rubles. Although these figures are a large number of pounds, or more than 220.000 pounds more than last year, there is a decrease in prices and profits compared to last year. [24.89] We can see this in Iran's exports

to Russia. For example, the figure for the value of goods was 5.060.729 rubles, which was 572.164 rubles less than last year. [24.90] Due to international relations and other objective reasons, the balance of trade relations decreased compared to the previous year.

The geographical location of the Caspian region and the ancient political and economic ties with Iran played a key and decisive role in the future relations of the Russian Empire with Iran. The 1903 commentary also focused on this issue. It states that there was no positive shift in the Russian Empire's relations with Iran during this period. The exchange rate for Iran fell by 26092 rubles to 5.034.637 rubles. The Russian Empire also showed a passive balance, 312.123 rubles less than last year, or 4.514.662 rubles. [25.184-185] The emphasis of the imperial administration on foreign policy was probably one of the reasons for the negative impact on the results.

Indigenous people living on the border played a major role in the relations between two countries. According to the 1904 commentary, 81 Persians and Tatars living near the customs in 4 points of Tajan district, which trades with Iran-Sarakhs, Dushak, Kaakha, Artik, played a major role in this. [26.169] In addition, along with other ancient people living in the region, the Persian population was a large part of the diaspora and was mainly engaged in trade. Nations, living in the border areas mediated both political and economic relations between two countries. However, during this period the states did not reflect positive trade in economic and trade relations.

The 1905 commentary states that 20% only Krasnovodsk's population was Iranian. [27.16] This, of course, indicates the involvement of local Iranians in trade. In this commentary we see that the value of imported and exported goods had not change. It is noted that trade relations were in the ashes of Armenians, Iranians and Jews from Bukhara. [27.145] The states, results and values of interstate economic relations were continued in the 1906 commentary. During this period, the

Tajan district remained the main destination for trade. Trade relations continued through the county's Sarakhs, Dushak, Kaakha, Artik. Tea, grapes, raisins, dried fruits, manufactured products were brought and kerosene, sugar, manufactured products, glass, iron products were exported from Iran by camels and boats. [27.20] The difference between the current commentary and other commentaries is that trade relations are given by districts, which gives us an idea of the degree of participation of each district. The 1907 commentary focused on the value of the goods being produced and exported. According to it, more than 18 types of goods were imported from Iran and more than 30 types of products were exported from Turkestan through the Caspian region. [27.60]

The 1908 commentary states that the Ashgabat district did not play a major role in trade with Iran. But this does not lead to the conclusion that the country had no trade relations at all. The presence of many transport offices in the center of Ashgabat, the operation of trade agencies, the presence of trade warehouses denies the above. Tajan district continued to trade through the above-mentioned customs posts. The main means of transport were camels, donkeys, carts on land, and boats on the waterway. In addition to Armenians, Jews and Iranians, other people of Caucasus and Russians also took an active part in trade during this period. [30.54] The main feature of the 1909 commentary is that special attention was paid to the participation of the Tashkent-Orenburg railway in freight transportation. Because until this moment the main transit was the Krasnovodsk railway. [31.65]

In fact, the reason why special attention was paid to this process was that the railways, built for military and political purposes, gained economic importance as a result of the development of the capitalist relations in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

In the commentary of 1910, trade relations are given not as a general situation, but as an example of points of sale, and the



stated facts are also indicated in 14 paragraphs. Therefore, in paragraph 5, the products imported from Iran are mentioned. Paragraph 15 of the commentary is of particular importance. For the first time in this paragraph, an explanation was given of interstate passenger traffic. In the current reporting year, 22.253 people came from Iran and 22.103 people went to Iran, according to Annexes № 17, 18, 19 of article 14. [32.131] The data only address this issue, but do not provide information on the passport regime, the participation of the competent authorities.

The 1911 commentary also shows that the local Iranian people living in the Caspian region played an important role in Iranian-Russian relations. According to the document, 30.684 people of Iranian descent were registered in the whole region that year. [33.70] The analysis of the commentary shows that the Iranians, who were the second largest in the region (Turkmen were the first, numbering 290.146), lived not only after the Russian invasion, but also before that. Because the events that had been the main reason for the mass exodus of more than 30.000 people to the region over a period of 30 years had not been observed in Iran during this period. Imports and exports of 5-6 million pounds a year in the port of Krasnovodsk were recorded. Only 454.000 pounds were said to belong to Iran. [33.119]

The existence of an excise tax also had a significant impact on the development of trade relations. A large consignment of Russian goods was therefore withdrawn. This process was a sign that Iran was trying to protect the domestic market, and that national production and national industry were developing. The return of 13 types of products exported from Iran through the Caspian region is a proof of our opinion. [33.124]

Shavrova's book "Foreign trade with Iran and Russia's participation in it" mentions that contacts continued through four posts-Cheleken, Krasnovodsk customs post, Chikishlyar, Gasan-Kuli border posts. [33.125] The total value of the

exchange was 16.346.230 rubles. [33.128] What is clear from this is that trade relations had been revived despite political obstacles. The reason we call it a political stalemate was that the countries of the world were seriously preparing for a new problem, World War I. The influx of the German Empire into Iran was intensifying due to the political and economic pressure of the Russian Empire and the British Empire. This situation was reflected in the commentary of 1912-1914. According to the source, trade relations had not revived due to the military-political processes in the world. But this does not mean that trade and economic relations have ceased altogether. During this period, dried fruits, cotton, sheep skin, small and large horned animals, skin, silk, almond, turquoise, rice, green tea, wheat, melon products, barley were exported from Iran to Turkestan, and from Russia via the Caspian region sugar, refined, kerosene, tobacco products, matches, pharmaceutical products, wine, vodka, black tea, metal parts, glassware, lamps, salt and flour were exported. [34.31] The commentary also states that the failure of trade routes, for example, the failure of the Gaudan road, also had a negative impact on the development of land trade relations. [34.32]

The basis for increasing the level of reliability of the above information is the confirmation of the sources by the relevant government agencies. Annual reports of regional military governors to the court of the Governor-General of Turkestan are now stored in the National Archives of Uzbekistan. Annual commentaries based on these archival data can shed light on Iran-Russia relations, especially trade and economic relations of Turkestan, on the example Caspian Sea. This information will help to cover not only the economic, but also the political life of the Iranian-Russian Empire and Turkestan in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Especially if the rapid development of capitalist relations had increased the demand for raw materials in the first place, taking into account future

developments, Iran would be important not only economically, but also territorially and strategically. The great powers, which are trying to strengthen their sphere of influence through Iran in the Middle East, would never ignore this situation. That is why Iran began to play an important role in world politics in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. At the turn of the century, a change in the balance of power in the world politics forced Britain to find a partner in foreign policy. Germany's persecution of Great Britain on all fronts and its demand for redistribution of countries forced Britain to change its foreign policy under the guise of domination. To this end, Britain tried to involve the Russian Empire in the treaty signed with France in 1904 for the joint defense of the countries. And finally, on August 31, 1907, Russia joined the Anglo-French Treaty. The issues related to Iran were also resolved in the clauses of the agreement. According to it, Iran was divided into three parts. The country was left to the north-Russia, the South-England, and to the middle as a neutral zone to the King. The country, which had become a puppet in the ashes of foreign countries due to its economic backwardness, had not been able to solve its own internal problems, and had used the help of foreign countries to solve the existing problems. The situation was most evident in the suppression of the Iranian revolution of 1911-1915. The Russian Empire agreed to become an ally of Britain, because it knew that it could not solve problems on its own. The 1907 agreement reached a consensus on Central Asia and adjacent Afghanistan. In this way, the Russian Empire, which had once again strengthened its position in Central Asia, began to use all its might to economically reconcile the colonial population. At the same time, it began to exert its influence on other countries.

Russia, a country of similar origin, had been firmly entrenched in Russia since the 1970s. By the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, it was firmly established in northern Iran. Northern Iran's railway, telegraph and trade ties had fallen to

Russia. It had lured Iran into debt. That is why Iranian government was forced to recognize the Anglo-Russian Treaty of 1907 in 1912. The situation was aggravated by the fact that Britain had tied southern Iran to various economic agreements. Russian empire occupied Turkmen territory and began delimitation of borders with Iran and Afghanistan. The British government did its best to weaken Russia's position in the region. The Russian Empire entered into trade relations with Iran through Turkestan and set up a trade agency in Mashhad, the agency's reports being one of the main sources for covering the issue. It was no secret that the Russian Empire pursued a number of goals in its relations with Iran. These were to establish a strong foothold in Iran, to turn the country into a raw material base and a market for Russian goods. The main reason for the growing importance of trade relations was the fact that Iran was on a rap with countries such as China and India, which were the main mythical states of the East. That is why Russia's attitude towards Iran was no different from that of the colonialists.

**Conclusion:** Numerous studies have confirmed that Iran was a semi-colonial power since the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The rapid development of economic relations and the productive forces intensified the process of economic and political division of the world among the great powers. Iran had not benefited from this process. The influx of Russia, France and Britain into the region had aggravated the economic situation. Declining taxes and the ability to pay them, which were the main means of replenishing the royal treasure, the foreign travels of the Iranian king, and the relentless wars against the provincial and tribalkhans forced the country's treasury to be emptied and the king to borrow heavily from abroad. In short, economic hardship allowed foreigners to interfere in the country's internal politics.

By the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, Iran had become one of Britain's main colonial strongholds in the East. Great Britain's main goal was to turn the country into a semi-colonial

state on the basis of economic agreements, to further weaken the monarchy through debt policy, and thus to strengthen its position in Iran. According to sources, Iran's exports increased from 2 million pounds to 3.8 million pounds while imports increased from 2 million pounds to 5 million pounds. [2.43] These circumstances were indicative of the establishment of foreign monopolies in the Iranian economy. In 1841, an Iran-Great Britain trade agreement was signed. As a result, cheap and high-quality goods of Great Britain were imported to Iran. Iran's economy, manufacturing, industry and handcrafts, which were still in shambles, collapsed. As a result, bankrupt local businesses were unable to pay state taxes. The rise of social unrest was also reflected in the Babylonian revolt of 1848. Foreign aid to quell insurgency strengthened foreign countries' role in Iran's economic life. The aggravation of the economic situation and the decline in living standards were reflected in the famine of 1860-1861, 1869-1872, 1879-1880. According to sources, the famine of 1879-1880 was particularly devastating, in which 10% of Iranian population was affected. [5.264] These circumstances did not change the policy of the colonial powers. Rather, it further accelerated their infiltration into Iran. Constant financial difficulties, the Iranian king's foreign travels led to borrowing from Britain and Russian Empire. In 1872, due to financial peace, Iran granted a concession to Britain. In 1889, to develop economic relations, "Shahanshohbank" was opened. Its first 16%, then 20% belonged to Iran. [3.142] The Russian Empire's aid to Iran under the 1879 treaty was also generous. Russia complied with king's request and granted concessions in northern Iran at Astrabad, Chikishlar, Northern Iran. The first creditors were the Polyakov brothers, who opened a bank in 1890 to provide loans. [2.47] Russia's consolidation in northern Iran led to a further intensification of British monopolies. In addition, Russia's concession in 1902 on the direction of Djulfa, Tabriz, Qazvin forced the British

monopolists to go one step ahead of the Russian monopolists. [5.260] Russian influence on the royal palace had increased due to the financial and military support of the Russian government to Iran. The British government, on the other hand, took a different approach, effectively using tools and methods such as the purchase of local government, tribal khans and incitement against the central government.

According to Ivanov, the British government tried to buy Khazars, Khuzistan, Persians, Bakhtiyor-Beludists and burn them against the central government. He also noted that in the pursuit of these goals in England, the chiefs of the Beludists tribes were given a pension of 100-500 rubles per month. [5.262]

The Russian and British empires always forced Iran to conclude treaties of their choice. This was reflected in the 1901 Iran-Russia and 1903 Great Britain customs agreements. [5.261] Russia effectively used the "Iran and Central Asia industrial and Trade Agency" in the economic transformation of Iran and Central Asia. [5.260] In 1907, as international relations became more serious, British and Russian empires reached an agreement. According to the agreement between them, Iran was practically divided into 3 parts. Northern Iran was under the influence of Russian Empire, Northern Iran-of Great Britain, and the centre-of the king. Dissatisfied with this agreement, the UK stepped up its efforts to spill Iranian oil. To this end, in 1909, the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company received another concession from Iran. [39.390]

After the conquest of Central Asia by the Russian Empire, statistical and other data were collected in the form of reports for purpose of economic study of the country and to strengthen the control over the policy pursued and these data are being sufficiently analyzed by historians today. One of such analyzes is "Review of the Caspian region". Caspian region of Governor-General of Turkestan played an important role in the relations of Russian

Empire with Iran after 1880. Therefore, the annual collections of Caspian region were involved in the study as the main source of this small research work. The study will shed light on essence of the foreign policy of the imperialist states in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, show new aspects of diplomatic relations among Russia, Great Britain and Iran and help to supplement the information on the history of Turkestan.

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