

The historical aspect “The Great Game”: an example of Kazakhstan XVIII-XIX century

Gulmira Zholmagambetovna Sultangazy, Zhaslan Yeseevich Nurbaev, Lepuda Karimovna Mukataeva, Makhabbat Malikovna Kozybayeva, Ziaybek Ermukhanovich Kabuldinov, Kayarla Nazarbekovna Zhiyentayeva

Kazakh Humanitarian and Law University, Kazakhstan, 010000, Astana, Korgalzhyn, 8
L.N. Gumilyov Eurasian National University, Kazakhstan, 010000, Astana, Mirzoyan Street, 2.

Abstract: The article includes some issues relating to the contest between the Russian Empire and British Empire in XYII-XIX centuries that was known as a “The Great Game” in political science and history. The theme of historiography is mainly concentrated on contradictions between two countries within a special territory that includes Khiva, Bukhara Kokand, Afghanistan and excludes territories of Kazakh zhuz (a confederation or alliance of Kazakh nomads). At the same time the territory division occupied by the Kazakh clans is obviously important. The authors tried to show the role, place and involvement of the Kazakh clans into the competition between Russia and England during the mentioned period.

[Sultangazy G.Zh., Nurbaev Zh.Y., Mukataeva L.K., Kozybayeva M.M., Kabuldinov Z.E., Zhiyentayeva K.N. **The historical aspect “The Great Game”: an example of Kazakhstan XVIII-XIX century.** *Life Sci J* 2014;11(2s):174-177]. (ISSN:1097-8135). <http://www.lifesciencesite.com>. 29

Keywords: The Great Game, policy in Central Asia, Russian Empire, British Empire.

Introduction

Indirect and direct presence of USA, Europe and other countries in Central Asia, one of the distinguishing features of the new global architecture. The geographical location of the region implies certain dependence from the leading players in the international political process. And today again the attention of world politics focused on the countries of Central Asia in general and particularly to Kazakhstan. In real politics, starting with the first decade of the XIX century, the striving for Central Asia received a succinct and artistic name of "The Great Game". The authorship of this term had been credited to British officer A. Connolly, but the popularization of the term belongs to R. Kipling. In this article we will try to disclose the historical aspect of the question, to understand the motives of the parties who had entered into a "game", in the case of Kazakhstan. While disclosing the problem, historians are inclined to make interpretation of the colonial policy between Russia and Russian - British competitions, and not connecting the current situation with the geopolitical processes XVIII and XIX centuries. At the same time, political scientists mostly ignored such an important moment as Background of concern.

Soviet historical science unfortunately had not saturated the westerner, which was understandable. Population in the Soviet Union was under strict control of the ideological structures and could not afford a holistic objective study of many methods, including those related to Russian - British rivalry XIX century. However, the world saw the works of Uzbek scientist N.Khalfin [1], which until today has not lost its relevance in view of the use of rich factual

material and competent scientific analysis. Proceedings of the Soviet period interpreted the rivalry of Great Britain and Russia in Central Asia as a struggle for colonies, for new markets and for the political influence in the region. In the context of this article interest are the works of E. Bekmakhanov, where the problem of Russian -British rivalry, and is the principal cause of activation of Russian in Kazakhstan as a possible takeover by Britain southern part of Central Asia [2]. Lack of information about Western historiography was filled with the writings of K. Yesmagambetov [3], M. Laumulin [4]. These works differ in some ideological bias, but the analysis done by the scientists is quite adequate and does not lose its value to today.

The problem of Anglo-Russian rivalry was reflected primarily in English historiography. Author's circle was represented the military and the politicians, who at one time were in the Asian colonies of the British Empire and had an idea about the current affairs of the metropolis. Given the popularity of the argument of the "Russian threat" in research emerges another nature of Anglo-Russian encounter in Central Asia because, in their opinion the UK pursues a defensive strategy. It is in this perspective, written works by H. Roulison, Ch.McGregor, D.Curzon, D.Boulzher and others, as reflected in the study of S.N. Brezhneva [5] in addition to their interpretation of the "Russian threat" dates back to the XVIII century, and the current Russian policy performs the will of Peter I, which is in the "there of (Kazakh) saw a horde of keys and the gate to India. England therefore does nothing but to defend his "pearl". The same position is supported by modern research, P. Hopkirk, claiming that "Russian

aggression, despite the chosen route will pass through the takeover of Afghanistan" [6, p. 110]. The work of the American scholar M.B. Alcott stands historical content, which attempts to identify the causes of the Anglo-Russian encounter, and the author does not limit his study of Kazakh border zhuzes and gives a panoramic picture of the distribution of forces in the region, which includes players such as Kokand and Bukhara, Khiva [7]. Modern scholars consider this problem in the application format, the background they need an understanding of current processes associated with the resumption of the "Great Game", also known as the "New Great Game" [8].

Methods. In examining the concept of the "Great Game" in the case of the colonial policy of the Russian Empire and the UK on the territory of Kazakhstan and Central Asia, the authors have used different methods. Used methods: system structural analysis, which is based on a comprehensive consideration of the relevant aspects of historiographical these problems, the method of critical analysis allows us to rethink or clarify methodological aspects of theoretical and conceptual approaches of modern historiography on this issue, the method of content analysis, which allows to study the content of texts and a comparative analysis. The result is a study of archival and historiographical array will identify goals, objectives and motives of Russian and British colonial policy.

Main part. To comprehend the historical destiny of Kazakhstan's last three centuries it is necessary to address the issues of Russian colonization. As it is known, Russia with its colonies had a common border, this feature was his explanation, despite the fact that, from the XVIII century, it is in the range of powers that have considerable weight in world politics. However, for the total potential, it lagged behind the European powers that did not allow her to implement bold ambitious projects, division of the world on other continents. The implementation of such plans require the presence of a powerful fleet, and the lack of a competitive industry led to the incapacity of the Russian merchant class that through trade would promote the interests of Russia. Therefore, its colonial strategy was developed based on the above facts, the more that political processes in Asian countries contributed to the relatively rapid approval of the Russian presence in Kazakhstan. By the XIX century at least, empire considered the territory of Kazakhstan, junior and high zhuzes de jure Russian, but the real fixing required additional funds. Promotion of Russia in Central Asia met with latent antagonism on the part of the English state. By this time Britain quite firmly entrenched in India and sought to expand its regional ownership through

Central Asia and Kazakhstan, treating them as profitable untapped markets.

Both Britain and Russia under the approval of Central Asia understand the solution of a block of necessary tasks for the two countries. They cannot be just about the only economic or political ambitions, rather they should be considered in the complex. We examined the causes of English aspirations: the expansion of colonial borders to the north of India would strengthen the status of the most powerful nation in the world community. In England there were no serious opponents in Asia, excluding Russia. In addition, Britain needed new markets, it was necessary to eliminate the trade rivals again in the face of Russian merchants. As for Russia, it was seen in the capture of Central Asia fulfillment of its historic mission: to protect Western civilization. Russia believed that it was she, who saved Europe from further Mongol advance. Hiking in Khiva, Bukhara, Kokand, joining Kazakh zhuzes had to put an end to the liberating mission of the Russian state. At the same time Russia has positioned himself as a liberator of the "natives" from the oppression of the local political elites and partakes of the conquered peoples to civilization.

For approval in this region both countries have used the full range of diplomatic tools. One of the first manifestations of the information war can be called a propaganda campaign between England and Russia. In the 30-40s of the XIX century in England, there was a very general thesis of the "Russian threat". The vault contents of a possible takeover of Persia and India by the Russian state, and if Britain does not take tough military strategy, Britain could lose its Asian possessions. Given that Russia won in 1828 over the Persians, and in 1829 the Turks feared England were baseless. There was a need to develop a foreign concept in regard to the subject of Central Asian and therefore develop a model of behavior with Russia. Formed two positions, "offensive course" and "Master of inactivity", each of which offers a way of strengthening England presence in this part of the world, but the second position is more supported "Whigs" believed that Russia is unlikely to undertake a campaign against India but did not deny that the strengthening of Russian is due to joining the Asian possessions. Theorists "offensive course" highlights the threat of colonial possessions of England, coming from Russia. According to the researcher, E.Steinberg, this problem by studying the writings of Asian history and politics of the late 60 's of XIX century G. Roulison, who spoke with the "Memorandum", where he convincingly proved that the Russian offensive in Central Asia is part of the strategic plan [9]. Until the end of the XIX century,

the presence of "Russian threat" spurred British policy in South and Central Asian direction.

Russia has also made attempts at a theoretical justification for its advancement into the Kazakh steppe. One of the ideologists of Russian expansionism is a military historian M. Terentev. In his opinion, "the movement to the east began during the Tatar yoke" [10]. In the process of dividing up the world right of bringing played an important role in legitimizing its appearance, which was a very significant statement on the part of Russia. In his monumental work, M. Terentyev wrote "The history sent us ahead, the nomads have named their raids - we take a step and stop. In this struggle, from a historical necessity is the whole interest of our movement in Central Asia". [10, p.56]. So he made an attempt to eliminate the economic and political implications of Russia's advance.

When the British advance closer and gradually extended their impact on the Central Asian khanates (there were reports that the British envoys held talks on the formation of the British shipping on the Amu Darya), Russia took it as a blow to its positions in Central Asia. Especially because in the beginning of the XIX century, the power of the Empire was stable only in the northern reaches of junior and middle zhuzes. England, despite their potential, preferred the first step to avoid a direct clash with the Russian Empire. Second, it would require fewer resources, which include: sabotage, espionage, bribery, threats. The study of economic opportunities in the region, the market, the purchasing power of the population and its mentality of the local market relationships with Russia, Turkey and China - the problems that Britain has decided at this time. The best option for England was - to isolate the states of Central Asia from Russia. Bukhara, Khiva, Kokand in the early XIX century, still maintained their independence, and the southern limits of the Kazakh zhuzes were influenced by these states. To accomplish its mission, England generates several expeditions to Central Asian khanates. The methods used by the British were popular English goods became filled Central Asian market, the British deliberately understated the price of such competition could not withstand the Russian merchants. For England, it was the traditional method of capture, simultaneously solved two problems: it strengthens economic ties and establish links with the local elite and pose a threat to Russia in the region. Russia had to take a set of measures that would entrench the Central Asia for her.

In the 1822-1824 years tsarist government enacted statutes of Siberia and the Orenburg Kirghiz and the only legitimate authority was now declared as the power of the Russian state, which meant ample

opportunity for the development of the territory of Kazakhstan and further toward the south closer to the epicenter of the "Great Game". It should be noted that the introduction of the Statutes angered the Kazakh public, a few pockets of anti-colonial rebellions broke out in the desert, the largest and most ambitious of which was the movement led by Sultan Kenesary Kassymov. In the second half of the XIX century, the international situation is exacerbated because the British government began to build up its military potential, using a very strategically important city of Herat. Russia for its part, wanting to preserve its power in Kazakhstan and prevent the expansionist ambitions of England, activates the operation in South Kazakhstan and Central Asia. So during the 30's and 40 's. of the XIX century, embassies and diplomatic missions of E. Kovalevsky, G. Danilevsky, N. Potanin, etc. were sent out to Khiva and Bukhara. In the mid 50 's. of XIX century Russian - British rivalry has been transferred to the regional and global policy is reflected in the Crimean War, in which, as is known, Russia is defeated and activates the eastern direction of foreign policy. After the Crimean War, in the political circles of St. Petersburg, debated the question of means and methods of promotion to the south. The Minister of Foreign Affairs A. Gorchakov considered premature use of military force, believing that it would lead to strained relations with Britain. Opposing views on the same subject were expressed by minister of war, D. Milyutin. Closely associated with the business of the country, criticizing the position of A. Gorchakov, he called for a radical solution to the problem, regardless of the reaction of England [11, p.371].

Building for tresses and other strongholds of partially strengthened the power of Russia in the region. It needed a more radical measures, which Russia could not resolved because of the fear that it will complicate relations with Britain. The matter was resolved after it became known that England made an alliance with the Afghan ruler Dosmukhamedov. England planned to capture Bukhara and Khiva, it became ever more real and under the threat of capture, that automatically may be closer to the southern limits of Kazakhstan. Russia started with a large-scale campaign to join Senior Zhuz.

In winning the region Siberian Cossacks actively participated in it. To strengthen the power that will create a selection from the Siberian Cossack Semirechensky Cossacks as a support of royal power and the conductor of the colonial policy in the south of Kazakhstan. In his task was to 1) the consolidation of the Russian occupied territories, 2) national frontiers against attacks from the outside and permanent settlements of nomads, 3) the Russian

colonization of the country, 4) preparation of the armed forces and the edge of the Empire. From that moment, intensive development of the region through the re-settlement policy and the development of the industry were established. The redistribution in such a situation was nearly impossible. Thus, as a result of the Anglo- Russian rivalry was defined not only political but also the civilized development of both Kazakhstan and the entire Central Asian region.

Further developments in the region will be closely interwoven with the logic of world events, the essence of which is no longer confined to the section of the world, but to its redistribution. It is in this lie, the reasons which led the world community to the First World War. In 1907, Russia suddenly signs an agreement with Germany and England as part of the Entente that in return ends the controversy regarding the colonial claims: Central Asia entered the sphere of Russian Empire influence, India's under the sphere of England influence and Afghanistan became a buffer zone. A kind of truce has become a political necessity given the looming global conflict. For some time, the political passions have died down around Central Asia. But interest in the region virtually stopped, heated from time to time, and members of the academic community.

Conclusion. Thus, the "Great Game" refers to the open and hidden rivalry between Russia and Britain for the possession of Central Asia, covering a longer period. Studies on this subject, most of them emphasize the contradictions between the two countries in geographical terms, which seats Khiva, Bukhara, Kokand, Afghanistan, and almost without paying attention to the Kazakh zhuzes. At the same time, the importance of the territory occupied by the Kazakh clans obvious. This article attempts to highlight the involvement of Kazakh territories in the confrontation between Russia and Britain. And for the Russian capture and approval in the land of the Kazakhs was more important. Her inability in a short time to consolidate the territory zhuzes led to geopolitical losses. The collapse of the Soviet Union arbitrarily revived the "Great Game" in the region and gave it a new momentum and content, calling the "New Great Game" and it is already in the new line-up. The participating parties reflect the changes that have taken place in world architecture and each player has developed a strategy of behavior in a more active policy of leading world powers.

Results. Today the areal of "The New Great Game" is much wider, moreover Kazakhstan has a key role as there are hydrocarbon recourses there. In the Central Asian countries of the region have to make a difficult choice: to whom and in what areas to work together. From this will largely depend on not only the future of the countries themselves, but also the situation in the region, which will undoubtedly have an impact on their relationships with each other.

Corresponding Author:

Dr. Sultangazy, Kazakh Humanitarian and Law University, Kazakhstan, 010000, Astana, Korgalzhyn, 8.

References

1. Ivanova O.V., 2000. Irony as a style Khalfin, N., 1960. Policy Russia in Central Asia (1857-1868). Moscow, pp: 215.
2. Bekmakhanov, E., 1992. Kazakhstan in the 20-40's XIX century. Alma-Ata. pp: 400.
3. Yesmagambetov, K.M., 1992. They wrote about us in the West. Almaty, pp: 200.
4. Laumulin, M.T., 2005. Central Asia in the foreign politics and global geopolitics. Almaty, pp: 704.
5. Brezhneva, S.N. 2005. Historiography of the problem connection to Russian Turkestan: the second half of the XIX century. - the beginning of the XXI century. PhD thesis. Moscow.
6. Hopkirk, P., 2001. [The Great Game: On Secret Service in High Asia. Oxford University Press](#), pp: 562.
7. Alcott, M.B., 1987. The Kazakhs. Stanford: Hoover Institution Press, pp: 155.
8. Brzezinski, Z., 1997. The grand chessboard: American primacy and its geostrategic imperatives - New York;
9. Sultanov B.S., 2002. Politics and the interests of world powers in Kazakhstan. Astana, pp: 238.
10. Steinberg, E. History of British aggression in the Middle East. www.militera.lib.ru/h/shteynberg_el
11. Terentyev, M., 2012. History of the conquest of Central Asia. Almaty, pp: 155
12. The history of Kazakhstan from the earliest times to the present day. Kazakhstan in the new time. 2000. Almaty, pp: 768.