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**THE ROLE OF TATAR MERCHANTS IN THE FORMATION  
OF THE INNER TRADE MARKET IN THE TURGAI REGION  
(XIX century)**

This article reveals the role of Tatar merchants in the formation of the inner regional market in the Turgai region during the XIXth century. A special place in the formation of a regional market was occupied by fair trade in district centers, the creation process of which began in the late 60s of the XIXth century. Documentary materials extracted from the funds of the central state archive showed that the leading positions in the development of trade were taken by the Tatars of the Volgo-Ural region, who opened trading shops, slaughterhouses, tallow houses and exported livestock from this territory to the central provinces of the Russian Empire. Moreover, Tatar merchants formed a certain infrastructure in the region: they built inns, trading shops, trading houses, warehouses became vowels of city дума, members of trade deputations.

**Key words:** Tatars of the Volga-Ural region, regional trade market, fair trade, Kazakh steppe.

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**Торғай өңірінде ішкі сауда нарығын қалыптастырудағы  
татар көпестерінің рөлі (XIX ғасыр)**

Бұл мақала XIX ғасырда Торғай аймағындағы ішкі аймақтық нарықтың қалыптасуындағы татар саудагерлерінің рөлін көрсетеді. Облыстық нарықты қалыптастырудағы ерекше орынды аудан орталықтарында жәрмеңке сауда орталықтары алды, оның құрылу процесі 60-шы жылдардың соңында басталды. Орталық мемлекеттік мұрағат қорынан алынған құжаттық материалдар Волга-Орал өңірінің татарлары сауда аймағын дамытуда жетекші орындарды алғанын көрсетеді, олар сауда алаңдарын, мал сою алаңдарын, май үйлерін ашып, осы аймақтан Ресей империясының орталық провинцияларына ірі қара мал экспорттайтын болды. Сонымен қатар, татар саудагерлері аймақтағы белгілі бір инфрақұрылымды қалыптастырды: қонақ үйлерді, сауда цехтарын, сауда үйлерін, қоймаларды қалалық думаның даусы, сауда депутация мүшелері болып сайланды.

**Түйін сөздер:** Волга-Орал өңірінің татарлары, аймақтық сауда нарығы, жәрмеңке сауда, Қазақ даласы.

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**Роль татарских купцов в формировании внутреннего торгового рынка  
в Тургайском регионе (XIX век)**

В данной статье раскрывается роль татарских купцов в формировании внутреннего регионального рынка в Тургайской области на протяжении XIX века. Особое место в формировании регионального рынка занимала ярмарочная торговля в уездных центрах, процесс создания которых начался в конце 60-х годов XIXв. Документальные материалы, извлеченные из фондов Центрального Государственного архива, показали, что лидирующие позиции в развитии

торговли занимали татары Волго-Уральского региона, открывавшие торговые лавки, скотобойни, салотопни и занимавшиеся вывозом скота из этой территории в центральные губернии Российской империи. Более того, татарские купцы формировали определенную инфраструктуру в регионе: строили постоянные дворы, торговые лавки, торговые дома, складские помещения, становились гласными городских дум, членами торговых депутатий.

**Ключевые слова:** татары Волго-Уральского региона, региональный торговый рынок, ярмарочная торговля, Казахская степь.

## Introduction

Strategic plans of the Russian Empire in the XVIII century involved the task to establish new trade routes through the southern Urals, and from the 30s of the XVIII century through the Kazakh steppes to Central Asia. A reflection of this direction was the «Privilege to the City of Orenburg» adopted by the government (1734), which was a significant phenomenon in the history of the Russian trade legislation of the XVIIIth century. «Privilege ...» proclaimed extensive trade and business benefits for those who settled in Orenburg, regardless of ethnicity or religion. The next step in the commercial development of the Southern Urals was the decree of a Senate from 8<sup>th</sup> March, 1744 «On the settlement of Kazan Tatars in Orenburg and allowing them to build a mosque outside the city», which were to become the communicative link between the natural-consumer economy of the pastoral periphery of Eurasia with the commercial-industrial urban core of the Russian Empire. The founding of the Novo-Moscow trade road or the Kazan post road connecting Kazan and Orenburg was completed with the founding of Seitovskiyi posad. According to the Orenburg historian Yu.S. Zobov, by 1747, 54 new settlements of state peasants were established here starting from Kazan to Yaik, numbering 1 940 souls of Tatars and 19 Udmurts (Zobov, 1996:6-10)

A special place in the government's trade policy was occupied by the organization of trade points along the border fortified lines with the Kazakh steppe, where favorable conditions were created for exchange operations for nomads and merchants coming to the line. The head of the Guryev customs post, in 1807 stated that almost in all the fortresses and outposts of the Ural line, bargaining with the Kazakhs «is done by clerks from the Tatars of various officials of the Ural Cossack army.» (SAOrO F.6. In.7. C.5812. L.43).

## Literature review

In historical science, the question about trade policy formation of the Russian government, the

regional market, its mechanism and influence on the development of the Kazakh Steppe was considered both in pre-revolutionary (Nebolsin, 1855; Meyer, 1865; Krasovsky, 1868; Dobrosmyslov, 1902) and in the Soviet (Apollova, 1960; Rozhkova, 1964; Kafengauz, 1958; Litvinova, 1958; Dikhtyar, 1960; Sladkovsky, 197; etc.) literature.

In modern historical literature there are studies revealing the role of the Kazakh steppe as a cross-border trade route between Russia, Central Asia, and China (Maduanov, 1997; Kasymbaev, 1996; Mikhaleva, 1982; Galieva, 1997; Sultangalieva, 2002). The roles of the Orenburg province, cities (Troitsk, Orsk, Verkhneural'sk) in the development of the trading system of the Russian Empire with the Steppe and the Central Asian khanates in the second half of the XVIIIth – the first half of the XIXth centuries were devoted to the research of V.D. Shkunova, H.E. Pashkova, D.T. Samodurov (Shkunov, 2002; Pashkova, 2002; Samodurov, 1999).

In modern national historiography, such issues as the development of grain trade in northern and northeastern Kazakhstan (Otarbayeva, 1986), commercial and industrial entrepreneurship in the second half of the XIXth and early XXth centuries (Zhakupbekova, 1999, Akhmetova, 2003, Abilov, 2006), the formation of a chains of fairs in the system of socio-economic relations in the south of Kazakhstan in the second half of the XIXth – early XXth centuries (Naumov, 1995)

The role of Seitovskaya Sloboda(settlement) in the establishment of trade and diplomatic relations between Russia, Kazakhstan and Central Asia in the XVIIIth-XIXth centuries is the work of R.Sh. Iskandarova (Iskandarov, 2005:19-27), D.N. Denisova (Denisov, 2005:13-19], G.S. Sultangaliyeva (Sultangaliyeva, 2005:56-62), E.N. Popova (Popova, 2005: 71-74)

As we can see, significant material was studied on the penetration of trade operations into the Kazakh steppe, the development of trade relations between the peoples of the Empire, trade entrepreneurship and fair trade in the county steppe centers. However, the role of Tatar merchants in the process of folding the

inner market of the Turgai oblast and the formation of transport communications has practically not been studied.

### **The role of Tatars in the development of fair trade in the Turgai region**

Nicolai Andreevich Kryzhanovsky, the Orenburg general governor, in 1867 developed a project to create a chain of fairs in the Trans-Ural steppe. However, the solution of this issue stretched over several years. And only three years later, on November 12, 1870, the Minister of the Interior, Alexander Egorovich Timashev, approved the «Rules» and the dates for holding fairs in Aktobe and Irgiz fortifications. In Aktobe, the first fair was to be held from July 15 to August 15, and in Irgiz from September 10 to October 10 (CSA RK, F.25. In.1. C.67. L.16).

The first three shops in Aktobe appeared in Tatarskaya Slobodka, where, according to the town headman, Vasily Moshansky, by the 70s of the XIXth century, 80 Tatar families already lived in the fortification. Almost twenty years later, in 1892, the number of trade shops increased six times and amounted to 18, of which 10 belonged to Tatar merchants, and in 1896 there were already 24 outlets. The trade turnover in the shops reached 120 thousand rubles at the end of the 90s (CSARK, F.318.In.1. C.65. L.1). Evidence of the pace of development of fair and distribution trade in Aktobe county was the fact of increasing the issuance of certificates for the right to trade. Compared with 1893, three years later, in 1896, 27 times more certificates were issued, of which the 1st guild – 1345, the 2nd guild – 378, the 3rd guild – 780, for the petty trade – 261, distribution trade – 63 (CSARK F.318. In.1. C.41. L. 213-214). In 1903 the turnover of trading capital at the fair in Aktyubinsk amounted to 262,078 rubles, and in 1907 – 4,71026 rubles. Cattle prices varied: cattle from 12-60 rubles; small cattle from 1-7 p. ; camels from 25 –70r. ; horses from 15-70 r. ; for livestock products: camel wool –3–5 p., goat fluff 10–14 p., skin 2–5 p., horse hair 8–16, feline – 90 kopecks –1 p. (Review of the Turgay region for 1894, 1895.).

Major shops in the Aktyubinsk fair were mainly in the hands of Tatar merchants: Murzakhat Gabbasov, Sibagutally Gabitov, Baymulla Anamaev, Seytmulla Hudayberdinov. Their trading capital ranged from 10 to 30 thousand rubles. Items of sale were groceries and haberdashery goods, iron products, and leather. In 1907, at the autumn fair,

special leather rows were formed. Of the 56 shops in this row, 24 were in the hands of Tatar merchants (CSARK, F.25.In.1. C.1529. L.124).

Merchant from Aktobe, Tatar Murzakhat Gabassov is the owner of not only taverns, but also slaughterhouse at the fair. The need for a large number of slaughterhouses in Aktyubinsk did not exist, and at the end of the nineteenth century you had a lot of cattle, and 99% of the export was livestock products ( CSARK, F.25.In.1. C.4201. L.29). In addition, Murzakhat Gabassov invested his capital in the maintenance of a flour mill in Aktyubinsk, and in the Aktyubinsk volost in the aul №2 opened a flour mill (CSARK, F.318.In.1. C. 31. L.146.).

Big turnover was also carried out at the Berdyansk bazaar, located on the Burena volost, on the border of the Orenburg province and the Turgai region. The bazaar was opened in 1890. The bargaining was carried out only by cattle, which passed inspection at the veterinary station located in the same place. As noted by the veterinarian of the Turgai oblast A. Dobrosmyslov, cattle driven by the Kazakhs to the Berdyansk bazaar are «bought up by serious Tatars from the Orenburg province» (Dobrosmyslov, 1898: 92-94).

Evidence of the expansion of inner trade in the Turgai region was a fair in Irgiz, which was held from September 10 to October 10, 1870. The gross turnover at the fair grew steadily, and in 1897 it amounted to 520 thousand rubles (CSARK, F.25. In.1. C. 480. L.21.). In Irgiz, permanent trading shops were in the hands of Tatar merchants: Abdul-Gali Khusainov with the fund of 6 thousand rubles, as well as Faizulla Makhmutov, Ahmet Ziganshin and Latyf Gaynullin with the fund of 1 to 3 thousand rubles (CSARK, F.25.In.1. C. 4260. L.8 ob.).

One of the largest Tatar merchants in Irgiz was Kashafutdin Shagidullin, who had not only sales outlets, but also storage facilities for storing livestock products and drying the skin. In 1897, he opened a tannery in Irgiz, where 6 hired workers worked (CSARK, F.318.In.1. C. 51. L.184.).

Control over the development of trade in Irgiz was carried out by a trade deputation. Based on Art. 36 of the Provision «On State Trade Tax» of June 8, 1898, in Irgiz, where there was no city government, a trade deputation was elected by secret ballot from among the local merchants. The members of the trade deputation were officials whose main duty was to «monitor the proper production of commerce and industry». (CSARK, F.25.In.1. C. 1651. L.9.).

In 1896, the tradesman K. Solodov and the merchant K. Shamidullin were part of the trade deputation, and in 1901 merchants N. Gabassov,

A. Ziganshin, F. Makhmetov (186, L. 5) were elected as trade deputies. Thus, at the meeting of the trade deputation of Irgiz for 1896, the question of the improvement of the trading area of the upcoming spring fair, which was reserved for the Irgiz river, was discussed. The situation was aggravated by the fact that the forthcoming spills were possible in the spring. Therefore, members of the trade deputation believed that a «pedestrian road» device was needed, the installation of lanterns in the commercial area (CSARK, F.25.In.1. C. 1618. L.5).

In addition, in 1902, the merchants M. Mullarahmetov and N. Gabassov were elected by the Irgiz landlords as part of the commission for the revaluation of real estate from the merchant class (CSARK, F.25.In.1. C. 1770.L.1).

Every year the role of trade in the economic life of Irgiz increased. Created a certain infrastructure for the development of trade. Thus, merchants A. Khusainov and Y. Khamzin opened new warehouses for storing products of livestock raw materials. In the spring, the leather stored in these warehouses was sent to Orenburg, Orsk, Troitsk (CSARK, F.25.In.1. C. 4250.L.9ob.). In 1914, the Ilets'k burghers Mukhamedgaziz Ismagilov and Abdul Ismailov established a partnership in Irgiz – the company «Trading house Mukhamedgaziz Ismagilov and K.» to trade manafactory, haberdashery, grocery, livestock, livestock products. (CSARK, F.25.In.1. C. 873.L.6)

Furthermore, at the end of the XIX century 7 sewing shops worked at the fair in Irgiz, 6 of them belonged to Tatars (2 – Irgiz merchants, 4 – Orsk), 1 to Kazakh, who arrived from Kazalinsk. Also there was working tatar coppersmith at the fair, who arrived from Orenburg (Dobrosmyslov, 1902: 39).

The next busiest point of trade in the Irgiz county was Fort Karabutak, the main population, according to the head of the veterinary part of the Turgay region A. Dobrosmyslov, were «mainly Tatars»( CSARK, F.25.In.1. C. 4201.L.18.). The main occupation of the Tatar population was barter trade with the Kazakh population, as until 1869 there were 3 shops in Karabutak, 2 of them belonged to the Tatars, including a peasant from the Kazan province Fazley Rakhmatullin (CSARK, F.25.In.1. C. 4250. L.23.). Thirty years later, in 1898 there were 9 shops in Karabutak, and in 1893 – 9, while 7 of them belonged to the Tatars (CSARK, F.25.In.1. C. 480.L.20)

Peasant from the province of Kazan Sibagat Shagidullin, who began bargaining in the Kazakh steppe with the petty goods in the amount of 1 thousand rubles, opened in Karabutak new stores in

1886, and three years later he already had a fund of 6 thousand rubles (CSARK, F.25.In.1. C. 4250. L.21ob.). His ascent was typical for the formation of energetic, enterprising, adapted to local conditions of Tatar traders. Sibagat Shagidullin's first victory was the transition from the category of peddlers to the category of shopkeepers. With the accumulated money he bought a patent for opening a shop where the set of goods was unpretentious, but designed for the needs of the main buyers – cattlemen.

Gradually increased the speed of trading, established a stable connection, have formed a loyal clientele. Sibagat Shagidullin's own shop allowed him to increase prestige, become a respected man in the steppe and eventually grow to a merchant of the 2nd Guild in Irgiz.

Irgiz county was linked to trade tract (Irgiz – Turgai-Kustanai) with the Kustanai county. There was opened autumn fair in Kustanai in 1886, and in 1892 there began to function the summer fair. Control over organization of the fair was carried out by the Fairgrounds Committee, whose functions consisted in allocation of trading places, the resolution of disputes, the levying of fair fees, monitoring the accuracy of weights. As the Treasurer of the fair Committee was elected a trinity merchant of the 1-St Guild, Abdul-Valei Yaushev, who opened the trading Department of his firm in Kustanai in 1887, and in 1894 «A-V. Yaushev's Trading house»(CSARK, F.25.In.1. C. 4550. L.24ob.). A-V. Yaushev was one of the largest merchants who had an extensive network of shops in the villages of Kustanai county. Kostanay city Duma entrusted him to the construction of two-storey brick shops instead of wooden ones on the Nikolaev trade square in Kostanay in 1910. (CSARK, F.25.In.1. C. 1735. L.97).

Trade at the Kustanai fair was mainly in the hands of large Troitsk, Orsk merchants, who conducted trade in haberdashery, manufactory and grocery goods. The trade turnover of the Kustanai fair in 1892 was 600 thousand rubles.

(CSARK, F.25.In.1. C. 4250. L.37.).

Also, there was a constant shop trade in Kustanai, in 1895 there were 102 shops. Butchers were in the hands of merchants: M. Khakimov, Sh. Safinov, J. Bektimirov, who lived in Kustanai (C.194, L.12).By the 90s of the XIXth century, 197 merchants lived in Kustanai, including 60 Tatars and 1 Bashkir – Almukhamed Filmukhamedov (CSARK, F.25.In.1. C. 878. L.3.).

Among Tatar merchants we can distinguish the people who invested their money in real estate in Kustanai: Bakirov, who owned the large Bakirov

and K. Trading House, Garif Belimov (2 houses, a shop, warehouse premises), Bibidar Khusnutdinov, Irdet Gizatullin, Mustafa Rakhmatullin, who had shops and houses (196. L.1-4). Ownership of real estate strengthened the position of these merchants in the competitive struggle, allowed to acquire respectability in everyday life and social ties. (CSARK, F.25.In.1. C. 170. L.1-4).

In order to further development of trade and the influx of new customers in Kustanai, tradesman M. Alishev hoped to build an inn in the Tatar settlement in 1910. However, according to Art. 136 Steppe regulations of 1891, the Tatars were forbidden to purchase properties in the Kazakh steppe. Based on this restriction, the authorities refused to allocate estates for the Tatar slobodka and other Tatar burghers M. Gainulina and H. Maksyutov, who had lived in Kustanai for more than 20 years. (CSARK, F.25.In.1. C. 1735.L.2.).

Owner of tallow house and creamery in Kustanai was A-B. Yaushev. Products of livestock raw materials exported from Kustanai county by A-B. Yaushev's agents went for processing to Troitsk, where worked A-B. Yaushev's candlelight and tannery plants. The trade caravans from the Akmola region to the Verkhneuralsk county of the Orenburg province went through Kustanai county; from Troitsk through Kustanai county and further to Siberia (198, L.21-22).

An important fact in the activities of Tatar merchants in Kustanai is the fact that they were engaged not only in trade, but also penetrated into the governing bodies of the city. So, the Tatar merchants X-A. Dautov, G.Kh. Yakupov were vowels of the Kustanai City Duma. In 1915 G.Kh. Yakupov became a member of the Kustanai city at the council (CSARK, F.25.In.1. C. 330. L.72.).

With the opening of the fair in Thurgay (1898), merchants began to be involved in the improvement of the trade area. In particular, the merchants M. Mumanov, B. Akhtamanov, H. Habibullin (trustee of the Trinity merchant A-V. Yaushev), who lived in Turgay, were given places on the market square. And there were concluded contracts with them, on the basis of which tenants had the right to build commercial premises in the area allocated to them. After the 12-year period, these premises became their property. At the same time, tenants had to provide,

during the fair, on the trade area, three shops built at their own expense, free of charge and in good condition, to the fair committee, which managed them at their discretion. In addition, the merchants were obliged to supply lights to illuminate the trade area in Turgay (CSARK, F.25.In.1. C. 1325. L. 53, L.75.).

The shops selling haberdashery and manufactory goods were in the hands of Tatar merchants, particularly H. Khabibullin, Z. Gubaidullin and others with a fund of 30 to 10 thousand rubles. (CSARK, F.25.In.1. C. 4250.L. 3-4.). A bourgeois from Verkhneuralsk, Kh. Khabibullin, joined the trade deputation in 1901, which controlled bargaining in Turgai (CSARK, F.25.In.1. C. 1651.L. 1-79.).

The geography of the export of cattle and livestock products from the Turgai region was diverse. Especially differed the vectors of livestock paths from Troitsk, located closer to the borders of the Kazakh steppe. In 1859, the herds from Troitsk followed three paths: 1. through Verkhneuralsk, Cossack settlements in Sterlitamak; 2. Through the Zlatoust county of the Ufa province to Kazan; 3. Through Ufa to Chistopolsky county of Kazan province. According to the customs data, annually up to 7-8 thousand cattle, up to 200 thousand small cattle went through Troitsk in the 60s of the XIX century (State archive of the Orenburg region F.6. In.6. C.14210. L.9). Sterlitamak county police officer in 1860 reported that along the trade route to Sterlitamak, up to 5 thousand cattle and 10 thousand small livestock were driven in (State archive of the Orenburg region F.6. In.6. C.13759. L.37).

Since the second half of the XIX century trade relations between the nations of the region began to be relatively regular and mutually beneficial. The development of fair trade in the steppes, the inclusion of Kazakhstan in the all-Russian market contributed to the establishment of economic relations between individual regions of Russia. At the same time, the Tatar merchants, who seized much of the trade in Kazakhstan, Bashkiria, and Central Asia, took a leading position in the development of market relations among the nations of the region. Gradually accumulating their fund, they took a strong position in the leather, fats and soap production.

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