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Abstract: *This article provides information about the youth of the famous Khan of the Kokand Khanate, Umar Khan, his conquest of Tashkent, his accession to the khanate throne, his numerous reforms, military campaigns, and the defensive fortifications he built.*

Keywords: *Minglar, Olimkhan, Rajab devonbegi, Turkestan, Tashkent, Pishbek, Okmasjit, F. Nazarov.*

During the reign of Umar Khan, who ruled the Kokand Khanate, he made many changes. He expanded the territory of the country by implementing the policies of his brother. Olim Khan further reformed the regular army he had created and expanded its ranks. Umar Khan created a scientific environment in Kokand at the beginning of the 19th century. His wife Nodirabegim also made a great contribution to his enlightened work. Umar Khan himself wrote under the pseudonym "Amriy".

Umar Khan was born in 1787. He received his education in his family at a young age. After the death of Norbotabiy in 1798, the brothers Olim Khan and those who supported Umar Khan won among the factions fighting for the throne. Having ascended the throne, Olim Khan sent troops to various regions in order to expand the territory of the country. In 1806, he sent Umar Khan with an army. At that time, Sultan Khoja, who had succeeded Yunus Khoja, had declared his allegiance to Tashkent, but then went back on his word. After that, a battle would break out between the Kokand troops and the Tashkent troops. If Umar Khan's troops had won the battle, they would not have been able to capture Tashkent. After Umar Khan captured the Niyozbek fortress, which was considered the key to Tashkent, it became

clear that the people of Tashkent would be defeated. Tashkent surrendered. Umar Khan returned to Kokand with great spoils.

In the bitter winter of 1810, Olim Khan led his troops to Chimkent, Sairam and Turkestan. Despite the discontent among the troops and commanders in Tashkent, Olim Khan forced them to march. As a result, the commanders dissatisfied with Olim Khan organized a conspiracy. Of course, it was impossible for them to carry out such a thing secretly from Umar Khan. The commanders pretended to be going to attack the Kazakhs, and, having put aside their consultation with Umar Khan, set off towards Kokand. At this time, Olim Khan had convened a congress on the banks of the Chirchik River. On the night of Umar Khan's death, Iriskulibiy and Jumaboy, having come with the Kaitokis, went to the garrison and spread the news that "Olim Khan has been killed, Umar Khan has become Khan." After that, the army set off towards Kokand. Umar Khan reached the Ahangaran steppe, left the leader of his people, Khushvaqt, in the city of Kirovchi, and set off towards Kokand. Umar Khan immediately arrived in the capital and ascended the throne. Olim Khan was killed on his way back to Kokand. [1. – B 22]

After Umar Khan ascended the throne, he made campaigns to several regions. Including the regions of Jizzakh, Peshawar and Dashti Kipchak. Umar Khan, who came to Tashkent to annex the territories of Turkestan that were not conquered during his brother's reign, held a meeting. At the meeting, the governor of Tashkent, Rajab Devanbeg, told Umar Khan that if he were relieved of the governorship of Tashkent and taken to the palace in Kokand, he would take possession of Turkestan himself. Umar Khan agreed to this. Turkestan was under the rule of Emir Haidar at that time. The Kokand soldiers who reached the gates of Turkestan took advantage of the guards falling asleep and captured the city. The famous Ahmad Yasawi mausoleum built by Amir Temur in the city was important, and there was a rule that whoever entered it would own the city.

Two days after Rajab Devanbeg captured the city, Umar Khan arrived. After the Kokand troops established control over the territories of the Dashti-Kipchak

region from the Okuz Mountains to the Caspian Sea, Umar Khan left Sheikh Badal Mirza as his deputy in Turkestan. When he arrived in Tashkent, Rajab dismissed Devanbeg from his post and took him to Kokand. He left Lashkar Kushbeg in charge of the Tashkent governorship. In 1814-1815, the scholars of Kokand issued a fatwa stating that it would be permissible to call any king who gave ulfa to twelve thousand people his amir al-mu'minin. At that time, a list of those receiving salaries and allowances from the state of Umar Khan was compiled, and their number reached forty thousand people. Accordingly, he named himself Amir al-Mu'minin and preached a sermon in his own name. [4. – B 348]

During the reign of Umar Khan, efforts were made to establish diplomatic relations with Russia, for this purpose Kokand ambassadors were sent to Petersburg. However, on their return to the khanate, one of them died of illness, and the other was killed by a soldier exiled in Petropavlovsk. To eliminate this unpleasant incident, F. Nazarov was sent to Kokand in May 1813, and was detained until the khan's condition and the reasons for the ambassador's murder were determined. F. Nazarov lived in the khanate for about a year, and in October 1814 he returned to Russia.

Although Umar Khan is considered a religious and pious believer, his contemporaries wrote about his actions in the war with neighboring countries, including the massacres in Uratapa in 1817. For example, when Uratapa gathered prisoners in Chorsu Square, people whispered to each other that 13,400 people had been taken prisoner. [5. – B 37-38].

During the reign of Umar Khan, a number of positive and useful works were carried out in the Kokand Khanate. State affairs were regulated. Agriculture, crafts and trade developed to some extent. Umar Khan paid great attention to science, education and culture. He himself had the ability to write poetry. Therefore, the court of the khanate housed outstanding representatives of the creative people. Public education also developed significantly. Several madrasas and schools were opened, including separate schools for girls. [2. – B107]

Unlike Olim Khan, Umar Khan worked in alliance with religious leaders and military commanders who had a strong influence on the state. The position of religious officials in the central government began to increase significantly.

During Umar Khan's reign, many military fortresses were built to protect the state from external threats. Because of Russia's increasing advance towards Central Asia and the constant threat from Kashgar, in particular, in 1813-1815, the Jangk settlement, which belonged to the Bukhara Emirate, was restored by the Kokands and named Aqmasjid. In 1814, the Cho`loq fortress was built north of Karatog. Around the same time, the Kyzyl-Kurgan outpost was established at the confluence of the Gulcha and Murdash rivers. In 1822, the Pishpek fortress was built. The Pishpek fortress was located on the road from Siberia to Central Asia and China. The Pishpek Khanate was considered the "Key to the East". For this reason, serious attention was paid to the defense of the fortress. The fortress wall was surrounded by a 4-meter deep moat filled with water. The height of the fortress wall was 7 meters, the thickness of the foundation was 6 meters, and the upper part was 3 meters. The entrance gate to the fortress was located in the north, and the inner fortress was entered from the west. The fortress walls were on the inside. As observed in other places in Central Asia, there were trading posts and residential buildings. The fortress housed the house of the fortress chief, soldiers' quarters, a dungeon for criminals, and a building for weapons and food supplies. [3. – B75].

Umar Khan fell seriously ill in 1822. His illness lasted for twenty days. No matter how hard the doctors tried to treat him, it was of no use. Umar Khan died in the autumn of 1822 at the age of 35. After his death, his eldest son Muhammad Ali Khan ascended the throne. Umar Khan ruled the country for twelve years, like his brother. Although Umar Khan lived for a short time, he left an important place in the history of the Kokand Khanate. During his reign, the territory of the Khanate expanded. He built military fortresses along the borders of the country and strengthened the Khanate's defense system. In addition, he developed his administration and diplomatic relations. Umar Khan showed that he was not inferior

in power to the Emir of Bukhara, Heydar, and expanded the territory of the Bukhara Emirate to the regions of Jizzakh, Uratpa and Samarkand. Although the country expanded, the expansion of the largely mono-ethnic fraternal states at the expense of the Bukhara possessions led to long wars between Bukhara and Kokand. As a result, both states remained weak and backward, which the Russian Empire took advantage of.

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