

DEVELOPMENT OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC REFORMS DURING THE SHAYBANID PERIOD**Abdullayeva Ma'mura Boltayevna**

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Abstract: This article examines the development of public administration and socio-economic reforms during the Shaybanid period in Central Asia. The Shaybanid dynasty played a significant role in strengthening the political, economic, and cultural foundations of the state during the 16th century. Special attention is given to administrative governance, tax reforms, land ownership systems, trade development, agricultural improvements, and the role of Islamic institutions in public administration. The study highlights how the Shaybanids contributed to the stabilization of the region after the Timurid decline and laid the groundwork for future state structures. Historical-comparative and analytical methods were used in the research.

Keywords: Shaybanid dynasty, public administration, socio-economic reforms, land system, taxation, trade development, Central Asia, Bukhara Khanate, agriculture, state governance

Introduction

The Shaybanid dynasty emerged as one of the most influential ruling powers in Central Asia after the decline of the Timurid Empire. Founded by Muhammad Shaybani Khan in the early 16th century, the dynasty established strong political control over Transoxiana and transformed the administrative and socio-economic structure of the region. The consolidation of power required not only military success but also effective governance and sustainable economic reforms.

The Shaybanid rulers understood that political stability depended on strong administrative institutions, regulated taxation, land management, and the support of religious and social elites. Therefore, they implemented a number of reforms aimed at strengthening central authority while maintaining local governance traditions. These reforms played a crucial role in shaping the future political and economic landscape of the Bukhara Khanate and surrounding territories.

This article aims to analyze the main aspects of public administration and socio-economic reforms during the Shaybanid period and to assess their historical significance.

Materials and Methods

The research is based on historical sources, chronicles, and scholarly studies related to the Shaybanid period. Classical historical works such as "Tarikh-i Rashidi," "Musahhir al-Bilad," and regional historiographical materials were examined. Modern academic publications by Central Asian historians and researchers were also used.

The study applies comparative-historical, descriptive, and analytical methods. These approaches help identify the reforms introduced by the Shaybanids and evaluate their effectiveness in strengthening state institutions and economic development.

Results and Discussion**Public Administration System**

One of the major achievements of the Shaybanids was the reorganization of state administration. Muhammad Shaybani Khan and his successors aimed to establish a centralized government while preserving local administrative traditions inherited from previous dynasties.

The ruler held supreme authority, supported by a council of military leaders, tribal chiefs, religious scholars, and state officials. The administrative system included provincial governors, tax collectors, judges (qadis), and military commanders. Local governance was often entrusted to loyal tribal leaders who maintained order and collected taxes.

The role of Islamic institutions was particularly important. Religious leaders and scholars were given significant influence in legal and educational matters. Madrasas, mosques, and waqf institutions served not only spiritual functions but also administrative and social roles in society.

Taxation and Economic Reforms

Tax reform was one of the central components of Shaybanid governance. The rulers sought to regulate tax collection and reduce arbitrary local exploitation. Taxes were imposed mainly on agricultural production, trade activities, and land ownership.

Land tax remained the main source of state revenue. Agricultural lands were carefully categorized, and taxation was based on productivity. In some regions, irrigation systems were restored to improve agricultural output and stabilize peasant livelihoods.

The iqta and suyural systems of land distribution were used to reward military commanders and loyal officials. However, efforts were made to prevent excessive concentration of land ownership that could weaken central power.

Trade taxes were also regulated to support domestic and international commerce. Since Central Asia was located along important Silk Road routes, the Shaybanids encouraged caravan trade, protected merchants, and maintained market stability.

Agriculture and Irrigation Development

Agriculture formed the backbone of the Shaybanid economy. Recognizing this, the rulers invested in irrigation systems, canals, and water management. Restoration of damaged irrigation networks helped increase crop production and ensured food security.

Cotton, wheat, fruits, and vegetables were widely cultivated. Livestock breeding also remained important, especially among nomadic and semi-nomadic populations. The balance between settled agricultural communities and nomadic tribal groups was carefully managed by the state.

The development of agriculture also strengthened urban centers such as Bukhara, Samarkand, and Tashkent, where agricultural products supported growing markets and artisan production.

Urban Development and Trade Expansion

Cities became centers of administration, commerce, and culture during the Shaybanid period. Bukhara, in particular, emerged as a major political and economic capital. Caravanserais, bazaars, madrasas, and public buildings were constructed to facilitate trade and urban life.

The Shaybanids maintained diplomatic and commercial relations with neighboring states, including Persia, the Ottoman Empire, and India. This contributed to the growth of regional trade networks and increased state revenues.

Craft production, especially textiles, ceramics, metalwork, and manuscript production, flourished in urban centers. State support for artisans and merchants stimulated economic prosperity.

Social Stability and Religious Policy

Social stability was closely connected to religious legitimacy. The Shaybanid rulers actively supported Sunni Islam and strengthened cooperation with religious scholars. This policy helped legitimize their authority among the local population.

Waqf institutions played an essential role in education, healthcare, and social welfare. Through religious endowments, public services were financed, reducing the direct burden on the state treasury.

At the same time, the rulers had to balance tribal interests and urban elites. Successful governance depended on maintaining cooperation between military nobility, religious authorities, and local administrators.

Conclusion

The Shaybanid period represents an important stage in the political and socio-economic development of Central Asia. Through administrative centralization, tax regulation, land reforms, agricultural improvements, and trade expansion, the Shaybanids established a relatively stable state system after the collapse of Timurid authority.

Their reforms strengthened public administration, supported economic growth, and reinforced social order through cooperation with Islamic institutions and local elites. The development of cities, irrigation systems, and trade networks further contributed to regional prosperity.

Although challenges such as tribal conflicts and succession struggles remained, the Shaybanid legacy had a lasting influence on the institutional and economic foundations of later Central Asian states. Their governance model remains an important subject for understanding the historical evolution of statehood in the region.

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