

HISTORIOGRAPHY AND SOURCE BASE FOR THE STUDY OF THE
KATTAKURGAN UYEZD

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Abstract

This article analyzes the sources of the history of the Kattakurgan uyezd. The history of this administrative unit, established on the territory of Kattakurgan, is studied on the basis of official archival documents of the Russian Empire, statistical collections, works of local intellectuals, and historical research of the Soviet period. The article argues for the need to critically analyze sources, take into account the period of their creation and ideological characteristics.

Keywords: Kattakurgan uyezd, Kattakurgan, Samarkand region, sources, archival documents, Russian Empire, colonial policy, statistical collections, socio-economic processes, administrative management, demographic situation.

Annotatsiya

Ushbu maqolada Kattaqo'rg'on uyezdi tarixining manbashunoslik asoslari tahlil qilinadi. Kattaqo'rg'on hududida tashkil etilgan mazkur ma'muriy birlikning tarixi Rossiya imperiyasi davriga oid rasmiy arxiv hujjatlari, statistik to'plamlar, mahalliy ziyolilar asarlari hamda sovet davri tarixiy tadqiqotlari asosida o'rganiladi. Maqolada manbalarni tanqidiy tahlil qilish, ularning yaratilgan davri va ideologik xususiyatlarini hisobga olish zarurligi asoslanadi.

Kalit so'zlar: Kattaqo'rg'on uyezdi, Kattaqo'rg'on, Samarqand viloyati, manbashunoslik, arxiv hujjatlari, Rossiya imperiyasi, mustamlakachilik siyosati, statistik to'plamlar, ijtimoiy-iqtisodiy jarayonlar, ma'muriy boshqaruv, demografik holat.

Аннотация

В данной статье анализируются источники истории Каттакурганского уезда. История этой административной единицы, созданной на территории Каттакургана, изучается на основе официальных архивных документов Российской империи, статистических собраний, трудов местных интеллектуалов и исторических исследований советского периода. В статье обосновывается необходимость критического анализа источников с учетом периода их создания и идеологических характеристик.

Ключевые слова: Каттакурганский уезд, Каттакурган, Самаркандская область, источники, архивные документы, Российская империя, колониальная политика, статистические собрания, социально-экономические процессы, административное управление, демографическая ситуация.

The study of the history of the Kattakurgan uyezd began in the late nineteenth century and evolved in several directions depending on political context, research objectives, and methodological approaches. The historiography of the issue can conventionally be divided into three stages. The first stage covers the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, when research was primarily descriptive and administrative in nature.

An analysis of sources from this period demonstrates that their principal aim was to collect systematic information about the territories incorporated into the Russian Empire, including Turkestan. Consequently, information about the Kattakurgan uyezd was mainly recorded in official statistical publications, administrative reports, and travel accounts. Among the most important published sources are:

Obzor Samarkandskoy oblasti — annual reviews of the Samarkand region that contained detailed data on population dynamics, land tenure, taxation, agriculture, trade, and administrative



organization, including information on the Kattakurgan uyezd. These reports represent key statistical material for reconstructing the socio-economic structure of the uyezd.

Pamyatnaya kniga Samarkandskoy oblasti — an official administrative and statistical reference book that included information on state institutions, industrial enterprises, peasant households, educational establishments, religious institutions, and lists of officials

Adres-kalendar Samarkandskoy oblasti — a directory-type publication containing data on administrative bodies, military units, and personnel serving in the region. [1]

Turkestanskiy sbornik — a comprehensive collection of printed materials consisting of 594 volumes. It includes official decrees, newspaper publications, statistical materials, and analytical articles concerning the political, economic, and social development of Turkestan. [2] The collection contains valuable information about trade routes, market infrastructure, taxation systems, and economic indicators relevant to the Kattakurgan uyezd. [3]

A particularly significant role is played by archival materials preserved in the Samarkand regional archive (funds F. I-1, F. I-17, F. I-24), which contain primary documentation related to administrative governance, judicial practice, educational institutions, fiscal policy, and land management in the uyezd. [4] These documents constitute the core primary source base for reconstructing the political and socio-economic history of the Kattakurgan uyezd in the second half of the nineteenth century.

From a methodological perspective, the available sources can be classified into three main categories:

Primary sources — official statistical publications, administrative correspondence, decrees, archival documents, and judicial materials.

Secondary sources — analytical works and studies based on the interpretation of primary documentation.

Additional sources — cartographic materials, visual sources, and illustrative statistical tables.

In contemporary historiography, the study of the Kattakurgan uyezd is closely connected with broader research on Russian imperial administration in Turkestan. Among the most significant works are:

Alexander Morrison, *Russian Rule in Samarkand 1868-1910*, which examines the mechanisms of Russian colonial governance in the Samarkand region. [5]

Francis Henry Skrine and Edward Denison Ross, *The Heart of Asia: A History of Russian Turkestan and the Central Asian Khanates*, providing a general historical overview of Russian expansion and administrative policy in Central Asia. [6]

Svetlana Gorshenina, whose work *The Private Collections of Russian Turkestan* analyzes the formation of knowledge about Turkestan and the role of archival and private collections in constructing imperial narratives. [7]

These studies contribute to a deeper understanding of the administrative, economic, and socio-political processes that shaped the development of the Kattakurgan uyezd within the framework of Russian imperial policy. In addition to official statistical and administrative documentation, visual and cartographic materials constitute an important group of sources for studying the history of the Kattakurgan uyezd.

Among the most significant visual sources is the *Turkestan Album (1871–1872)*, a large-scale photographic collection commissioned by Governor-General Konstantin von Kaufman. The album contains numerous photographs depicting urban landscapes, architectural monuments, representatives of local communities, and everyday life in Kattakurgan and the Samarkand region. As a visual source, it provides valuable material for reconstructing the social structure,



material culture, and urban environment of the uyezd in the early period of Russian administration.

An equally important category of sources is nineteenth-century topographic maps compiled by the Russian Military Topographical Department. These maps clearly reflect the administrative boundaries of the uyezd, settlement networks, irrigation systems, transport routes, and military infrastructure. Cartographic materials allow for a spatial analysis of economic development and administrative reorganization within the Samarkand region.

Ethnographic documentation prepared by the Turkestan military-statistical committees also represents a valuable source base. These materials recorded data on the ethnic composition of the population, traditional customs, forms of social organization, and religious practices. Although such documents were often produced within the framework of imperial governance and therefore reflect colonial perspectives, they remain indispensable for reconstructing the demographic and cultural characteristics of the uyezd.

An analysis of the available source base demonstrates that, despite its considerable quantitative richness, a significant portion of the materials relating to the Kattakurgan uyezd has not yet been fully introduced into scientific circulation. In particular, archival documentation, official statistical reports, and records concerning the local population remain insufficiently analyzed in modern historiography.

The introduction of previously unused archival materials and their examination through the methodological principles of contemporary historical research — including source criticism, comparative analysis, and interdisciplinary approaches — create opportunities for a more comprehensive and objective reconstruction of the history of Kattakurgan.

In the second half of the nineteenth century, the Kattakurgan uyezd functioned as a major administrative unit within the Samarkand region of the Turkestan Governorate-General of the Russian Empire. Reviews of Turkestan written by Russian officials and scholars such as Alexander Kun,[8] Nikolay Ostroumov,[9] and Ivan Mejer[10] provide important descriptive information about the region. However, these works were largely shaped by the colonial objectives of the empire, focusing primarily on assessing the economic potential and administrative manageability of the territory rather than conducting independent scientific analysis.[11]

Archival materials preserved in the Russian State Historical Archive (RGIA) and the Central State Archive of Uzbekistan include reports of Russian officials, correspondence of local governors, fiscal records, and tax registers. These documents enable an in-depth study of the uyezd's economic structure.[12]

The sources indicate that by the end of the nineteenth century the Kattakurgan uyezd was predominantly agrarian, with more than 80 percent of the population engaged in agriculture. The majority of irrigated lands were concentrated along the Zarafshan River, and access to water resources constituted a decisive factor in the region's economic development. Irrigation infrastructure determined patterns of settlement, agricultural specialization, and fiscal policy. The population of the uyezd was characterized by a rich spiritual heritage, strong religious traditions, and established educational institutions. The study of cultural life relies on several key categories of sources:

Turkestanskiy sbornik — containing materials on schools, madrasahs, mosques, libraries, and broader cultural developments in the Samarkand region.

Pamyatnaya kniga Samarkandskoy oblasti — providing statistical data on the education system, including the number of educational institutions, teachers, and the social composition of students.



Archival funds (I-1, I-3, I-5, I-11, I-254) of the Central State Archive of Uzbekistan — containing official correspondence concerning schools, Russian-language classes, and madrasahs. Local historical documents and waqf (endowment) registers — offering information about the financial foundations of mosques and madrasahs, endowment lands, and charitable activities. Taken together, these sources make it possible to reconstruct the distinctive features of the cultural and educational life of the Kattakurgan uyezd, including the interaction between religious and secular education, literacy levels, and the educational policies pursued under Russian imperial rule.

In Soviet historiography, the history of the Kattakurgan uyezd was examined primarily within the conceptual framework of the so-called “Turkestan colonial period.” Research during this stage was strongly influenced by Marxist methodology and focused predominantly on socio-economic processes, agrarian relations, and class struggle. The study of local cultural and religious life was often limited by ideological constraints. Among the works representative of this period are:

S. L. Tukhtayev, *Agrarian History of the Samarkand Region* (1958), which analyzed land relations, agricultural production, and peasant stratification within the framework of socio-economic formations;[13]

Vasily Bartold, whose selected works, including studies on Russian policy in Turkestan, addressed the broader historical context of imperial expansion;[14]

Publications of the Institute of History of the Academy of Sciences of the Uzbek SSR, such as *Economic Development of Turkestan and Cotton Policy*, which examined colonial economic policy, especially in relation to agrarian specialization and cotton monoculture.

The source analysis of this period relied heavily on official statistical data and archival documentation but interpreted them through Marxist class analysis. As a result, political and economic factors were emphasized, while religious institutions, intellectual traditions, and local cultural dynamics were insufficiently studied. When studying the history of the Kattakurgan uyezd, the available sources can be classified into several major categories: Official statistical publications *Obzor Samarkandskoy oblasti Adres-kalendar Samarkandskoy oblasti*

Preserved in the Russian State Historical Archive (RGIA) and the Central State Archive of Uzbekistan. These contain precise statistical data on population, taxation, land tenure, administrative organization, and economic structure. State archival documents Reports of governors, official correspondence, tax registers, land surveys, and school documentation. These materials represent highly valuable primary sources for reconstructing the administrative and economic life of the uyezd. Scientific research Soviet-era dissertations and contemporary scholarly works (Academy of Sciences libraries and research institutions).

These sources allow for the identification of evolving historiographical approaches and methodological changes.

Local documentary sources Waqf (endowment) registers, madrasah lists, and local administrative records (Samarkand archives and regional collections).

These materials illuminate the cultural, religious, and educational life of the population. Cartographic sources *Map of Turkestan* (1878) *Map of the Samarkand Region* (1899) Preserved in major Russian library collections. These maps are essential for determining administrative boundaries, irrigation systems, settlement patterns, and transport routes. Particularly noteworthy is the map entitled *Administrative Borders of Kattakurgan Uyezd* in 1880, which illustrates its borders with Samarkand, Nurota, Jizzakh, and Karmana, as well as the irrigation network of the Zarafshan Valley and major settlements such as Kattakurgan, Chelak, Charkhin, and Khoja Ismat. Cartographic analysis enables the reconstruction of spatial-administrative organization and economic geography. At present, the source base for the history of the Kattakurgan uyezd



requires a multidisciplinary and integrative approach. Economic, political, cultural, and demographic aspects must be examined in their interconnection. Modern historical methodology emphasizes: critical analysis of colonial administrative sources, comparative regional studies, interdisciplinary use of cartography, demography, and cultural history, digitization and systematization of archival materials.

Based on the analysis of the available sources, several conclusions may be drawn: By the end of the nineteenth century, the Kattakurgan uyezd was one of the significant administrative, economic, and cultural centers of the Turkestan Governorate-General. The majority of sources concerning the uyezd were produced within the administrative system of the Russian Empire; therefore, they require careful source criticism and contextual interpretation. A considerable portion of archival documentation — including tax registers and reports of Russian-native schools — has not yet been fully introduced into scholarly circulation. The documentary heritage of the Kattakurgan uyezd is multilingual, consisting of materials in Uzbek, Russian, and Persian, which necessitates philological competence and comparative analysis. Research on the history and source studies of the Kattakurgan uyezd is important for several reasons: It provides valuable material for studying local governance, taxation systems, and educational policy during the Turkestan period. The case of the Kattakurgan uyezd demonstrates the impact of colonial policy on local social and economic structures. Future research priorities include digitization of archival materials, reconstruction of historical maps, and broader academic dissemination of previously unpublished documents.

Thus, the history of the Kattakurgan uyezd occupies a distinct and important place not only within regional historiography but also within the broader system of source studies of the history of Uzbekistan.

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