# Introduction And Use Of Firearms In Bukhara Khanate (XVI Century)

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**Abstract**: This paper gives scientific analyses about fire arms – cannons, tufangs and zarbzans, which were introduced in Bukhara Khanate in XVI century and the mechanisms and role of use of such weapons.The article is based on translated sources, published studies and previously in the years of independence.

**Index Terms**: Bukhara Khanate arms, artillery, gun, tactics, gunpowder, military engineering, the defense, the assault, cannon, military troops, cannons, tufangs.

## 1. RELEVANCE OF THE RESEARCH WORK

The relevance of the topic of the research work is explained by the following: firstly, the firearms that appeared and were introduced for use in early XVI century in Central Asia have not been studied as a separate topic; secondly, most historian state that firearms were mainly brought to Central Asia after colonisation by Russian Empire. In reality, the historical factsabout pouring canons, using riflesand appearance and development of artillery systems that were new in the XVI century have not been studied scientifically; thirdly, by the second half of the XVI century, during the reign of AbdullakhanibnIskandarkhan (1557-1598) centralisation of the state was achieved owing to wide use of arms like canons and rifles. These factorsare considered relevant for a topic of research work like wide spread and use of fire arms in Bukharan Khanate.

## 2. THE DEGREE OF STUDY OF THE TOPIC

Despite the existence of important historical sources about the military might of Bukhara Khanate, especially its armaments, the works and monographs of V.V. Bartold, M.I. Ivanin, O.A. Sukhareva, A.A. Semenov, A. Vambery [2] **B.**Ahmedov [1], G. Sultonova [11], R.G. Mukmnova and G.A. Agzamova [9] about the military system and armamament of Bukhara Khanate, no sufficient attention has been given to the state and supplies of firearms that played a special role in the military might of the Khanate**.**

## 3. USE OF FIREARMS – GUN

According to the information in written sources, the main type war arms were the arrows and the bows. In Samarqand, which was considered the capital of the state of Sheybanids, whose political might was mostly associated with military forces, production of armament was considerably developed in the first half of XVI century. They produced swords, daggers, pole-axes, fighting axes, ring-mails, iron hats, mantlets and various types of armaments for their military forces and militarised divisions

During this time, the features of cutting and firing arms gradually changed as the firearms were widely spread and improved. Because a bullet can relatively easily penetrate through the clothing, its shape also changed several times. However, in XVI century, armed forced continued using the arms and shields that had been in use in the previous centuries. The bowmen remained the main support of the army even after people had started using guns. Starting from the first quarter of XVI century, according to the information from Zahiriddin Muhammad Babur, who had been a participant and hero of military collisions, the firearms – gun was still unknown to the population of Bajour (Afghanistan). They had never seen such an armament, and once the battle had started, they ignore the banking of the gung and continued standing against the bullets. Only after the case, when Master Ali Quli and other fighters shot the guns and killed several Bajourians near him, the rest starting to seek ways of saving their lives from the bullets, fired by the enemy [13,p.47]. If we base our views on the fact that the guns appeared in some places of Afghanistan together with the army of Babur in 1516, we draw the fact that this item of arms had not been widely spread in these places. Constant use of guns by the army in the territory of Central Asia falls on the middle of XVI century. Therefore, the copper barrel guns are described for this era. For instance, one of the squads of the army of SayidBurkhon, a province governor in Bukhara, was armed with such guns [12]. According to the historical sources, iron barrel guns were also used during this era, the “Rumanians” (Janizaries, sent by the Osman Sultans) were armed with such guns [10]. According to the agreement with the Osman Empire Sultans [14], during the era of Abdullakhon II (1557-1598) and Ashtarkhanids, the contracted Turkish military engineers trained their armies in modern methods for preparation for battles, and the armament was brought from Turkey[8,p.143, 151, 242, 323, 328, 344, 394]. Antony Jenkinson, who came from England, wrote the following: “On the 26th of December, I was ordered to have an audience with Khan. I gave him the letter from the Russian Tsar. In presence of the court, he made me fire from our gun and he also fired from the gun and did some training”[3]. We come to know from the news that local guns different from that that Antony Jenkinson had. From the second half of XVI century, technical improvement of handheld forearms started playing an important role in arming the army, including the contracted soldiers. For example, the armies of Sheybanid Navruz Ahmadkhan (Baroqkhan), including his son BoboSulton had a group of ired soldiers, armed with guns serving for them [8,p.143,394].

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## 4. USE OF CANNONS

The bullets, shot by the gunners managed to penetrate through the shields, ring-mailsm sometimes both the shield and the ring-main together. Some of the contemporaries of Babur specially showed their talents. For instance, a master of making cannons – master Ali Quli was also a very good gunman [13,p.230]. The professional in metal smelting Ali Quli's service in the successes of Zahiriddin Muhammad Bobur in the land of India cannot be underestimated. This talented and very good gunmen could manage to operate the French cannon, later learned to make cannons himself and managed to shoot "large volume stones" from these cannons. It wasn't without reason that Zahiriddin Muhammad Babur used to call Ali Quli as a "rare person in our times". The reason to this was that one could hardly find such a talented man in those times. Master Ali Quli poured various size cannons. They consisted of two parts: the installed part, stone and the gunpowder slot. Muhammad ibn Arab Qatagan left valuable information about those special people, who made and shot from cannons during the reign of Abdullakhan II. The army had a military engineer Master Ruhiy, who supervised the process of making cannons, which were tehn used to attack fortresses. If we think on the basis of the description of events by the author, there is no more information about participation of Master Ruhiy at battles starting from 1580. During conquer of the Signal fortress by Abdullakhan in July 1582, MirakYasoul, who was the cannon division commander instead of Master Ruhiy (who had died by then), showed great heroism[5,p.328]. In August in the same year, the names of cannoniersQarogoziy and Jahongiriy are mentioned in conquering the Yassi Fortress [5,p.344]. This shows that as the years went by, the number of military engineers grew. Historian HofizTanish mentions the names of gunmen and firers in the armies of Uzbek Sultans for several times. To-date, it is yet unknown the difference of the run (tufang), used by the soldiers in the territory of Central Asia and other type arms. The guns (tufangs) from late Middle Ages, are kept in the Museum of the History of People of Uzbekistan. According to the evidences from historical information, in XVI century, in military campaigns in Central Asia they used artillery cannons and local masters started making their own cannons.

## 5. PRODUCTION OF CANNONS

According to Babur, smelted copper was sent to a special molder along a special groove and cooled. Production process used to take several days: fisrt of all, they did preparatory work, then the smelted metal was poured into moulds, and had to wait for some time (one-two days) for the poured metal to set [13,p.199]. Lack of knowledge of smelting techniques and adequate equipment prevented the masters from independent work. For creation of the required condition in the cannon barrel and compensating the kickback from the shot and transferring the generated weight to the earth, they use special structures (carts). Tripods were also attaché to these carts. To do this, the carts were connected with each other. Babur wrote the following about the skills of Master Aliquli, who served in Babur's army: "I went to see the shooting from the large cannon, the shell barrel of which Master Aliquili flawlessly designed and then made the gunpowder slot to it. He shot a stone from the cannon at the Midday Namaz time. The stone was thrown to one thousand and six hundred steps. I presented a pocketed dagger, complete set of clothing and a horse to Ali Quli"[13,p.230].Cannon maker masters used to be called "rekhtagar"[6,p.119]. During their work process, they sued helpers' aid. According to the sources from XVI-XVII centuries, there were several rerkhtagars in Bukhara. The rekhtagars used to make various household items from bronze, which an alloy of copper and lead. The cannons, made at the initial times, used to blow up after the first shot. One of such events resulted in the death of 8 people, who were standing near the cannon. This is what Babur wrote about it: "On Sunday, Master Ali Quli shot a stone from a large cannon. No matter how far the stone had been thrown, the cannon itself was blown into pieces. One of the pieces hit the surrounding location. This included killing of eight people"[13,p.201]. By the end of XVI century, making artillery canons was relatively improved. The cannons were now made strong, and their dimensions were more or less homogenised. Upon the order by Abdullokhan II, one in every seven of the cannons, installed at the Gavharshod Mosque (Herat) was designed to fire 2-3 man weight stones (1 man = 898,56 gr). In the first quarter of XVI century, the cannons were shot by the masters, who had made them [6,p.229]. But according to the information from HofizTanish about assembling of seven cannons at the same place allows us making a conclusion that from the end of XVI century, the cannon maker master were mainly busy in making cannons and only in rare cases, they used to shoot stones from their cannons. The information from information reports of Russian Ambassadors give evidence that use of firearms in Central Asia in the end of XVI and XVII century was sufficiently extensive. Russian Ambassador Grigory Vasilchikov at Iranian Shah Abbas mentions the following in his report about conquering of Herat by the army of Abdullakhan II: "Uzbeks proceeded into the battle by firing gunshots; they had both tufangs and cannons [7]. By the end of XVI century, during military campaigns, they used the cannons, made by local masters. European cannons – French cannons are mentioned very rarely. This gives evidence that there had been certain progress in making artillery cannons. At the same time, they used locally made cannons, espringals, trabuchs, and other items from previous centuries, battering rams and firing equipment and artillery was used. Military plant and equipment use petroleum for fuel. This is mentioned by Muhammad Solih in the beginning of XVI century and HofizTanish in the end of the century[5,p.216-217]. While fighting by standing on the walls of their fortresses, people used to use cloth balls, soaked in petroleum, which was considered to the "horrifying means to the enemy"[4]. According to Egelberg, Camppher and Saint Chalabiy, the goat's skin oil bags were brought to different countries, including to Central Asia. Petroleum buyer traders were placed in special caravanserais [9,p111]. There was a gunpowder magazine in Bukhara, which had single storeyed and two-storeyed cells. Information about this magazine is given in "Abdullanoma". HofizTanish describes an event, when the magazine was incidentally got fire to cause explosion that brought horrible damages. Because the magazine was located in a densely populated located, the explosion killed many people, including most craftsmen. The fire destroyed many accommodation and trade-craftsmen's buildings [5,p.132, 199].

## CONCLUSION

In conclusion, we can say that the reforms, related with firearms were not systematically continued at following eras (XVI-XIX centuries). This was explained by insufficiency of military professionals, low level of development of natural-exact sciences, the point of view of military men that it was much easier to use traditional arms like bows and arrows, swords, picks and exes than using more complicated items; therefore the latter did not get improved. As a result, in mid-

XIX century, this tradition demonstrated its negative influence in invasion of Russia into Central Asia.

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[14] During this time, for thte purposes of using Bukhara Khans and raising thteir influencto the latter in the area, in their policy towards Iran, the state of Osman Turks interfered in the internalk affairs of Sheybanid’s state, sent Yanizaries, who were armed with modern rifles (tufangs) to Navruz Ahmadkhan and his sons, who fought against Abdullakhan II. While the rifles that the Sheybanids had efore this, were made from copper, starting from the middle of XVI century, soldiers of Movarounnahr started getting armed with iron/steel rifles.