HISTORIOGRAPHICAL REVIEW OF THE INTELLECTUAL LIFE OF IRAN IN THE LATE XIX – 1ST HALF OF THE XX CENTURY

The investigation is devoted to the analysis of the sources related the topic of the scientific research. In the introduction, the author focuses on the events of the 19-th century and comments on the political situation in the Iranian country. The article reviews and informs about the problems and events that have arisen in the country as a result of these political processes.

In the main part of the article, the sources under the topic are divided into three groups for investigation. It examines the research studies published at different times and focuses on their original value. Particularly special attention is paid to works on the history of Iran, displaying the relief of events “from time immemorial to the present day” as valuable sources of the research under investigation. The next most important source highlighted in the article is the study of Iranian researchers on the events of that period.

In conclusion, the author says that in the future, these sources will be studied in the research work, depending on the level of source study significance, and a historical comparative analysis will be carried out.

The article provides a historiographic comparative analysis of the sources. The aim of the research work is to determine the bibliographic base of the research work.

The scientific and practical significance of the article lies in the identification of source materials and disclosure of the source value of future research work. In the research work, guided by the conclusions obtained in the article, a plan of the future work program is drawn up, which will be supplemented in the course of the research.

Key words: Iran, “political game”, source, source study, intelligentsia, modernization, intellectual movement.
Историографический обзор интеллектуальной жизни Ирана в конце XIX – 1-ой половине XX в.

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В данной статье дается анализ источников, относящихся к теме научно-исследовательской работы. Авторы в статье комментируют политическую ситуацию в Иране в XIX веке и анализирует проблемы и события, возникшие в стране в результате этих политических процессов.

В основной части статьи источники в рамках темы разбиваются на три группы. Изучив труды, изданные в разные периоды, автор останавливается на их источниковом значении. Особое внимание в качестве ценных источников уделяется трудам, отражающим рельеф событий, посвященных истории Ирана, от "времен и до наших дней". В качестве источников, имеющих особое значение для исследовательской работы, рассматриваются труды иранских исследователей. В заключение автор заявляет, что в дальнейшем в научно-исследовательской работе будут изучаться данные источники в зависимости от уровня источниковедческой значимости и проводиться исторический сравнительный анализ.

В статье проводится историографический сравнительно-сопоставительный анализ источников. Целью работы является определение библиографической базы исследовательской работы.

Научно-практическая значимость статьи заключается в выявлении исходных материалов и раскрытии источникового значения будущей научно-исследовательской работы. В исследовательской работе, руководствуясь выводами, полученными в статье, составляется план будущей рабочей программы, который будет дополнен в ходе исследований.

Ключевые слова: Иран, «политическая игра», источник, источниковедение, интеллигенция, модернизация, интеллектуальное движение.

Introduction

In the early 19th century, the world famous great empire became completely dependent on foreign powers. As a result of the provocations of the "political game" of the authoritative powers, Persia, which fought with Russia, was defeated. Persia, which came under the control of Russia and Great Britain, was forced to sign complicated contracts. As a result, the dominance of foreigners in the country was doubled. However, Iran remains an important player in geopolitics in the historical arena.

The 19th century was full of enforcement and turbulent century in the history of Iran. The semi-colonization of the country intensified antagonistic tensions. The political games of Great Britain and France in the east, especially the influence of the Shah of Iran, and Russia’s interference in this political game, will only aggravate the situation.

The tyrannical policy of external forces led to the strengthening of anti-imperialist sentiments among the patriotic forces within the state. The Shah’s leasing of important economic properties to foreigners and the fact that government revenues do not bring domestic benefits to the country have sparked protests. Protests broke out among the entire population, including both the emerging intelligentsia and the national bourgeoisie. Intellectuals who concerned about the country have been looking for a solution to this problem. Thus, the country’s progressive intelligentsia began to promote the ideas of enlightenment and modernization. Iran was on the verge of transition from a backward feudal system to new capitalist relations. During this period, the educational initiatives of the Iranian intelligentsia were born. The sharp rise in relations with countries such as France, Britain and Russia was a direct result of the “education” initiative in the Iranian country. Almost all of the intelligentsia received Western education abroad.

The Qajar king Muhammad, who visited France several times, decided to bring the best examples of Western culture to the country. Consequently, Iranian youth were selected in two stages and sent to Western universities. Later, these young people became the first representatives of the intelligentsia that formed in Qajar Iran.

When these young people returned to the country, they made every effort to bring the achievements of Western culture to the country. Consequently, Iranian youth were selected in two stages and sent to Western universities. Later, these young people became the first representatives of the intelligentsia that formed in Qajar Iran.

Thus, along with the foreign colonial policy, Western culture gained strength in the country, and
“Westernization” began. It was a transitional period when Iran was on the verge of “modernization” and made great changes in society.

In the second half of the 19-th century, young people with Western education began to work in various fields of the country. One of such significant events was when young people began to criticize the backwardness of Iranian society, to propose changes to the country’s political system, and to speak out against the government’s need for reform. Thus, the intellectual movement emerged in the country. This movement and its thoughtful intellectuals have become the driving force behind the country’s “rebirth” process. They were the pioneers of the country’s “revival” process, such as Amir Kabir, Mr. Melkom Khan.

In this transitional period, the subject of the work will be the delineation of social problems of the Iranian intelligentsia, conducting a scientific analysis. For this purpose, a source analysis of scientific works is carried out. This is a new and topical direction in the Kazakh Oriental Studies, which has not been studied before. Because the line of historical events in Iran in the early 19-th century and the socio-political activities of the Iranian intelligentsia are not considered in the context of the Kazakh Oriental Studies.

Aims and objectives of the study.
Purpose of work: analysis of historical works on the history of intellectual life of Iran in the late 19-th and the first half of the 20-th century;
Objectives: 1) study of scientific literature on the topic; 2) step-by-step analysis of works of near and far abroad and domestic authors; 3) make general conclusions on the issue under consideration.

Scientific research methodology

The study used mainly qualitative methods, such as analysis, synthesis, historiographic and historical-comparative methods.

During the study of historical works the comparative method was mainly used. The information provided by each source, the author’s conclusions in the study are analyzed. The studied materials on these data were compared with the conclusions of comparative-historical analysis, and the significance of the work was determined.

Also, by the method of synthesis, works about the events of the period were analyzed and information on the topic was collected and systematized. Individual data was collected from each source, and a roadmap for the study was developed.

Results and Analysis

This study is devoted to the history of Iran in the second half of the nineteenth century, the history of intellectual life and the social and political activities of intellectuals.

As we have already mentioned, the sources are grouped into three main groups. During the formation of the historiography of this issue, much attention was paid to the historical works related to the events of the historical period as a whole. There are many historical facts and sources studied in connection with the period.

The directions of scientific and theoretical material for the study of socio-political changes in the world at that time, historical and cultural aspects of the problem, the historical process of Iran and the framework of regional development are also considered. Among them, the works of domestic and foreign scholars of different schools and directions are divided into the following groups:
- Data on the internal and external social situation in the world, in Iran;
- Data on the historical events of Iran during the Qajar era and the second half of the 19-th century;
- Especially original are the works on the history of intellectual life in Iran, that is, the works of Iranian scholars.

As mentioned above, most of the works on the history of Iran in the late nineteenth century are devoted to the place of Iran in the “Great Game” and its relations with such countries as Great Britain and Russia. During this period, British and Russian scholars considered Iran a sphere of influence, so they studied it in detail and studied it to their advantage. The number of such works is growing. However, among them, in turn, a number of works of scientific value became the subject of our historiographical study.

One of the first publications dedicated to the analysis of Persia’s place on the world stage was published in 1892. This work, known as a collection of geographical, topographical, and statistical materials on Asia, is called “The Persian question and Persia”. (Curzon D.N., 2021). The author of the work is one of the major political figures of the period, Lord J. Curzon. His work demonstrates the importance of Persia in Central Asia at the time. The work is the result of several visits of the author to Iran. Because it is a comprehensive study of Iran, the reader develops a true socio-political and cultural understanding of Iran at the time. The value of this work is that the geographical and social facts about
the country of Persia are true. This is because the author himself described the facts that he saw with his own eyes. The main focus was the organization of defense in order to protect the British-held India from the threat of Russia. This is the advantage of the source, which gives a clear picture of the competitive actions and positions of the two powers at this stage.

Among the published materials on the political and geographical situation in Central Asia, as well as on the political actions of Russia and Britain, the work of British archaeologist and diplomat Henry Rawlinson on the political relations between Britain and Persia “Russia and England in the East” takes a special place (Rawlinson H., 1975). The main point of his views and judgments on Anglo-Russian rivalry in the East was the idea of Russian invasion of India, and he accepted it as an impending reality. In this work we see clearly the role of Iran in the political arena of the time. Because this work helps to capture and understand historical events on the world stage. The author’s views on the situation in Persia and the influence of Russia and Britain are important. The weakness of this work, however, is that British policy in Central Asia is guided by a cover of defense policy against the aggressive actions of the Russian Empire in the region.

The book “History of Iran and the Iranians: from Ancient to Modern Times” published in 2006 by the French Orientalist Jean-Paul Ruud deserves special attention. It is a full-fledged country study that provides a wealth of information about the development of Iran from ancient times to the present, historical events, and the lives of the peoples who inhabited Iran. The author emphasizes the important role of Iran in world history, stresses the national identity of the Iranian people and the unique and interesting aspects of Iranian history. However, we believe that in the future it is necessary to compare the materials of this work with primary sources, to analyze them in a new study (Ru, Jean-Paul, 2012).

If we turn to the works of Russian researchers of this period, most of them focus on the rivalry of political influence with the British. Overviewing the literature of the nineteenth century, we see that Persia was an important strategic region for Russia, as Iran was a popular topic in many journals and newspapers of the time. These pieces contain information about the economic and political life of Iran and the traditions of the Persian people. One such work was published in 1977 by N.A. Erofeev’s monograph, “English Colonization in the Middle of the 19th Century”. The researcher analyzes British methods and tools of regional policy, focusing on their aggressive nature. This monograph focuses on important features and aspects of British colonial policy in the 1830-1850s, the political struggle of the ruling classes in this area, some areas of the British economy. The work contains a number of essays that reveal the true nature of British colonial policy. These concluding essays reflect the colonial ideology and describe the attitude of the British people to the colonial policy (Erofeev N. A., 1977).

In general, the analysis of such Russian and British policy in Asia is devoted to the majority of works of this period.

Next, let us turn to the works on the history of the Qajars, which have attracted the attention of all Orientalists and historians. The author has written a number of works on the history of the Qajar regime and Reza Pahlavi’s rise to power in the first half of the 19th century, when Iran was in competition with the ruling powers. Among them, one of the main sources of our study is devoted to Iran under the rule of the Qajars. G.V. Shitova’s “Persia is under the rule of the last Qajars”. The work contains interesting facts about the historical processes of the Qajars. We consider this work one of the most important sources, because it provides accurate facts about the time in the form of a research paper. This work is valuable for its historiographic data. In this work, Shitov examines the history of Persia from the second half of the 19th century to 1912 and makes a scientific analysis of the socio-economic and political processes of the last Qajar period. The period of Russia’s defense of its geopolitical interests in the south and the conflict of rivalry with Great Britain, which led to World War I, is described (Shitov G.V., 1933).

Another valuable work published in 1974 was R.A. Seyidov’s “The Iranian Bourgeoisie of the Late 19-th and early 20-th centuries”. The work deals with the socio-economic prerequisites for the formation of the Iranian bourgeoisie, the emergence of industrial capital, the issues of ownership, production and the national composition of the Iranian bourgeoisie and its role in the political movements of the late 19-th and early 20-th centuries. This work is important for historical analysis and information for our study. The advantage of this source is that it allows us to understand the preconditions for the emergence of the intellectual movement in Iran and the awakening of national consciousness (Seidov R.A., 1974).

Further, as mentioned above, we consider studies of the activities of the intelligentsia of that time together with the Qajar authorities. It is known that a number of these studies will be expanded in
the future. So far, the sources we have reviewed examine the general field of theoretical politics, the ideas of the intellectuals of the Qajar period about the possibility of changing the system of government. It is the author of a monograph published in 1983, the Tajik scholar D.M. Anarkulova. The monograph is a study of issues related to the “national liberation struggle” associated with the reforms of Mirza Mohammad Taghi Khan in Iran in the mid-19th century. This reform was the first attempt to overcome socio-economic backwardness and strengthen national sovereignty, and to counteract the growing penetration of foreign powers into the country. It comprehensively examines Tagi-khan’s reforms and vividly shows the struggle of the feudal aristocracy and conservative clergy against their implementation. It also describes the emergence of the first press in Iran and its role in society. This work, which analyzes the activity of Mirza Taghi Khan, one of the first representatives of the intellectual movement in Iran, is valuable and useful for us. This is due to the fact that through the activity of Tagi-Khan it is possible to see the prerequisites and the process of formation of intellectuals. There is an analysis of innovative ideas that strengthened the central government, the state’s fighting capacity and other factors that contributed to the economic development of the country. (Anarkulova D. M., 1983). The importance of this work for us lies in the fact that it is a source that provides direct information about the socio-political situation in the country.

Many scholars have also studied the influence of the Russian Empire in the region under consideration. In particular, M.A. Igamberdiev, Kh.A. Ataev’s works are focused on the place of Iran in international relations and trade and economic relations with Russia. This work is considered general information for us. Sources are of little value.

E.A. Galkina’s research paper “Ways of forming a nation and nationalism in Iran”, published in 2011, was another work on the Qajar era and national identity (Galkina E.A., 2011). Analyzing the formation of national identity in Iran, the author said: “Nationalism is the child of a new era, such as industrialization, the nation and capitalism, without which this ideology would never have emerged”. The process of the formation of nationalist ideas in Iran began in the nineteenth century. This century quickly evolved from a medieval feudal monarchy under the influence of Britain and France into this country and moved into the framework of economic globalization. This is the author’s assessment of Iran’s political and social orientation. This work was an attempt to study the internal social space of Iran during the Qajar period, the normal life of Iranians. The study is a very reliable source for understanding the internal situation in the country.

And in 2019 S.I. Gabrielyan’s work “Iranian Enlighteners and their Reconstruction Program in Persia in the second half of the 19-th century” was published. This scientific article analyzes the enlightenment activities of Iranian intellectuals in the second half of the nineteenth century and their political programs. In his work, the researcher focuses on the efforts of leading Iranian thinkers to reform the country, the idea of getting rid of foreign colonies and modernizing the country. The main object of study is the role of enlightened ideas and intellectuals. However, the social and political evolution of intellectuals has not been analyzed from a scientific point of view. The information given here on the enlightenment initiatives and activities of Iranian intellectuals is an important source for us (Gabrielyan S.I., 2019).

The article by Kazakh orientalists G.A. Kambarekova and A.Zh. Boranbaeva “Review of Iranian periodicals of the Qajar dynasty” about the first Iranian press that dealt with this issue, i.e. about the life and activities of the Iranian intelligentsia, is very important to us. The article is a source of information on the history of the Iranian press, as well as the Iranian intelligentsia (Kambarekova G.A., Boranbaeva A. Zh., 2021). The study of the period in this form indicates a new direction of research in the field of Kazakh Iranian studies.

Next, let us focus on studies of the events of this period in Iran itself as primary sources. In 2001, the Iranian researcher M. Tajiq published a book on the national identity of Iranian intellectuals. The work provides an analysis of the events of the period in the form of a research work in a new era. The author mainly considers national identity as a political and social phenomenon of the new era. The new national identity of Iran concludes that the constitutional revolution created a new situation in Iran in the discourse of new identity. The article also focuses on the concepts of constitutional nationalism and security, nation, homeland, freedom (Tajiq M., 2000).

Researcher M. Eivazi published an article in 2006 on the problem of the national identity of Iranian intellectuals in the period we are considering. In this article the author examines the process of the constitutional movement in the country. Two main issues, Iranian identity and independence, are
considered the basis and cause of the movement (Eyvazi M., 2006).

M. Zahedi and M. Heidarpoury (2009), in the article analyzing the activities of intellectuals, explore the social relations of intellectuals with the people and the government. This work will be one of our main sources. Because it is important as a work that opens the way to the information we need. More precisely, the most important thing is to analyze the innovative ideas of the intelligentsia, to focus on the reasons for the emergence of enlightenment ideas, as well as contemporary demands (Zahedi, M., Heidarpour, M., 2008).

In his article (2009), A. Nazeri characterized the discourses of Iranian modernists as one of the obsolete discourses. This article considers the concepts of “constitutionalism”, “ancient nationalism”, and “secularism” as the three main elements of the discourse of “modernism” (Nazeri, A., 2009).

In the course of the study we can assess the researcher’s data by making a comparative analysis of his views on the events.

3. Ghorbanzadeh S. and Amirpour G.H. in their article analyze the reasons why the main goals of the first generation intellectuals are to achieve legitimacy, to limit the power of the monarchy to ensure the rights of the people (Ghorbanzadeh S., Amirpour G.H., 2018).

A study by Dr. A. Asghar, A. Karimi-Mil, Dr. M. Mahmoudi, and B. Mirzai in 2020 focuses on many aspects of Reza-Khan’s rise to power in the unstable political situation in Iran. In the last years of the Qajar rule, the most influential group was the intellectuals who directly influenced Reza-Khan’s ascent to the throne. It also analyzes the interests of the foreign powers that influenced Iran’s domestic affairs in the global political situation (Mirzai B., Mahmoudi M., Karimi-Mil A., 2020). Each of these works is important for us and will undoubtedly serve as a guide for research.

**Conclusion**

In conclusion, it should be noted that a number of works on the historiography of the research work is notable for its significance and informative. According to the results of the study the following conclusion is made: the historiography of the topic is divided into three groups. The sources of the first group mainly deal with the history of that period and the history of Iran, the political interests of western countries, such as Russia and Britain, in relation to Iran, political games, internal and external situation. The second group of sources deals with the study and analysis of written sources of that period, Iranian society, socio-political issues, and enlightenment ideas. The work of the third group of Iranian researchers includes the analysis of the evolution of intellectual uniqueness, the role of intellectuals in the accession to the throne of Reza-Khan, the activities of the enlighteners. If in the 19-20th centuries researchers analyzed economic and political processes, in the 21-st century Iranian researchers have written many works on culture, features of the Persian intelligentsia, its life and activities. Thus, in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, general works on the history of Iran at that time began to take shape.

In any case, the socio-political evolution of the Iranian intelligentsia remains a topical issue requiring study. The bibliographic basis of the general scholarly work is divided into the above three stages.

The article presents a historiographical review of Iranian intellectual life in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. To date, the range of research topics and questions is expanding. Thus, the relevance of the topic lies in the step-by-step study of the socio-political evolution of the Iranian intelligentsia of the second half of the nineteenth century and its analysis from the point of view of the Kazakh Oriental Studies.

**References**


