

Relations between Russia and China at the End of the 19th Century

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Abstract: The article examines about the weakening of the central government in China at the end of the 19th century, the aggravation of the country's socio-political situation, and the strengthening of the western countries' struggle to take over it.

Keywords: emperor, alliance, territory, government, railway, duty, agreements, cooperation.



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INTRODUCTION

At the end of the 19th century, the social and political situation in China worsened, and they were: firstly, as a result of the entry of foreign investors into the territory of China, their involvement in the country's economy increased; secondly, in 1898-1901, there was an increase in the activity of missionaries promoting the Christian religion; thirdly, it worsened the social situation in the country;

DISCUSSION

It was one of the main reasons for this. Lord Salisbury, an English politician, expressed the following opinion in 1885: "The power that can establish itself best in China will gain the upper hand in world politics" [1]. As a result, between 1894 and 1898, China owed 54 million pounds to foreign countries, including England, Germany, Russia and France.

In 1895, as a result of the Simonosoki Treaty signed between China and Japan, Japan not only pushed China out of the Korean territory, but also began to fight for the possession of China. As a result of China's increasing debt from Western countries, foreign investors accelerated the construction of railways in China. As a result, foreign countries began to establish their monopolies in China through these ways. In general, the Treaty of Simonosoki stated the following:

firstly, Beijing's recognition of Korean independence;

secondly, to pay a large amount of reparations to Japan;

thirdly, to give the islands of Liaodong and Taiwan to Japan;

This was against the geopolitical goals of Russia. Not only Russia and Japan, but also western countries had huge interests in China. Russia, Germany, France and England demanded that Tokyo return the island of Liaodong. A cooperative European military squadron was dispatched to the Japanese coast. As a result, Japan agreed to pay China an additional 30 million liang in compensation.

On May 22, 1896, the Chinese Foreign Minister Li Hongzhang visited Russia. An agreement was signed between Russia and China, according to which the following was stipulated:

firstly, His Majesty the Emperor of All Russia and the Emperor of China decided to establish a mutual defense alliance, wishing to consolidate the honorably restored peace in the Far East and protect the Asian continent from new foreign invasions.

secondly, any attack by Japan on Russian territory in East Asia, as well as on Chinese or Korean territory, would be considered as a reason for the immediate application of this treaty.

thirdly, in order to facilitate the access of the Russian ground troops to the points of danger and to supply them with food, the Chinese government agrees to the construction of a railway line through the Chinese provinces of Amur and Girinsk in the direction of Vladivostok. The connection of this railway with the Russian railway cannot be an excuse for usurping Chinese territory or encroaching on the supreme rights of the Chinese emperor [2].

Thus, it was agreed that both countries should help each other when military assistance is needed. At the same time, on September 8, 1896, an additional agreement on the construction of the East China Railway was signed between Russia and China. According to it:

The Chinese government makes a deposit of 5 million cupin-taels in the Russian-Chinese Bank and in proportion to this contribution, participates in the profits and losses of the bank under the conditions provided for in the special agreement. The Chinese government decided to build a direct railway line between the city of Chita and Russia's South Us-Suri railway, and assigns the construction and operation of this line to the Russia-China Bank under the following conditions: The company "Russia-China Bank" is established.

"Society of China Eastern Railway". Only Chinese or Russian entities can buy the company's shares. The chairman of this society is appointed by the Chinese government, but to get support from the society. It may be located in Beijing. The chairman has a special duty to monitor the unconditional fulfillment of the obligations of the bank and the society. In relation to the Chinese government.

The direction of the line is determined by the representatives of the chairman of the society appointed by the Chinese government based on mutual agreement. In communication with the public engineers and local authorities, and in following this line, cemeteries, graves, as well as towns and villages, should be avoided and set aside, if possible... The gauge should be the same as on Russian railways...

The Society is responsible for ensuring that transiting troops and Russian military materials on this route are sent directly from one Russian station to another, without stopping en route under any pretext for a longer period than may be called absolutely necessary.

Tariffs for transportation of passengers, cargo, as well as loading and unloading of cargo are determined by the enterprise. But it is obliged to transport Chinese official mails free of charge, and Chinese land and naval forces, as well as Chinese military materials, at half price.

The Chinese government grants the community the full and exclusive right to operate the line at its own expense and risk, therefore, the Chinese government will not be responsible for any shortfalls of the community during construction and for another 80 years after that. From this point, the line is completed and the traffic along it is opened. After this period, the line with all its belongings will be transferred to the Chinese state for free. 36 years after the entire line was completed and opened for traffic, the Chinese government has the right to buy the line [3].

Of course, as a result of increasing Russia's position in China, the conflict with Japan increased. S. Yu. Witte entered the territory of China and managed to control not only foreign investors, but also Rossini's finances in China by establishing a bank there.

China has allowed Russia to build a railway from Manchuria to Vladivostok. In addition, Russian ships were given the right to enter Chinese ports freely. Of course, the events were in Russia's interests. In general, as a result of this agreement signed secretly between Russia and China, foreign countries' intrusion into Beijing's territory has accelerated.

As a result, in March 1898, China “allotted” Germany the port of Jiaozhou (Kiao-Chao, Shandong Province) for 99 years. In April, Fujian province was recognized as a sphere of influence of Japan. And leased Quanzhouwan Province (Guangdong) to France for 99 years.

In February 1898, Britain took the assurance that China would not settle and give the Yangtze River Basin to another country, in June leased the entire Zuling Peninsula (Guangdong Province) for 99 years, and a month later, Weihaiwei Port (Shandong Province) Lushshunkou Port (renamed Port Arthur) remained under Russian ownership and leased it for 25 years in 1897. “The United States claimed to defend its interests throughout the country under the slogan of an (open door) policy, Japan wanted to strengthen itself in Korea and Manchuria and deny Russia the right to have a fleet in the Pacific Ocean [4].

Of course, Russia could not fully comply with all the clauses of the agreements between it and China. As a result of Russia’s entry into China, the movement of Western countries to take over China has accelerated. In particular, the decisive penetration of the German army into Cao Chao prompted Russia to bypass the terms of the agreement. Of course, S. Yu. Witte, as the Minister of Finance, was well aware of the extent of Russia’s economic potential. At the same time, Tran was well aware that a large amount of money was allocated from the country’s fund for the construction of the Siberian railway and that the economic struggle in Russia and Europe is intensifying day by day.

With the arrival of German warships in Kiao Chao, Russian military intelligence reported that the British were occupying Port Arthur, prompting the Emperor to issue an urgent decree on November 2-3, 1897. According to the order, Russian warships were ordered to enter and occupy the Liaodong Peninsula and Dalianwan along the two bays. The capture of Port Arthur without any difference and casualties was definitely a great achievement for Russia.

RESULTS

The convention was signed on March 15, 1898:

The Emperor of China agrees to lease with the Russian Government the use of the ports of Arthur (Lushunkou) and Dalayawan, in order to provide the Russian Navy with a completely reliable base on the coast of North China. The area of water adjacent to these ports. This lease, however, in no way infringes the supreme rights of the Emperor of China over the above-mentioned territory.

The term of the lease is set to 25 years from the date of signing of this contract and may be extended later by mutual agreement.

During the specified period, all military command of land and naval forces in the territory leased by the Russian government and in the adjacent water zone, as well as the supreme civil administration, will be fully vested in the Russian government. And it is collected in the hands of one man, but without giving him the title of governor or governor-general.

China’s ground military forces will not be allowed to enter the designated area. To allow the people of China to leave the territory leased by Russia, if they so desire, or to remain in it without hindrance from the Russian Government.

If a crime is committed by a Chinese subject in the leased territory, the criminal will be brought to the nearest Chinese authorities for trial and punishment according to Chinese law.

Both governments agree that Port Arthur will be used as a military port only for the use of Russian and Chinese ships. It is a closed port for military and commercial ships of other countries. As for Dalawan, along with Port Arthur, in addition to one of the inner bays, which will be reserved exclusively for the needs of the Russian and Chinese military fleets, the remaining area of this port will be considered. It is open to foreign trade, and the commercial courts of all countries are granted free access to it.

The Chinese Government agrees to extend the concession granted to the Chinese Oriental Railway Company in 1896 from the date of this treaty to a connecting line to be constructed from one of the Main Railway Stations. The road to Daliangwang. Consent to the construction of a railway on the above grounds should never, under any circumstances, be used as an excuse for the occupation of Chinese territory or the violation of China's supreme rights [5].

After the occupation of Port Arthur, on April 25, 1898, the Nisi-Rozena or Tokyo Protocol was signed between Russia and Japan. According to the agreement, Russia recognized Japan's free trade in Korea. As a result, the military advisers in Seoul and the financial adviser Alekseev were called. The Russian and Korean banks there have stopped their activities.

As a result of the weakening of China's central government and the increasing occupation of China by Western countries, as a result of the difficult social and economic life in the country, anti- foreigner movements began in the country in 1898 in Beijing.

Rebel leader Li Lai-chun called on the Chinese people to fight against the Qing government and foreign investors. Queen Tsi's government did not oppose the Boxers' movement in any way. On the contrary, the queen supported the rebels in their action against foreign investors. Dethroning the emperor, he took power himself. The Ixetsuan uprising was aimed at all foreigners, including Christians, foreign investors and workers, all social goods, including books, technical devices.

The embassy was besieged by rebels in Peking from June 20 to August 14, 1900. As a result, the German ambassador and the secretary of the Japanese embassy were brutally murdered. The government troops went to the side of the "boxers". Cixi's government declared war on European countries, including Russia. The Russo-Chinese war began [6]. The sudden increase of the boxers' movement in this way was an unexpected event for Russia and European countries. Not only the embassy, but also KVJD and YuMJD suffered losses from the uprising.

Priamursky announced the mobilization of 12 thousand people in the district. Lieutenant General N. M. Chichagov was appointed as the head. In addition, Russia, France, England, Germany, Japan, Austria-Hungary, Belgium, and the Netherlands sent 35 thousand troops. Lieutenant N.P. Linevich was appointed as the head of the Russian troops.

Russian troops, after several attacks, defeated the "boxers" and began an attack on Manchuria. The Chinese emperor Cixi, seeing the defeat of the "boxers", sided with the Western army and issued a decree to pursue the rebels. In October 1900, all of Manchuria was completely occupied by Russian troops [7].

Despite the objections of others, Petersburg did not annex Manchuria, but it took its influence away from it. In late September 1900, Russia regained control of the construction of the Manchurian railway.

On December 22, 1900, an agreement was signed between the 12-point alliance and China. Although several of its sections were derogatory to China, it adopted some sections in line with mitigation. The draft of the Russian-Chinese treaty developed by Kurapatkin, Lamzdorf and Witte was submitted to the Chinese at the beginning of February 1901. Its conditions were severe, the evacuation period was not specified.

Pending the completion of the East China Railway, the Chinese Government has lost the right to maintain troops in Manchuria, except for a police guard, and after the completion of the construction their number will be determined by a special agreement with Russia. It was prohibited to invite foreign instructors to the army and navy of North China. The Qing government undertook to grant a concession to the CER Society to build and operate a railway line from one of the CER or SMW points to the Great Wall of China in the direction of Beijing. Finally, China undertook, without her consent, to grant concessions to foreigners for the construction of railways, the development of ore deposits, and the creation of all kinds of industrial enterprises in Manchuria, Mongolia, and other parts of the empire adjoining Russia [8].

Of course, these demands of Russia were opposed by the Western countries. England, Germany, Russia said that these demands were against their interests in the northern part of China. Berlin and London acted in cooperation against Russia, while Tokyo promised Beijing to help it fight against Petersburg. After Peking rejected Petersburg's demands, despite the fact that Russia decided to soften its demands but remain firm, China again turned to England, Germany, Japan, and the United States. The above countries said that these actions of Russia are turning Manchuria into a protectorate. Japan told China not to agree to Russia's proposal at all and to threaten war if necessary. In such conditions, Russia found it necessary to take a break in the negotiations.

In July 1901, Russian-Chinese negotiations were held in Beijing. According to that:

It was determined that Russia should withdraw its military forces within two years, if it is not met with resistance by the troops of foreign countries.

In return, the Qing government offered to continue the contract between Russia and the Bank of China and to give benefits to foreigners in Manchuria only with the bank's consent.

The fear that the occupation of Manchuria, which was based solely on the right of occupation and was not authorized by the agreement with Peking, would finally be unknown, was the impetus for the creation of the Anglo-Japanese alliance [9]. This, in turn, led to the beginning of the Russo-Japanese War.

At the end of the 18th century, the penetration of Western countries into the Far East increased. As a result of the Sino-Japanese War of 1894-1895, Western countries' attitudes towards Japan changed. As a result of the weakening of the Chinese empire, the increase in debt from England, Germany, France and Russia opened the way for the western countries to become more active in the territory of China and to act in the way of their interests.

CONCLUSION

In general, it can be seen that the penetration of Russia into the territory of China and Korea, where the interests of Japan as well as European countries lie. The position of England and Germany in relation to China was fundamentally different from that of Russia, and the tactics of the European countries were aimed more at dividing the country and strengthening their spheres of influence there. In particular, England was eager to win the first place among the powerful countries that fought for China. At this point, for Russia, owning its share in the territory of China was considered an important factor for the geopolitical situation in the world.

Of course, it can be said that Russia's Greater Asia program has declined due to the opposition of the major empires. The reason is that as a result of the rush to strengthen one's position in the Far East region, to plunder these lands, and to divide the world, the event known as the world war in the history of mankind can be seen taking place at the same time.

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