

## SOME FACTS OF THE STRUCTURE AND COMPOSITION OF THE CUSTOMS SERVICE OF TURKESTAN IN THE SECOND HALF OF THE 19<sup>TH</sup> - EARLY 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURIES

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### ABSTRACT

*In this scientific article, the author examines the history of the development and emergence of customs in the constantly existing foreign policy and economy of the Russian Empire, as well as the features of the customs service and customs fees, the structure and composition in Turkestan in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> - early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. The customs activity of any state is one of the main economic levers.*

**KEYWORDS:** *Structure, Customs District, Customs, Border Guard, Composition, Foreign Trade, Economy, Tariff, Trade, Duty, Income, Percentage.*

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### INTRODUCTION

In the Russian Empire, the system of customs institutions of the 19<sup>th</sup> century is presented in the Customs Regulations of 1857 [1.1]. Customs and customs outposts were established in the external land and sea border of the empire. Depending on the volume of operations, customs were divided into the largest - first class, medium - second-class and small - third class. Some customs had forward branches, and some customs had forward posts called outposts [2.26].

Until 1864, the Border Guard was part of the Department of Foreign Trade. On October 26, 1864, the opinion of the State Council was imperially approved, according to which the Department of Foreign Trade was renamed the Department of Customs Duties. Privy Councillor, State Secretary D.A. Obolensky was appointed its first director. The structure of the border guards has undergone certain changes from time to time. The complexity of the situation on the border of the Russian state determined the need to increase the density of border guards, to take new sections of the border under the protection of border guards, and, as a result, to increase the number of border guards.

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century is characterized by the development of capitalist relations in Russia, the growth of domestic industry, and an increase in trade. All this had a huge impact on the further development of the border service, on strengthening the border guard, which by the

end of the century separated from the Department of Customs Duties into the Separate Corps of the Border Guard.

The civilian guards, customs officials and Cossacks to protect the western and southern borders were replaced by border guard troops [3]. At this time, the main tasks of the border guards were: guarding the border from encroachments by neighboring states, combating smuggling and performing quarantine service.

The General Directorate of the Border Guard was concentrated in the Department of Foreign Trade (in 1865 transformed into the Department of Customs Duties). The customs districts were subordinate to him.

Each customs district of the border guard had 1 brigade of 3-5 companies, (a semi-brigade of 2 companies) or a separate company. The border brigade (semi-brigade) guarded the border section from 100 to 1000 versts. The site was distributed among the companies. Thus, the company section could reach from 25 to 500 versts along the borderline. Companies, in turn, were subdivided into 2-3 detachments, which made up cordons. The detachment section was divided into approximately fifteen posts. Since their protected areas were not the same, from 10 to 20 versts, the number of posts ranged from 5 to 50 people. On average, one border guard had 5 versts of a guarded section of borders [4.12].

Since 1874, on the basis of the Manifesto "On the introduction of universal military service", an order has been issued to recruit the rank and file of the border guards, although they were not then part of the country's armed forces, with recruits [5]. Until now, recruitment has taken place by selecting soldiers from army units and formations. The service life was reduced from 25 years to 6 in active service and to 9 in reserve. The recruiting of the border brigades was a positive step. In this regard, a new task was assigned to the command staff of the border guard - combat and service training of young soldiers.

All subsequent border guard measures were aimed at its further militarization. In 1875, the border guard companies were renamed into departments, and their commanders were assigned headquarters officers' ranks. By this time, the border guard had the following structure: brigade - department - detachment - post. In 1876, gymnastics schools were created at the brigades to train company instructors in gymnastics (physical training). Gymnastics is becoming one of the elements of combat training and physical education of border guards. Physical exercise is included in the daily routine, and gymnastics is included in the class schedule.

At the same time, by a special order of the Minister of Finance, the chiefs of customs districts are assigned control over the military training of border guard officials. And since they were civilians, this order was allowed to appoint generals and staff officers with the right to wear uniforms to their posts and remain in their assigned rank.

A year later, since 1877, an army disciplinary charter began to operate in the border guard, new brigades were introduced, additional transition points were opened, and quarantine and customs units were transferred to the direct jurisdiction of the Ministry of Finance - to the Department of Customs Duties. The disciplinary rights of the commanders of border brigades are equated with the rights of the commander of a regiment, the head of the customs district - with the rights of the commander of an army brigade.

The system of organizational measures carried out in the border guard gave it a real military look and structure. By the end of the 70<sup>th</sup>, she represented an impressive military force.

In 1882 [6], by a special "Regulations on the use of border guards in case of war," she is enlisted in the armed forces of the state, remaining, however, in peacetime under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Finance. According to this provision, brigades located in the theater of operations are placed at the disposal of the "commander of the troops and are used to replenish field units". From that moment on, the border guards were provided with all items of military supplies on a par with army units: the patrolmen received weapons and equipment for dragoons, and the guards received weapons and equipment for the infantry.

In 1883, the issue of the administrative division of districts was revised. By this time, there were seventeen of them - according to the number of brigades. In order to reduce costs, eight districts were abolished. After the reorganization, nine districts remained.

Thus, the protection of the state border of the Russian state was carried out by the border guards, the regular army and the Cossack troops. By the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the Border Guard assumed a central role in border protection, taking on a range of military, police and political functions. All organizational measures for the border guard were aimed at its militarization, which was completed by the creation in 1893 of the Separate Border Guard Corps, whose duty was to protect and guard all the borders of the empire.

The protection of the borders of the lands acquired by Russia in the Turkestan Territory was carried out mainly by infantry regiments and Cossacks. Russian troops were stationed in the following regions: Mangyshlak detachment with headquarters in Fort Alexandrovsky, staffed with infantry and Cossacks; Krasnovodsk detachment - in Krasnovodsk, consisting of infantry, Cossacks, artillery and sappers; Chikishlyar mobile detachment - in the lower reaches of the Artek, from infantry and Cossacks; Aral military flotilla with armed steam ships. On the Dzharkent section of the border with China, the 1<sup>st</sup> Siberian Linear Cossack Regiment of 600 strength served [7. 239-240]. Hundreds were deployed in platoon along the border, thus forming a chain of posts. Horse detachments were sent from the posts to guard the border and reconnoiter the area.

On May 2, 1886, the customs part of the Turkestan General Government was transferred from the jurisdiction of the War Ministry to the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Finance. In the administration of the Turkestan Territory, the position of an official for special assignments for customs affairs is introduced, who is entrusted with leading the actions of local customs officers to collect fees, as well as preventing and suppressing smuggling, and supervising the actions of the border guards. However, the customs district in Turkestan turned out to be larger than any of the customs districts of the European part of Russia. Therefore, on June 12, 1890, it was divided into two districts: Turkestan and Semipalatinsk. In September 1892, the first post was formed in the town of Shajan in the Eastern Pamirs.

Realizing the need for economic reforms in the Russian Empire, S.Yu. Witte also assigned an important role in his plans to the border guard, which was supposed to perform the function of the defender of the Russian market from foreign smuggled goods. To implement these plans, it was necessary to immediately reform the border guards.

At a meeting of the heads of the Department of Customs Duties and Border Guard S.Yu. Witte, in particular, said: "The current situation, when the border guards are subordinate to civilian officials, cannot be considered natural for military service. The border guards at the highest levels are guided by purely clerical methods by civilian officials, which should significantly weaken the military spirit of the guards". Seeing ways to improve the efficiency of the border guards in their military organization, the Minister of Finance, however, warned against excessive "militarization" of the border guards: "Having a strict military organization, the border guards should primarily serve the interests of the financial department. Military activities should not weaken the special border service, which is of extremely important state significance as the protection of significant government revenue and the interests of the domestic industry". The result of the meeting on July 19, 1893 was the concept of reorganizing the border guards, for a detailed study of which Witte himself undertook.

On October 15, 1893, Alexander III signed a decree to the ruling Senate, according to which a Separate Border Guard Corps (SBGC) was allocated from the Department of Customs Duties, which was left in the Ministry of Finance.

A separate corps of border guards is a special-purpose military unit in the Armed Forces of the Russian Empire, designed to protect the borders of the state. The corps was created by allocating a branch of border control of the Department of Customs Duties of the Ministry of Finance of Russia to a special military formation.

SBGC was subordinate to the Ministry of Finance, the head of which was the Chief of the Corps, the direct leadership was carried out by the commander of the Corps, who, in terms of status, was equated to the head of the military district or the head of the main department of the War Ministry. The first Chief of the Separate Border Guard Corps was Minister of Finance S.Yu. Witte, and the first commander was General of Artillery A.D. Svin'in.

The corps was divided on a territorial basis into districts (7 districts were created), then into brigades, then into departments. The departments were divided into detachments and posts. The headquarters of the Corps consisted of four divisions (combat, border surveillance, weapons and economic).

The creation of the SBGC completed the transition from the customs guard to the troops, which equated it with the military department. Regular troops, mainly infantry and Cossacks, continued to guard the border of the Turkestan Territory in Central Asia until 1894.

In 1894, all posts of customs supervision were organizationally included in the Transcaspian and Turkestan customs districts.

Border supervision in the Trans-Caspian region and on the right bank of the Pyanj and Amudarya rivers (Bukhara-Afghan border) was established in accordance with the decree "On the device of border supervision in Central Asia" adopted in 1894 [8]. According to the decree, the Transcaspian and Amudarya brigades were formed. They were subordinated to the Transcaspian and Turkestan customs districts; in 1899 these brigades formed the seventh - the Tashkent border district as part of the Separate Border Guard Corps.

Simultaneously with the conduct of customs supervision, in 1882-1896, the process of organizing border guards began on the section of the Bukhara-Afghan border. The border along

the Pyandj and Amudarya at that time was guarded by regular units, consisting of infantry and Cossacks, brought together in line battalions. In 1886, the first Russian garrison, numbering 1200 people, was formed in Chardzhui. In the same year, a garrison was formed in Kerki to protect the Bukhara-Afghan border [9.7].

“The first division of the brigade (*Amudarya* - K.Ch.) starts from the city, or rather the tract, Kerki on the left bank of the Amudarya, both banks of which are up to the Bassagi post, 60 versts further from Kerki and about 300 versts from Chardzhui, in our possession, beyond the post of Bassagi, the left bank belongs to Afghanistan, and the right bank belongs to our Bukhara possessions. In Kerki, in addition to the border guard post and premises for the headquarters of the 1<sup>st</sup> department, there are not a small number of military units, consisting of 2 rifle battalions, 3 hundred Orenburg Cossack regiment, 1 battery and the headquarters of a rifle brigade. There is also our adobe fortress, built more for intimidation, 9 years ago. 1<sup>st</sup> class customs in a separate, specially built building, very satisfactory and constituting the decoration of this tract” [10. 18].

During the reorganization of the border guard, the opinion of Lieutenant General N.A. Usov on the inexpediency of establishing border surveillance along the entire border line from Krasnovodsk to the Pamir at 3,000 versts, which would require large funds for the detention. He believed that goods from abroad were sent to Bukhara along the old Peshevar-Kabul road, due to the lack of border control. For border supervision N.A. Usov proposed to establish 5 distances out of 30 posts within the Trans-Caspian customs district, in the Turkestan district - 4 distances out of 26 posts, with the total staff: senior posts - 55, their assistants - 110, horsemen - 546.

In 1894, the State Council, having considered the proposal of the Ministry of Finance dated April 13, 1894, on the arrangement of border supervision in Central Asia, decided to establish it in the Trans-Caspian region and on the right bank of the Pyanj and Amudarya rivers. On June 6, 1894, Nicholas II approved this decision by signing the law “On the arrangement of border control in Central Asia”.

In 1896, the 31<sup>st</sup> Amudarya border brigade with a staff of 915 servicemen was formed on the territory of the Turkestan customs district, which became part of the 7th border district of the Separate Border Guard Corps [11]. Until 1910, civilian horsemen from the local population also served in the brigade.

On December 9, 1896, Nikolay II approved the opinion of the State Council on the transformation, within three years, starting in 1897, of the border control in Central Asia into two brigades.

There were 50 posts in the Amudarya brigade; posts where officers also lived - 20. Thus, each officer had from three to four posts, depending on the difficulty of communication and the remoteness of the distances between posts; the posts under the command of the same chief officer constituted a detachment. Each post was individually called a cordon; whether two or three detachments under the command of the same headquarters officer constitute a department; there are 4 such departments in the brigade [10. 24].

The brigade's headquarters was located in Patta-Gissar (New Termez), at a distance of 1,2 km from the bank of the Amudarya. On a plot of 11 hectares, allotted by the Emir of Bukhara Said Abdulakhad for the construction of the brigade headquarters, there is a whole military town. A



large park was laid out in it, peacocks walked among the fruit and decorative trees, swans swam in an artificial pond. The first church on the site of the Amudarya brigade was also built here. 30 officers houses, a brigade infirmary, an officers assembly, a bathhouse, as well as large barracks two kilometers away, were distinguished by their original architecture. All this was built under the leadership of the first brigade commander, Colonel M.M. Kostevich for four years. The distances that existed before, ranging from 150 to 400 versts, were reorganized into departments [10. 25-26].

In the section of the Pyanj border detachment, the following border guard posts were formed: "Ravine", "Ayvaj", "Khoshma", "Takhta-Kuvat", "Vakhsh" team), "Ak-Tepe", "Nizhne-Pyandjsky", "Karaul-Tyube", "Faizabad", "Saray", "Sredne-Pyandjsky", "Pyandjsky", "Ak-Dzhar" (opposite the Kokchi river), "Kyzyl-Su", "Parhar", "Chubek", "Bogorak", "Yol", "Hirmandzhou", "Parvar", "Shagon", "Kalai-Khumb". The posts were located at a distance of 10-15 kilometers from each other. Only between the posts "Shagon" and "Kalai-Khumb" the distance was more than one hundred kilometers. In 1900, the post in Kalai-Khumb was removed due to the inaccessibility of the area for the delivery of food, fodder and clothing. In "Ayvadzh", "Nizhne-Pyanjskiy", "Chubek" and "Yola" customs posts were located simultaneously with the border guard posts.

Border guard posts were located in those places where the smuggling deals were most likely - near the quays, in shallow waters, at the intersections of the main roads. At the same time, not only smugglers were transported from Afghanistan, but also gangs of robbers who robbed the local population, took hostages, took cattle away, and whoever resisted was killed. The border guards, promptly notified of these actions, resolutely suppressed these actions.

A great deal of work on the quality of the laying of posts was carried out by engineers who, using the terrain, skillfully erected fortifications. Contemporaries cannot help but be surprised by the correct choice of the location of the old posts, in the place of which the current outposts stand. All this suggests that the Russian officers, who conducted a reconnaissance of the area at the end of the 19th century, optimally determined the rationality of their establishment.

The posts were built, depending on the location, of mud brick or stone, without a wooden floor. The tree had to be imported from Siberia, so it was very expensive. The posts of the Yule department were considered the most favorable in terms of sanitary conditions (mountain air, clean water, gentle sun in the summer, excellent hunting), so most officers and lower ranks tried to get here.

The border road, laid by Russian engineers from Termez to Shagon, and then to Kalai-Khumb, was a chain of impassable obstacles. The servicemen had to ride on horseback, cross water crossings, climb on foot or crawl, overcoming mountains, sands, swamps, rocks and abysses.

In the reed thickets along the coast of the Panj, the border guards faced another danger. Bengal tigers, leopards, reed lynxes, wild boars and other wild animals lived here in large numbers. There were a lot of snakes, including cobras, gyurzas, rattlesnakes, sand fies, as well as scorpions, phalanges, karakurt. Bengal tigers possessed tremendous strength - with one blow of their paws they killed a horse, breaking its rump. In the mountains, in juniper thickets, one could often meet bears.

In order to safely move around the areas of the Saraysky and Yolsky departments, special hunting teams from border guards were created, which shot predators. The price of a tiger skin, depending on its quality, was 25-50 rubles, the cost of large specimens reached 75 rubles (a men's suit at that time cost 8 rubles, a coat - 11 rubles).

To move from Saray to Termez, border guards also used water transport, including steam-powered ones. It is known that in 1900, the first commander of the SBGC, General of Artillery Alexander Dmitrievich Svin'in (was in office from 1893 to 1908), made an inspection trip along the section of the Amudarya brigade from Chardzhui to Faizabad, located 17 kilometers downstream from Saray, on a small steamer Amudarya flotilla [12. 114].

Despite the unfavorable epidemiological situation and difficult conditions of service, the border guards of the Amudarya brigade showed firmness of character, strong will and dedication to fulfill their service and combat missions with honor. So, in 1907 in the Turkestan customs district, contraband was detained for 12,5 thousand rubles, while in the Baku district - for 6.3 thousand, in Batumi - for 2,4 thousand rubles. Border guards accounted for an average of 62 per cent of the smuggling caught.

By the highest imperial order of May 7, 1899, among other border districts, the 7<sup>th</sup> border district was created with headquarters in the city of Tashkent, which included the Transcaspian and Amudarya border brigades, Major General A. Kunitskiy became the first head of the district. The 7<sup>th</sup> border district included the entire territory of the then Turkestan region, including sections of the border between China and the territory of modern Kyrgyzstan. In the Trans-Caspian region and on the right bank of the Pyanj and Amudarya rivers (Bukhara-Afghan border), the border control of the Trans-Caspian with a staff of 1390 soldiers, subordinate to the head of the Trans-Caspian customs district, and the Amudarya brigades of the SBGC with a staff of 915 soldiers, subordinate to the head of the Turkestan customs districts. Despite the measures taken, the brigades experienced great difficulties, primarily due to the lack of personnel. During the organization of the service, army units helped.

In 1912, the 7<sup>th</sup> border district as a whole and the Amudarya brigade in particular were also visited by the second commander of the SBGC, infantry general Nikolay Apollonovich Pykhachev, who served in this position from 1908 to 1917. The purpose of the inspections by the SBGC command was to determine the ability of the Amudarya brigade to perform service and combat tasks in accordance with its intended purpose, the state of border supervision, meeting the religious needs of border guards, office work, drill and shooting, cash reports. The inspectorate concluded: "Border protection throughout the entire district is still characterized by extreme weakness, and all the activities of the posts take place mainly in self-service. There is no leadership on the part of the heads of the border protection business on the ground" [12. 117-118].

Taking into account the effectiveness of the service and combat activities of the 7<sup>th</sup> border district, the command of the SBGC decided to increase the staff of the Amudarya brigade at the expense of the brigades of the Caucasian border district. By the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century the staff of the Amudarya brigade was increased by an additional 6 staff officers, 25 chief officers, 4 doctors, 10 subaltern officers, more than 900 lower ranks, 505 horses. In 1913, on the Bukhara-

Afghan border, the Bogorak detachment of border guards was additionally formed at the expense of the Repid detachment of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Izmail brigade [12. 121].

Thus, the demarcation of the State Border in the south of Eastern Bukhara was carried out, the infrastructure for its life support was created, the mechanism of border protection was launched, which was further developed in subsequent years.

The Bukhara-Afghan border passed through the sandy desert, the high heights of Sadar Jagra to Takhta Bazar, there were many islands on the river where smugglers easily concealed goods and then transported them to Russian territory. Border guard posts were located in those places where the smuggling deals were most likely - near the quays, in shallow waters, at the intersections of the main roads. The posts were partially equipped with boats [13. 124-125]. A lot of work on laying the posts was carried out by engineers who, taking into account the terrain, skillfully and rationally erected fortifications. Depending on the location of the posts, the structures were erected from mud brick or stone, without a wooden floor. The tree was imported from Siberia, so it was expensive.

The border road, laid by Russian engineers from Termez to Shagon, and then to Kalai-Khumb, was a chain of impassable obstacles. In the reed thickets along the coast of the Pyanj, the border guards trapped wild animals - Bengal tigers, leopards, reed lynxes, wild boars. The danger was represented by snakes, scorpions, phalanges, karakurt. As a result, for security purposes, hunting teams were created to shoot predators in the areas of the Saraysky and Yolsky departments.

The main duty of the SBGC was “averting the secret transportation of goods along the land and sea borders of the European part of Russia and Transcaucasia, along the borders of the Grand Duchy of Finland and the Trans-Caspian region, on the right bank of the Pyandj and Amudarya rivers” [12.31].

The corps was also entrusted with quarantine supervision at the border, supervision in political and police relations in the interests of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. Thus, in the first place among the tasks facing the SBGC was the fight against smuggling. Moreover, earlier and even after the creation of the corps, the persons detained in the border strip were sent not to the police station, but to the customs offices, which indicated the prevalence of economic interests over political ones. A new task also appeared - the protection of the borderline, that is, the border, which was not even mentioned in the previous documents. This task was ranked third in importance, but in a few years, it will come to the fore in the border guard service. At the same time, border guards were not prohibited from crossing the border when pursuing bandit groups, armed smugglers “in case of extreme necessity”.

Taking into account the specific conditions of border protection, border guards serving in Central Asia were allowed to use cold arms and firearms even outside the 7-verst line from the border in cases when they were attacked or resisted by armed smugglers or other intruders, and even in those cases when smugglers or other persons were not armed, but on their part “at least one intention to inflict beatings or other violence” was revealed on their part. Only shooting in the mountains and villages was prohibited “to avoid accidents” [14. 177].

Border protection of the SBGC unit was carried out by means of the guard and intelligence service. The guard service was assigned to the detachments and was carried out around the clock.



The section of the detachment was called the distance. The depth of the detachment's distance was 7 versts on the European border and up to 21 versts on the Asian border. The average daily workload per person on duty was 9 hours. The duration of a one-time service in a squad did not exceed 6 hours. Despite the long service life of the detachments, the density of guards in the Amudarya brigade was 0,7, in the Transcaspian brigade – 0,6.

Service check is carried out by patrols. Moreover, the intensification of smuggling and the low efficiency of actions to suppress smuggling forced the border guard structures to create their own intelligence service. The intelligence service was organized by the district chiefs and was conducted in the border zone in close contact with representatives of a separate gendarme corps. The brigade commander was in charge of the reconnaissance, and it was directly led by the commanders of departments, detachments, senior sergeants and assistants to the chiefs of posts. All commanders and commanding officers of SBGC were to be involved in the intelligence service. The main emphasis in the intelligence service was placed on the agent network. Circulars noted that “the unsuccessful actions of officials in the pursuit of smuggling are explained, among other things, by the inability to distinguish between correct denunciations and denunciations made to divert eyes ... The work and even money will never be wasted in the acquisition of good trustworthy informers and with sufficient energy will always be rewarded in abundance”.

For material incentives for agents, the government allocated considerable funds. The tasks of the intelligence service were to provide information: about the significance of the area in terms of contraband; on the direction of movement and the nature of the smuggling; about persons involved in smuggling. The government allocated considerable funds to conduct intelligence work in SBGC. So, expenses in 1912 in the 7<sup>th</sup> district amounted to 223 rubles 91 kopecks. At the same time, the local population is not yet widely involved in border guarding, which, due to being a part of the empire, is still expressing a certain distrust: “Although civilian horsemen have repeatedly been recognized as very useful and even necessary, nevertheless, granting them independence is not must be tolerated as serious misunderstandings can easily ensue” [14. 134].

The salaries of the SBGC officers were relatively high, but, nevertheless, one of the lowest in the world. In 1903, a company commander with the rank of captain received 900 rubles a year, table money - 360 rubles; battalion commander (lieutenant colonel) - 1,080 and 660 rubles, respectively; regiment commander (colonel) - 1250 and 2700 rubles (in 1899 in St. Petersburg you could buy a good suit for 8 rubles, a coat for 11 rubles).

The nature of the goods delivered to Russia depended on the section of the border. Drugs were smuggled into Central Asia from neighboring eastern countries. These drugs were different in origin: the opium of Chinese, Indian, Afghan and, especially, Persian origin was delayed. Here, border violations occurred more often, and often with the use of weapons.

So, for example, not only smugglers were transported from Afghanistan, but also robber bands that robbed the local population, took hostages, took away livestock, and killed those who resisted. The border guards, promptly notified of these actions, resolutely suppressed these actions.

A special regime was established on the site of the Amudarya Brigade to facilitate trade relations with Afghanistan. Merchants were allowed through border guard posts in addition to

customs offices, however, subject to the condition: no one is allowed into Afghanistan and back without passport forms or notes certified by the ranks of the Russian administration. Nevertheless, even by the First World War, this area was still poorly defended in military terms.

The foundations for protecting the state border laid by Russia in the East in the 19th century later served a good reputation in ensuring the border security of the region. Turning to the legacy of A.E. Snesev, it should be noted that "Russia's protection of the east and southeast of Europe ... is a great service on the altar of the future destinies of Europe and the world" [15. 195].

The system of customs authorities of the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century can be represented by the Customs Charter. Customs offices and customs outposts were established along the external land border of the empire. The organizational basis of the customs policy was the customs statutes (they were adopted anew in 1819, 1857, 1892 and 1906). At first, the solution to the issues of organizing the customs business was concentrated in the Ministry of Commerce, and then in the Ministry of Finance. The main tasks of the customs business were reduced to the following: "reducing the import of goods, the production of which is established in the country; creating conditions for increasing the production of goods for export; expansion of conditions for the transit of goods across the country" [16. 55].

On December 31, 1910, the Customs Charter was approved, which was promulgated on March 1, 1911 [17. 6].

This charter made changes to the customs system of that time.

Thus, by the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, customs authorities represented the following system. The lowest level was the transition points, the only employee of which was the customs officer. The largest were the customs outposts consisting of the manager and assistants. Larger institutions were customs, which had a presence in the composition of the manager, his assistants and members of the customs, officials - overseers, caretakers, treasurers, secretaries, experts, etc., as well as lower ranks - the Cossacks. Customs were part of customs districts, and some of the largest customs offices were directly subordinate to the Department of Customs Duties of the Russian Ministry of Finance. In addition to border customs offices located on land, sea, railways open for the movement of goods across the customs border, there were internal customs offices - for the inspection of goods moving inland and inspected at the border only externally.

The main goal of pre-revolutionary customs institutions - fiscal (to provide income to the treasury) was achieved, because at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, customs revenues accounted for 14.5% of all Russia's revenues. Along with this, the activities of the tsarist customs pursued economic goals (protection of domestic industry from competition from foreigners), police goals (protection of the state system), and statistical goals (accounting for foreign trade turnover).

The customs business of previous centuries has left a great legacy for modernity. Until now, the word "customs" has the same meaning as before - the institution where they carry out the clearance of goods crossing the customs border. The functions of customs institutions are currently varied and their number is large, but the essence of customs activities remains the same as at the time of formation. Both in the 17<sup>th</sup> century and today, an employee of a customs institution is called a customs officer, and he is a civil servant. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the foundation was laid for the division of customs into internal and external customs. This division of customs

institutions has survived to this day. The unification of customs and their subordination to one department is of great importance. This contributes to the most efficient implementation of its functions. This unification also took place in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. According to the customs charter of 1910, the customs offices of one region were united into customs districts [17. 13].

On December 31, 1910, the Customs Charter was approved, which was promulgated on March 1, 1911. This charter made changes to the customs system of that time. The 1910 Customs Charter clarified some of the issues of combating smuggling, allowing the customs authorities to independently take the initiative in conducting searches and seizures of smuggled goods within a 100-verst strip from the land border line inland and from the sea, with the participation of the police, and beyond 100 - verst strip - with the help of justices of the peace, bailiffs and police.

This charter detailed the procedural issues of the proceedings appeals and execution of smuggling cases.

The customs system of Russia in 1910 was headed by the Department of Customs Duties under the Ministry of Finance, followed by district and district customs administrations, and customs institutions (customs, customs outposts, customs posts and transition points).

Separate border guard corps were established on land and sea borders to prevent the smuggling of goods. Such separate corps were created on the border of European Russia and Transcaucasia, as well as on the border with the Grand Duchy of Finland, in the Trans Caspian region and on the right bank of the Pyandj and Amudarya rivers.

Customs institutions (customs, outposts, customs posts and transition points), according to the Charter of 1910, were part of the customs districts.

The Ministry of Finance established the name of customs districts, determined and changed the boundaries of these districts, and then all this information was transmitted to the Governing Senate for publication and general promulgation.

The head of the district is in charge of the customs district. He has a district customs inspector, officials for special assignments, technicians, experts, a secretary, an assistant secretary and scribes. There were architects to carry out construction work in the customs districts. The Department of Customs Duties was given the right to appoint these persons at its discretion to those districts where they were more needed. In some districts, such as Turkestan district and Semipalatinsk district, there was a post of district inspector, who were subordinate either to the head of the district or directly to the Department of customs duties.

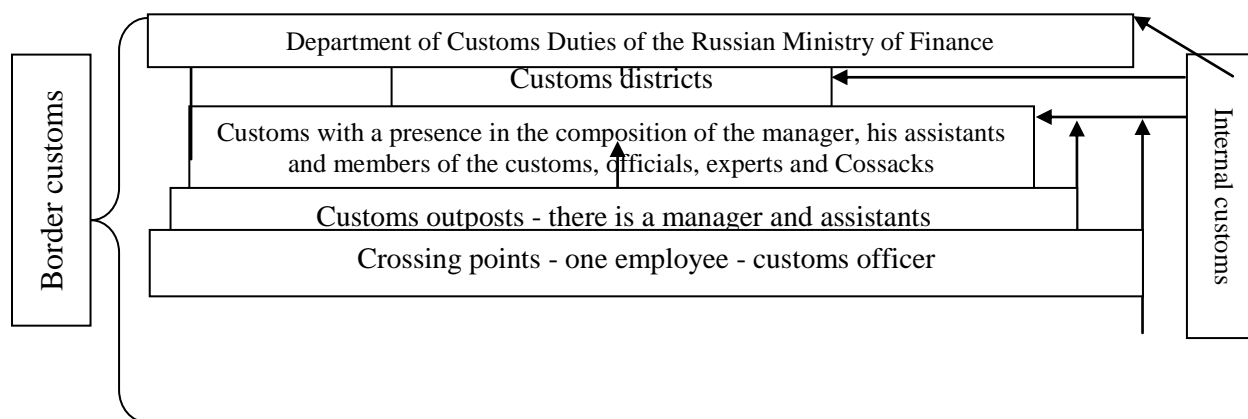
Checking the actions of the outposts was entrusted to officials sent for this.

## CONCLUSION

Thus, studying the history of customs in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> - early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, one can draw a relationship with the present and show what has survived to this day and how it has developed. Consequently, it is possible to single out the most important and significant moments in the development of customs and to transfer many provisions to the present day. In addition, after tracing the stages of the formation of the customs business, it can be argued that the customs system has always been one of the main institutions of the national economy: the

customs authorities have always carried out the economic policy of the state and since ancient times have brought significant income to the treasury.

### The customs system of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century



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