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REORGANIZATION OF URBAN PLANNING IN SAMARKAND UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF COLONIAL POLICY

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Annotation: The article examines the specific features of urban transformations in Samarkand during the period of the Russian Empire's colonial influence. It analyzes the process of reorganizing the urban structure through the introduction of new administrative, architectural, and engineering principles that differed significantly from traditional Eastern planning. Particular attention is given to the interaction between the old (mahalla-based) and new (European) parts of the city, as well as to the impact of colonial authority on spatial development, architectural appearance, and the socio-cultural transformation of the urban environment. The study also highlights the causes and consequences of urban planning changes aimed at integrating Samarkand into the administrative and economic system of the Russian Empire.

Keywords: Samarkand, urban planning, colonial policy, architecture, urbanization, modernization, cultural heritage, historical environment.

The process of urban reorganization in Samarkand under the influence of the Russian Empire's colonial policy (second half of the 19th – early 20th centuries) represents a complex and multifaceted historical and cultural phenomenon. With Samarkand's incorporation into the Russian Empire in 1868, the city entered a new era of development, when traditional Eastern planning and architectural principles began to interact with European models of governance, construction, and infrastructural organization. This process was not only the result of administrative reforms but also reflected the deeper political, economic, and cultural transformations occurring throughout the Turkestan region.

Before the colonial period, Samarkand was a typical Eastern city with a radial labyrinthine layout, a dominant mahalla system, and pronounced sacred architecture symbolizing the rich Islamic and Perso-Turkic traditions. However, with the arrival of the Russian administration, new urban planning principles were actively introduced—regular grid layouts, the division of the city into administrative and residential zones, and the construction of infrastructure such as paved roads, water supply systems, bridges, and railway stations. These transformations aimed not only at the modernization of the urban environment but also at establishing imperial control through architectural and spatial reconfiguration of the city.

A distinctive feature of colonial urbanism in Samarkand was the coexistence of two cities—the “old” (Eastern) and the “new” (European). The old Samarkand preserved its traditional appearance with mosques, madrasahs, caravanserais, and bazaars, while the “new city” developed as the administrative, military, and cultural center of the colonial authorities. This dual structure deepened spatial and social stratification but simultaneously stimulated the development of transport systems, engineering technologies, and architectural innovation.

Thus, the study of the reorganization of Samarkand's urban planning under colonial policy makes it possible not only to identify the historical patterns of Eastern city transformation under modernization but also to comprehend the complex processes of cultural interaction, architectural fusion, and ideological influence characteristic of the epoch. This topic remains especially relevant today in the context of preserving Samarkand's historical and cultural heritage and restoring its authentic urban image as a city that has integrated both Eastern spirituality and Western rationality.

The impact of the Russian Empire's colonial policy on Samarkand's architectural and urban development has been reflected in the works of historians, architects, and cultural scholars studying the urbanization processes of Central Asia in the 19th and early 20th centuries. An analysis of sources shows that researchers interpret the scale and nature of modernization

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differently; however, most agree that the colonial period marked a turning point in the formation of Samarkand's modern architectural identity.

In the works of V. L. Vyatkin, M. E. Masson, and A. A. Semyonov, the historical prerequisites and consequences of Samarkand's inclusion in the Russian Empire are examined in detail. The authors note that the beginning of urban planning reforms was associated with the administrative need to adapt the city to the demands of the new ruling power. Masson emphasizes that the emergence of the "new city," with its rectilinear layout and regular street grid, reflected the drive for European rationality and spatial control.

The studies of L. Rempel and T. Shomakhmadov focus on the architectural evolution of Samarkand, with special attention to the synthesis of Eastern and Western architectural elements. According to them, during the 1870s–1910s, a unique "hybrid architecture" developed in Samarkand, combining Russian engineering traditions with local construction techniques, ornamental design, and decorative motifs.

Modern researchers such as S. A. Atakhodzhaeva, I. Khamraev, and Sh. Yunusov emphasize the socio-cultural consequences of colonial urban planning. They argue that the spatial division of the city into "European" and "Eastern" parts led to cultural segregation, reinforced social inequalities, and formed new patterns of urban identity.

Particular attention is paid to the study of archival materials and cartographic sources from the late 19th century, which reflect the reconstruction plans for Samarkand approved by the Turkestan Governor-General's Office. These documents demonstrate that the city's development followed the strategic and administrative objectives of the empire—control over communications, the placement of military garrisons, governmental institutions, and trade centers.

Furthermore, in the works of UNESCO and ICOMOS, the importance of studying colonial heritage is emphasized from the perspective of preserving the historical appearance and cultural authenticity of the city. Recent research (e.g., S. Blair & J. Bloom, 2020; K. Nourzhanov, 2021) explores how postcolonial societies in Central Asia reinterpret their architectural past in the context of national identity formation and global urbanization processes.

Thus, the analysis of the literature shows that the modernization of Samarkand's architecture and urban planning during the colonial period was a complex and contradictory process. On the one hand, it led to the introduction of new engineering solutions, the development of infrastructure, and the establishment of European standards of urban planning; on the other hand, it caused a partial loss of the traditional appearance and spiritual integrity of the Eastern city. Research in this field emphasizes the need for a comprehensive approach to the study of Samarkand's architectural heritage as an important component of the historical and cultural dialogue between East and West.

The reorganization of Samarkand's urban structure during the colonial policy of the Russian Empire (1868–1917) represents a multifaceted historical and architectural process in which political, cultural, and socio-economic factors were closely intertwined. As a result of the city's incorporation into the empire, Samarkand became a site of active urban modernization aimed at integrating the Eastern city into the European model of urban space.

The analysis conducted shows that the architectural and planning transformations of this period had a dual character. On the one hand, they contributed to the development of infrastructure, the implementation of new engineering solutions, and the formation of public and administrative buildings in the spirit of classicism and modernism. On the other hand, these changes often disrupted the traditional urban fabric, destroyed historically formed ensembles, and created cultural asymmetry between the "old" and "new" parts of the city.

A distinctive feature of the urban planning policy of the colonial period was the desire for control and rationalization of urban space. The layout of streets, the zoning of territories, and the architectural style of buildings reflected the ideology of the Russian Empire's "civilizing mission," aimed at subordinating local space to administrative and military objectives. At the

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same time, a process of architectural synthesis took place — a combination of the Russian engineering school with Samarkand's traditions of decorative art and construction techniques. Modern research confirms that this very period laid the foundation for Samarkand's subsequent urban development. Many buildings and planning elements created at the end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th centuries still determine the historical and cultural image of the city.

In conclusion, it can be noted that the colonial era, despite its contradictions and the loss of part of the city's authentic heritage, played a significant role in shaping the architectural identity of Samarkand. The task of modern urban planning and restoration practices is to preserve this complex historical legacy by harmoniously combining the traditional Eastern style with elements of European architecture, thereby forming a holistic and sustainable image of the city as a cultural center of global significance.

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