

Study Of Historical Geography Of Central Asia In The XVI-XVIII Centuries

Makhammadieva Saodat

Teacher of Tashkent State Technical University

saodat9079797@mail.ru

Abstract. There is abundant written legacy that belongs to historical-geography of medieval Central Asia, basically they were written in Arabian, Persian and Turkish languages. Initially historical-geography information gained first place in historical-geography books. Likewise, in traveler-scientists' diaries geographical location, economy, cities relations of trade of Central Asia are adduced.

Key words: Central Asia, historical-geography, memories of travel, traveler-scientists, map, river, mountain, Aral Sea, Caspian Sea, population, trade.

ИЗУЧЕНИЕ ИСТОРИЧЕСКОЙ ГЕОГРАФИИ ЦЕНТРАЛЬНОЙ АЗИИ В XVI-XVIII ВЕКАХ

Аннотация. Существует богатое письменное наследие истории и географии средневековой Центральной Азии, написанное в основном на арабском, персидском, и турецком языках. Историко-географические данные в первую очередь состоят из географических и историко-географических произведений. Дневники послов также предоставляют информацию о географическом положении, экономике, городах и торговых отношениях Центральной Азии.

Ключевые слова: Центральная Азия, историко-географический, воспоминания о путешествиях, ученые-туристы, карта, река, гора, Аральское море, Каспийское море, население, торговля.

Introduction: Information about the historical geography of Central Asia is often found in the literature, in the diaries and travelogues of tourist ambassadors, and they are written based on the travel memories of traders and tourists or simply on the reports of observers. Today, sources on the historical geography of Central Asia which created in the Middle Ages, are being studied by translating from Arabic and Persian into Uzbek. Historical and geographical information in written sources is made available to the public through the

publication and translation of these sources in whole or partially, a brief description and the print of scientific research based on them too.

Material and research methods: The works of Central Asian scientists who lived in the Middle Ages contain information about the geographical location, nature, economy, cities, peoples, customs, trade routes of our country. For example, Muhammad ibn Musa al-Kharazmi's *Kitab Surat al-Arz* (The Book of the Earth's Picture) provides information on two trade routes from Central Asia to China (north-Yettisu and south-Fergana valley), depending on the location of the cities. According to *Khudud-ul-Alam*, traders brought gold, silk, silk fabrics and special clay from China. Abu Rayhan Beruni's "Qanuni Mas'udi" is also an important source in the study of the historical geography of the region, which provides valuable information about the list of major cities in Central Asia, their latitude and longitude. The works of Mahmud Kashgari ("Devonu lug'ot-ut-turk") and Najib Bakron ("Jahonнома"), who created in this direction, describe in detail the mountains of our country and its mineral resources [1,64].

Tourists, their memories and recollections are especially important in the study of the historical geography of our country. In particular, during the reign of the Mongols (XIII - XIV centuries) due to the growing interest of Europeans in the eastern countries, a number of tourists and traders (Plano Carpino, Guillen Rubruck, Marco Polo) visited, they carefully studied not only commercial or tourist purposes, but also the countries of the country, its nature, cities, economy, state system, administration, and other information, and later gave their descriptions in their works [2,18].

The interest of Europeans in the countries of the East continued in the following centuries. This is confirmed by the data on the economic relations of European countries with the East in the XIV-XV centuries. Chinese chronicles record that between 1403 and 1449, ambassadors came to China thirty-three times from Samarkand and fourteen times from Hirat, as well as from other regions of the Timur's state. There is information about this in historical works which were written during the Timuris'. In particular, Hafizi Abu's book "Zubdat at-tavorix" and through him in the book "Matla as-sadayn" by Abdurazzaq Samarkandi inform about the ambassadors from China and sent from the Timuris state. In their letters, the rulers on both sides emphasized the

establishment of friendly relations, the development of trade, and the provision of security on caravan routes [3,128].

It is known that in the XIV-XV centuries in Central Asia the place names are numerous and is clear differently in content. Some of the place names are mentioned in connection with various historical events, including military campaigns. One group, the names, are based on the devon books that existed at the time, is the books in which the taxes were recorded in the king's devon. For example, Hafizi Abru's "Geography" provides a detailed list of provinces, districts (villages) and villages of the Khurasan region, and notes that this information is taken from the devon memories. In addition, this source gives a brief account of the origin (etymology) of place names.

According to written sources of the time, Sahibkiran had embassy relations with a number of countries in Western Europe during his fights to Greece. The diary of Rui Gonzalez de Claviho, the ambassador of Castile (Spain) at that time, can be used to give an idea of the geography of diplomatic relations between the state of Amir Temur and the countries of Western Europe, as well as valuable historical and geographical information [4,28].

During this period there was a political, economic and cultural upsurge in Central Asia, when caravans and ambassadors from Mongolia, Tibet, China, India, Arabia, Egypt, Asia Minor, the Caucasus, the Volga region, the Urals came to the Timuris state. In particular, it is known that ambassadors arrived from North India in 1411, 1416, 1421, and in 1442 ambassadors were sent to India under the leadership of Abdurazzaq Samarkandi. Abdurazzaq traveled to South India via the Samarkand Sea and wrote a diary about his trip. The diary has been translated from Persian into Uzbek [5,65].

Information on the historical geography of the Timuris period in Central Asia is contained in the historical-geographical, historical and other works, documents, commentaries, authorities, essays and correspondence were written at that time. All written sources: Nizamiddin Shami's "Zafarnoma", Muiniddin Natanzi's "Muntahab at-tavorix", Hafizu Abru's "Geography" and "Zubdat at-tavorihi Boysunguri", Sharafiddin Ali Yazdi's "Zafarnoma", Fasih Ahmad Khavafi's "Mujmali Fasihi", Ibn Arabshah's works in Arabic "Ajoyib al-maqdur fi tarihi Temur", Abdurazzaq Samarkandi's "Matlai sa'dayn", Mirkhand's "Ravzat as-safo", Khandamir's "Habib us-siyar".

According to another source, in 1414, Shah Rukh who was the governor of Herat, was presented a book of geography written in Arabic. It was the *Kitab al-Masalik va al-Mamalik* (The Book of Roads and Countries). This work is also called “*Ashkol al-Aqalim*” (“Climate Picture”) [6,50].

Shahrukh ordered Hafiz Abru to translate this book into Persian. While translating this book, Hafiz Abru added to it what he had seen and learned from other books, thus creating a new work and naming it *Zubdat at-Tavarikh* (Tarixlar Qaymog’i -The Cream of History). In there also it's played the travel memories of Giyosiddin Naqqash, who was one of the ambassadors sent from Herat to China, the cruelty of Amir Temur, and his march to Herat in 1383.

There is a lot of information about the city of Herat, especially in medieval written sources. Sayf ibn Muhammad ibn Ya'qub of Herat, “History of Herat” (XIV century), historical and geographical work of Hafiz Abru (XV century), Muiniddin Isfizari’s “*Kitab ravzat ul-jannat fi avsof madinati Herat*” (15th century), Among such sources are the works of Khandamir (1475-1534) such as “*Khulasat ul-ahbar fi ahval al-ahyar*” (“Summary of the news of the good people (the world)”) (written between 1498 and 1499).

The highest period of the city of Herat falls on to the XV century. Initially, during the reign of Shah Rukh (1405 - 1447), it became known as one of the most famous cities in the East. By the time of Sultan Husein Boykaro (1469 - 1506), Herat flourished again, and especially the great poet Alisher Navoi’s contribution to its rise during this period was great.

Large buildings in Herat were built mainly during the reign of Shah Rukh. During this period, major construction work began in 1405. The buildings of Shah Rukh’s time have long been the basis of urban architecture. Some of them have survived to the present day. Among the sources written in the 15th century are the works of historian Hafiz Abru (d. 1430) “*Geography*” and “*Zubdat at-tavorix*” (“Palace of History”), which contain some information about the water resources of Central Asia. In particular, in the work “*Geography*” the Aral Sea is called Lake Jayhun, and in the sources this lake is called the Khorezm Sea, during this period, the water of Lake dried up because of the Balkh River (Amudarya) and the Khojand River (Syrdarya) diverted their water to the Caspian Sea [7,34].

The historian's work "Zubdat at-tavorix" states that part of the Amudarya River flowed to the capital Khorezm (Gurganj; Urgench) to the present-day city of Ancient Urgench, and the network is called Gurlan water (Obi Gurlan).

Although not directly related to the Aral Sea, the lower part of the Syrdarya is also mentioned in Zahiriddin Muhammad Babur's "Bobumoma": "Sayhun river is famous for its Khojand water, coming from the east and north, passing through this region and flowing to the west, The north of Khojand is on the south side of Fanokat, which is famous for Shokhrukiya, then turn north again and go towards Turkistan". This river, which is much lower than Turkistan, is like sand, it never dies.

Information about the history of Khorezm in the XVI century is given mainly in the work of Abulgazi Bahodirkhan (1603-1664) "Shajarayi tarokima". He said that he received information about the period which he lived so long time an oral report and that there were no written sources. Everything which was written by him about Uzboy dates back to the first quarter of the 16th century. Partially, it provides the following information about the following part of the Amu Darya from Urgench (Old Urgench): At that time (early 16th century), going to Urgench from Abulkhan (Balkhan) was like going to that village. For him, the water of the Amu Darya passed through the bottom of the fortress of Urgench, went to the sunrise of Mount Abulkhan (Balkhan), touched the bottom of the mountain, drifted from the qibla (the side Muslims face while praying) went to sunset, and then went to Ugurcha and poured into the Mozandaran (Caspian) sea.

There was no end to the prosperity and administration. Anthony Jenkinson who is a British traveler and ambassador came to Khorezm in 1558, also left some information about this in his travelogue. According to Jenkinson, at that time the water of the Amudarya was used for large-scale irrigation around Urgench, a small part of the lake floods. There is no flowing water from Uzboy to the Caspian Sea during this period. The main part of the Amudarya water flows into the sea (Aral) through the Adok network (now Amudarya). Jenkinson points out that if the river water is used for irrigation in this way, the land will soon turn into a desert. Abulgazi writes that 30 years before his birth (1603), the waters of the Amudarya flowed into the Aral Sea from the Black

Stallion, so the area around Urgench became almost deserted: “Thirty years ago, when we were bom, the water of the Amu Darya, the top of the Host Tower was called the Black Stallion’s Tukai and it flowed from there to the Tuk Fortress and poured into the Syr Darya. That is why Urgench was a desert. The people of Urgench are desolate, and the people of the khan’s army are planting crops on suitable lands of the banks of the Amu Darya in the summer”. So this event 15 years after Jenkinson's voyage happened in 1573.

Giyosiddin Naqqosh’s travelogue is also distinguished by its information on the historical geography of the region. Truly, it doesn’t exist wholly now. The information was first quoted by historian Hafiz Abu in his *Zubdat at-Tavorix*, and other historians, including Abdurazzaq Samarkandi in it, included it in their works. This travelogue is currently being translated from Persian into Uzbek. According to the travelogue, Shokhnuk and the Timuris rulers (Boysungur, Ibrahim Sultan, Mirzo Rustam, Ulugbek, Suyurgatmish, Amir Shohmalik) who ruled some regions of the Timuris states, sent ambassadors to China in 1419 in response to the last Chinese embassy.

Abdurazzaq Samarkandi announced the travel diary which was headed by Giyosiddin Naqqosh from December 4, 1419 to September 22, 1422. The diary tells about the political situation in Mongolia at that time, as well as the socio-political situation in Kashgar: there are a lot of information about Karakhoja, Turfan, Suzhou (Jianyuan), Kamju (Zhang), Sadak-fu, Jiayugan and the capital of the Min Empire, the social situation of Khanbalik, the cultural level of the people. There is also valuable information about the traditions of the peoples of Mongolia, Kashgar and China.

We find a lot of information about the relations between Central Asia and East Turkestan and China in the XVII-XVIII centuries by Babur’s “Boburnoma”, Mahmud ibn Wali’s “Bahr ul-asror”, “History of Badakhshan” by Sang Muhammad Badakhshi, Mirza Olim Tashkandi’s “Ansob us-salotin and tavorix ul-havakin”, “Shohruhiy’s history” by Niyaz Muhammad Khokandi, “Tavorihi khamsayi sharqi” by Qurbon Ali Ayoguzi. For example, we may come across in Boburnoma and Bahr ul-Asror about trade and political relations between Central Asia and Kashgar, as well as the population, social status, and historical geography of cities such as Kashgar, Aksu, Yorkand, and Turfan. [8, 125].

Conclusion. In short, there are a great deal of works in order to study historical geography of Central Asia, which are being studied today periodically. Historical and geographical information in written sources is brought to the attention of the public through the publication and translation of these sources in whole or partially, brief description, based on which scientific research is written and published.

REFERENCES

1. Hudud ul-olam. Translation and commentary from Persian Mirsodiq Ishakov - T.: Uzbekistan, 2007. - P. 64.
2. Saidboboev Z. A. Historical and cartographic data on Central Asia in Europe (XVI-XIX centuries). - T.: "Fan" publishing house, 2008. - P.18
3. Bo'riev O. Central Asia in the written sources of the Timuris' period. - T.: "O'zbekiston", 1997. - P. 128.
4. Clavixo, Rui Gonzalez de. Diary of a trip to Samarkand to Timur's court (1403-1406) // Per. so staroispankogo, predisl. and comment. I.S.Mirokovoy. - M.: Nauka, Glavnaya redaktsiya vostochnoy literatury, 1990. - P. 216.
5. Urinboev A. Abdurazzaq Samarkand'i's " Travelogue to India. - T., 1960. - P. 65.
6. Xudayberganov R.T. Istakhri's "Kitab masalik al-mamalik" (scientific translation and research): Abstract of the dissertation for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in History. - T.: Institute of Oriental Studies of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan, 2020. - P. 50.
7. Hofiz Abru. Geography. Manuscript of his own FA Institute of Oriental Studies, № 5361 (in Persian). - P. 34.
8. Akhmedov B.A. Historical and geographical literature of Central Asia XVI - XVIII centuries. (Pismennye pamyatniki). - T.: "Fan", 1985. - P. 262.