



FROM THE RESEARCH OF LOCAL AND FOREIGN SCHOLARS ON ETHNO-POLITICAL PROCESSES ALONG THE LOWER AMUDARYA

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Abstract: In this article, a number of local and Russian historians, tourists, ethnopolitical and ethnocultural processes that took place among the inhabitants of the Lower Amudarya basin, especially the parallel ethnonyms between the Turkmen-Uzbek, Turkmen-Karakalpak, Turkmen-Kazakh clans, written sources, archival materials, statistics. It is said that it was conducted and studied based on data and ethnographic research.

Key words: Lower Amudarya, Zarafshan, Armeni Vamberi, T. Zhdanko, "Hubby", Yu. Bregel, Ya. Ghulamov, Karakalpak, Turkmen, Kazakh, Uzbek

INTRODUCTION

The history of the political and ethno-cultural processes that took place in the late Middle Ages in the Lower Amudarya basin, in general, the northern part of the Khorezm oasis and the Southern Aral coast, has not been sufficiently studied, and it can be seen that this issue has been briefly touched upon in some studies conducted on the history of the peoples of Central Asia. Although partially, the studies dealing with the history of the population of the Lower Amudarya basin in the classic middle and late middle works can be conditionally divided into several groups as follows:

Group 1. Studies conducted in the second half of the 19th century - the first quarter of the 20th century (mainly during Tsarist Russia).

Group 2. Studies conducted during the Soviet period (1920-1990).

Group 3. Studies of the period of independence (1991-2023).

Group 4. Foreign studies (second half of the 19th century - 2023).

As mentioned above, the division of the research into the history of the Lower Amudarya basin is actually conditional, and there are some problems in including the research on the history of the region in the neighboring republics of Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan into the group of the period of independence or foreign research. Also, there are some complications in the issue of whether or not to include the works of foreign authors who came to the region in the research conducted in the second half of the 19th century - the first quarter of the 20th century. Also, there is no consensus on whether the notes of the Hungarian Armeni Vambery [1], who was in the Khorezm oasis and nearby regions in the 1860s, should be considered as a source on the subject or should be evaluated as a research work. A similar situation is encountered in the matter of the notes of the American journalist McGahan, who was in the Khiva Khanate in the first half of the 1870s [2].

The researches of the first group are mainly written by Russian authors, written by Russian ambassadors, travelers, merchants, prisoners, and so on. Among them, notes written by Russian soldiers have a special place [3]. Also, scientific studies written by Russian



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orientalists during this period also play an important role in illuminating the history of the Lower Amu Darya basin. Especially, the famous Russian orientalist and historian V.V. Barthold's research on the historical and geographical geography of the region was also little touched upon [4].

The second group of studies belongs to the Soviet period, and they are distinguished by their consistency and accuracy. At the same time, the researches of this period can be divided into several types according to their content: researches based on the data collected during the activities aimed at establishing the Soviet ideology, purely scientific researches, etc. As in the whole region, socio-political and administrative-economic reforms were carried out in the Lower Amudarya basin in the 1920s-1930s, and in the process of the elimination of private ownership and the introduction of collectivization, that is, collective ownership, among the local population, collecting oral information from them, a group of Russian-speaking researchers who conducted research based on them came out. Thanks to their efforts, later - between 1960-1990, a group of dozens of historians, ethnographers, archaeologists and other sociologists was formed among representatives of the local people.

Among the scientists who were the first to pay attention to the political and ethnic history of the population of the Lower Amu Darya basin in the last middle ages, P.P. Ivanov's researches stand out separately [5]. His research was conducted on the basis of written sources, archival materials, statistical data and ethnographic research, and is among the first scientific works that started the scientific study of the history of the people of this region, in particular, the Karakalpak people.

When we talk about the history of the Lower Amu Darya basin during the last Middle Ages, especially the service of the ethnographer T. Zhdanko in elucidating the ethnocultural processes that took place here, is incomparable [6. 110-120.]. The researcher was one of the first to carry out extensive research on the ethnic composition of the Karakalpak people, the system of tribes and clans, kinship traditions, genealogies, the location and distribution of Karakalpak clans, legends and legends. At the same time, he paid great attention to the ethnic composition of the Uzbek, Kazakh and Turkmen population in the Lower Amudarya basin, as well as to the tribal and clan system characteristic of them. In carrying out this work, T. Zhdanko relied on written sources and archival materials, as well as oral and ethnographic materials, and was able to collect primary data from the local population. It is noticeable that the researcher met face-to-face with representatives of almost every Karakalpak clan and tried to collect ethnographic information from them.

Uzbek scientist Ya. Ghulomov also paid great attention to the collection of oral information and ethnographic materials related to the region. In his monograph "The History of Khorezm Irrigation", he made good use of the information preserved among the Uzbeks and Karakalpaks, while studying the traditions of the local population of the oasis related to irrigation, farming and fishing. In particular, it is worth noting that the information about "Hubbi" (Er-hubbi) related to the water cult among the local population existed among the ancient Khorezm people and was recognized in the world of science as a historical memory preserved until the last Middle Ages. Also, we can understand that Ya. Ghulamov got to know the Uzbek, Karakalpak, Kazakh and Turkmen residents of the oasis closely, and touched on the ethnic composition of clans and peoples, geography of distribution, migration issues [7].

It should be mentioned that among Soviet ethnographic researchers, G.P. Snegireva's research is distinguished by its depth and consistency. In particular, her articles on the ethnic



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composition of the Uzbek and Karakalpak population in the Khorezm oasis, especially in the Lower Amudarya basin, the clan-tribal system, their customs, etc., attract attention with their primary and originality [8. 75-94].

It should be mentioned that in a number of scientific studies devoted to the ethnic history and ethnography of the peoples of Central Asia, for the purpose of mutual comparison, the population of the Aral Bay, in particular, the Lower Amudarya basin was also touched upon. In particular, it is noteworthy that philologist V.G. Moshkova's research focused on the aspects of the residents of this area related to the residents of Nurota and Zarafshan oasis [9. 141-149].

Turkmen philologist S. Ataniyazov compared the ethnonyms of the Turkic peoples of Central Asia with the Turkmen ethnonyms in his research on the ethnic composition of the Turkmen people and was able to observe many similarities and ethnic affinities between them [10]. In particular, it is noticeable that in the process of identifying parallel ethnonyms between the Turkmen-Uzbek, Turkmen-Karakalpak, Turkmen-Kazakh clans, he also referred to clan names of the Lower Amudarya population.

In 1960-1970, the orientalist Yu. Bregel published hundreds of documents related to the Karakalpak, Turkmen, Kazakh and Uzbek people in the region based on written sources, especially the documents of the Khanate of Khiva [11]. Through researches in Russian and English written by the researcher, we will have certain information about the location of various ethnic groups living in the Lower Amudarya basin in the late Middle Ages, and the extent of their geographical distribution. Yu. Bregel is known to have conducted extensive research on the information after moving to the United States in the 1990s. It is noteworthy that in his monograph "Historical Atlas of Central Asia", one of the major scientific works that introduced him to the world, he mapped almost all historical-geographical countries and regions of Central Asia from the earliest times to the Soviet era, along with a brief introduction to the political and ethnic history [12]. In particular, it should be mentioned that he showed the ethno-political and migration processes of the late Middle Ages in the framework of the khanates, as an example of centuries and decades, and also that he touched on the Lower Amudarya basin while showing the clan-tribal structure of the Turkic peoples in the region at the beginning of the 20th century.

Uzbek orientalist B. Akhmedov who conducted deep research in the Soviet era and continued such research even in the years of independence. His invaluable monographs and articles are extensive, and the above-mentioned researchers are not left behind in their research. Even some of his scientific works are distinguished by the wealth of written sources [13]. He also studied the history of nomadic Uzbeks, Shaibanis and Ashtarkhani, mainly based on Persian and Turkish written sources. The information given by Ahmedov is valid for the period of the last Middle Ages of the peoples of the region. In particular, in dozens of written sources studied by the researcher, it is possible to observe the historical processes in the Lower Amudarya, Syr Darya basins and the Aral region.

CONCLUSION

Also, with the exception of some studies, the history of the ethnic relations of the people of Lower Amudarya with Tashkent and Zarafshan oasis, Fergana valley has hardly been touched upon. A similar situation can be seen in the example of large migration processes that took place in the late Middle Ages.



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