

Studying the Origin of The Topography of The Ancient Cities of The Ferghana Valley

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Abstract: Humanity has continued to evolve since its inception. However, there are various debates about the causes of the emergence and development of the first cities. Without cities and the process of urbanization, it is impossible to imagine the next stage of human development. The development of rural and urban areas is one of the most important factors in the advancement of society. Urban planning and the development of urbanization bring a number of challenges to humanity. Globally, the process of urbanization has not been uniform. For example, the Sumerians and Akkadians, the state of ancient Babylon, and the states of Ancient India developed in the 4th and 3rd millennia BCE. In contrast, in the Ferghana Valley, it is assumed that the process of urbanization began in the Bronze Age.

Keywords: Markhamat, Mingtepa, Akhsikent, B.A.Latinin, A.N.Bernshtam, B.A.Litvinsky, Yu.A.Zadneprovsky, N.G.Gorbunova, mounds, paleobotany, paleozoology, paleoecology, historical topography.

Introduction: The problem of studying the process of urbanization of society is one of the main tasks of historical science. Archaeological resources and sites discovered during the study of the early stages of each of the urban cultures acquire special significance. To fully study the processes of urbanization, it is also necessary to study the work of archaeological scientists who conducted archaeological research. Basically, many expeditions were carried out by Soviet archaeologists. The first archaeological research in Central Asia, especially the Fergana Valley, began in 1884-1885, by orientalist and archaeologist N.I.Veselovsky. The learned archaeologist turned his attention to the monuments of Muslim times and the study of Kosonsay (Mug), Aksikent and Uzgan. Of particular importance in history was N.I. Veselovsky's study of about 30 graves in the tombs of Northern Fergana. [3.5 6] But he did not determine which city these graves belong to.

One of the first researchers of the Fergana expedition was B.A.Latynin, focused on comparing the culture of pastoralists and the sedentary population in cultural monuments of the Early Bronze Age. According to B.A.Latinin in the VI-IV centuries. BC there were

agricultural settlements. [14.1961.A]. He limited himself to the distribution of animal bones from Chust and Dalvarzintepe of the Fergana Valley into large and small cattle, as well as conclusions about socio economic life. Expeditions in 1930, 1933, 1934 in the Fergana Valley under the leadership of B.A.Latinin laid the foundation for the scientific study of the monuments of the Fergana Valley of the 1st century BC.

LITERATURE ANALYSIS

In 1928-1930, employee of the Leningrad State Hermitage B.A.Latin, thanks to construction work at the Uchkurgan power plant, carried out archaeological observations in the vicinity of the structure. Unlike the studies carried out before him, B.A.Latynin studied pre-Muslim monuments. Among his greatest achievements are the discovery of many monuments still unknown to science, the discovery of a ceramic complex with red engobe and painting typical of Fergana. Another merit of this archaeologist was that he was the first in Central Asia to begin studying the history of irrigation in the Fergana Valley, which was considered a large agricultural region. [14.1961.A] He emphasized that the development of this area will be of great importance in the future.

In 1939-1940, large construction work was also carried out in Uzbekistan. The construction of water bodies - canals - flourished especially. Among them, archaeological research carried out during the construction of the Great Fergana and South Fergana Canals stands out in its scale. Excavations along the 270 km area have been the focus of archaeologists. Invaluable information was obtained about the ancient history of the Fergana Valley. [11.44-50]

Since 1946, during seven archaeological field seasons in the Fergana Valley, sinologist archaeologist Professor A.N.Bernstein (1910-1956) conducted major archaeological research. For this purpose, in 1950-1952. The Pamir-Fergana complex archaeological expedition was organized. A.N.Bernstein's research focused equally on ancient farmers and herders, urban and rural ruins. [6.7] While N.I. Vaselovsky studied mainly medieval monuments, B.A.Latinin studied monuments of the pre-Islamic period, A.N.Bernshtam conducted extensive research. For example, he examined historical monuments from the ancient Stone Age to the 18th-19th centuries. Conducted scientific research at the monument to Eilat, Mingtepe (Markhamat), Kasane, Aksikent, Kuva, Uzgen, and also at large archaeological sites in the Fergana Valley. [7.34] As a result of comparing historical writings with the results of excavations, the archaeologist made conclusions. One of these conclusions was the division of ancient Fergana culture and way of life into two different directions, emphasizing agriculture and pastoralism. Also emphasized the idea of how these two lifestyles influence each other. [3.7-8.] Early conclusions made by A.N.Bernshtam, that is, his theory that the inhabitants of the Fergana Valley descended from nomads is not justified. [7.17]

METHODS

The article uses methods for selecting and classifying information on the topic, comparative analysis and the principle of objectivity. The period of archaeological study of the Fergana Valley begins at the end of the 19th century, namely, when Russian naturalists A.P.Fedchenko, N.A.Seversov, A.F.Middendorf began to collect information about the relics of the past.

As a result of archaeological work, A.N.Bernshtam developed a classification of monuments and archaeological periodicity of ancient Fergana cultures. He paid great attention to monuments in the mountainous regions of Fergana, where ancient pastoralists and nomads lived. A.N.Bernstein studied the stages of development of the economy, culture and political history of pastoral peoples and nomads. His works were the first to highlight the features of the

historical processes of Fergana from the Bronze Age to the Middle Ages. [7.16] The development of materials on the ancient Fergana culture obtained as a result of the expeditions of A.N.Bernshtam was mentioned in the dissertation of Y.A.Zadneprovsky on the theme "Ancient Fergana" (1954). [10.40-41]

Y.A.Zadneprovsky defended his doctoral dissertation in 1974 on the topic "Fergana Chust culture and monuments of the early Iron Age of Central Asia." During his scientific research, he took an active part in many archaeological expeditions and carried out trench-style excavations. Another of his works, which briefly talks about the history of the ancient state of Davan, "The Ancient Culture of Fergana," was written in 1962, and this work occupies an important place in the study of the history of Fergana.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Urbanization processes in Central Asia underwent changes during the Bronze and Early Iron Ages. One of the main reasons for this was that by this time the primitive communal system had fallen into decay, and states began to emerge in its place as a result of the development of class society. When studying the history of the emergence and structure of the first cities of Central Asia, you can find out that they were influenced by the urban planning of Egypt, Mesopotamia, India and China. [4.10] However, the main centers of the ancient civilizations of the world are different, and one can also observe urbanization processes that basically correspond to the same area.

As a result of archaeological research, the stage of development of the early urban centers of Central Asia can be divided into three periods:

I – period. The territories of southern Turkmenistan (Altintepa, Nomozgokhtepa), upper Zarafshan (Sarazm), southern Uzbekistan (Sopolitepa), which arose in the first half of the 3rd-2nd centuries. BC.

II – period. The territories of Southern Turkmenistan (Gonurtepa) and Southern Uzbekistan (Dzharkutan), which arose in the middle of the 2nd millennium BC. e.;

III - period. Urban centers that arose at the end of the 2nd millennium BC in the territories of present-day Surkhandarya, Kashkadarya, Khorezm, Fergana and Tashkent [3.62]

In the regions of the Fergana Valley, located in the northeastern regions of Central Asia, the Bronze Age lasted longer. The Bronze Age Chust culture, located in the valley area, is sometimes referred to by archaeologists as being of the Bronze Age and sometimes of the Iron Age.

But. According to the results of the analysis of the radiocarbon method carried out by Y.A.Zadneprovsky

and Ruzanov, it became known that the Chust culture existed from the 16th – 15th to 7th centuries. BC. [11.1988] Currently, these assumptions have become the cause of controversy.

As a result of archaeological research on the banks of Shakhimardonsay - Margilansay and Kosonsay, a number of clarifications were made to the history of the development of irrigation agriculture in the Fergana Valley. Located downstream of Kosansay, the main part of the Aksikent oasis was founded in the 10th-9th centuries. BC. Archaeological research has found confirmation of the fact that agricultural areas existed on the territory of the monuments of old Akhsi. It is assumed that the capital of such settlements in the Fergana Valley could be the city of Dalvarzin. [1.6]

The location of the Fergana Valley in favorable geographical conditions for the development of irrigation agriculture contributed to the development of early agriculture and, as a result, laid the foundation for the emergence of the first cities and villages.

On the territory of the ruins of the ancient cities of Aksikent, Mingtepa, Eilaton and Kuva, dating back to the antiquity of the Fergana Valley, excavations were carried out at different periods. To this day, the regions of Markhamat and Aksikent, which became the reason for various negotiations regarding the capital of the Ancient Fergana State, dispute the status of the capital of the ancient Fergana State, which is emphasized by scientists from different sides. In Aksikent, under the leadership of I.Akhrorov and A.Anorbaev, large-scale archaeological work was carried out. [5.54] As a result of archaeological work in Aksikent, archaeological scientist A. Anorboev discovered and explored such parts of the ancient city as: Ark, Shakhristan and Rabot.

By the 10th-11th centuries AD, the territory of Aksikent reached 400 hectares. But the main part of this city was washed away by the waters of the Sir Darya. Only the northern and north-eastern parts have been preserved, in the form of a small protrusion. Here you can see the remains of walls and trenches. [1.7] According to A. Anorbaev, the outer part of the city and even the outer part of Shakhristan were surrounded by a moat. It turns out that the inner part of Akhsi, that is, Shahrstan, is 35 hectares. These data have not yet been confirmed by modern technologies.

V.D.Jukov, in 1957, conducted archaeological research, studying the monuments of ancient antiquity of the Kuva oasis, located in the ancient Fergana Valley. In eastern Fergana, at the Kayrattepa monument, V.I.Kozenkova organized archaeological research. V.I. Kozenkova (1959-1964) examined a number of new monuments [12.1964]

Thanks to the construction of the Great Fergana Canal,

the ruins of the city of Mingtepa were first studied during archaeological excavations under the leadership of M.E.Massan in 1939. In 1946, Leningrad professor A.N.Berishtam began an archaeological study of the history of Mingtepa. He was the first to summarize data from archaeological finds and written sources. A.N.Berishtam in his scientific book "Ancient Fergana" comes to the conclusion that the Mingtepa monument, located near the Markhamat district of the Andijan region, is the location of the capital of the Fergana state, the city of Ershi, mentioned in Chinese written sources. [9.18] The basis for this conclusion is the stone images obtained as a result of burning on the Aravan rocks, located near the ruins. We know from additional sources that the residents of Ershi have bred purebred horses since ancient times. According to written sources, Ershi was a fairly large city, surrounded by two rows of walls. The ruins of present-day Mingtepa are also separated by walls, which N.G.Gorbunova quotes in her work "In Ancient Fergana". "She believed that Mingtepa was one of the oldest cities in the Fergana Valley, with a total area of 45 hectares, but did not mention the area surrounded by the second defensive wall of the city. From here we can conclude that by this period the second defensive wall of the city had not survived. [8.13]

In recent years, the results of excavations carried out by B.Matboboev and research by a joint expedition, it became known that the inner part of the city of Mingtepa is 41.2 hectares, and the outer part is 320 hectares. During the years of independence, several studies were carried out at the Mingtepe monument by B.Matboboev. [2.203-206]

CONCLUSION

It is worth noting that the history of studying the Fergana Valley can be divided into three groups:

In the 1950s. A.N.Bernshtam, seeing the rocks with the image of a horse on Mount Aravan, located in the Mingtepa region, noticed that it was in this area that the capital of the ancient Fergana state of Ershi was located. But he did not take into account the historical topography. He also explored the wall surrounding the city, but did not pay attention to the trenches located next to the wall.

Y.A.Zadneprovsky and N.G.Gorbunova carried out the main excavations in the 1960s-1980s. Y.A.Zadneprovsky made many archaeological expeditions, including archaeological research in many areas of the Fergana Valley. He explored more than 80 settlements. In his research he mainly used the trench method. N.G.Gorbunova also repeatedly took part in archaeological expeditions and achieved many successes. She tried to work to the fullest by comparing

the results of her research with subjects from another field based on the table.

Research conducted by several archaeologists during the years of independence. Numerous archaeological excavations were carried out by I.Akhrorov, A.Anorboev, A.Askarov, and B.Matboboev. A.Anorbaev repeatedly conducted archaeological excavations in the Aksikent area. Archaeologists examined the inner and outer walls, as well as the trenches surrounding the outer wall. But what function these trenches perform was not reported. He gives the approximate area of the ruins of the city of Akhsikent, respectively, mentions that Aksikent could have been the capital of the ancient Fergana state. But the data presented have not been confirmed in recent studies of the modern method.

B.Matboboev in the Mingtepa region organized a joint international expedition with Chinese archaeologists, as a result of which the length of the inner and outer walls was determined using the Tangchan rod. In addition, the discovery of an ancient city cemetery near the outer wall was news for archaeological scientists. In any ancient city, a trench must have been dug close to the outer wall, but information about a trench in the Mingtepa area is not given. Information about the prosperity of the ancient state, located in the Fergana Valley, is also given in Chinese sources. From this it is clear that urbanization processes have long been developing in the Ancient Fergana state.

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