

Social Economic and Political History of Khorezm During the Period of The Turkic Khaganate

Mukhamedov Yakubdjani Kadirovich

Doctor of Philosophy in History (PhD), Senior Teacher National University of Uzbekistan

Received: 19 March 2026; **Accepted:** 06 April 2026; **Published:** 30 April 2026

Abstract: This article examines the socio-economic and political processes of Khorezm during the Early Medieval period, when it was part of the administrative system of the Western Turkic Khaganate, based on an analysis of archaeological and written sources.

The article also explores the dynasties that ruled Khorezm and issues related to their origin through an analysis of scholarly opinions and interpretations.

Keywords: Chjaovu, Khosyun Khvalis, Khorezm, afrig, jamuk, Tuke, Ashkharasuys, Azkachvar, chagon, Tangshu, Turkasabos, abdal, Turk shad, Istemi.

Introduction: Before the formation of the Western Turkic Khaganate, the southern regions of the Central Asia, the interfluvium (Amudarya-Sirdarya) were part of the Eftaliy kingdom, and the confederated (semi-independent) principalities under its control: Chach, Fergana, Samarkand, Kabudon, Maymurg, Kushoniya, Kesh, Buxoro and others were ruled by dynasties belonging to the Chjaovu dynasty [1].

In Chinese chronicles, Khorezm is mentioned under the name "Xosyun" and its rulers also belonged to the Chjaovu dynasty [2]. However, in history, the view that Khorezm was ruled by the Afrig'iy dynasty has prevailed [3]. In his work "Monuments of Ancient Peoples" Beruniy cited the names of twenty-two rulers who Khorezm before the Afrig'iy dynasty [4].

Considering the above-mentioned issue, the question arises as to which dynasty, the Chjaovu and Afrig'iy was dominant. Considering the issue, it can be said that the country was ruled by the Chjaovu dynasty before the Afrig'iy, and that it was under the control of the Afrig'iy from the early Middle Ages. A separate study should be conducted in the coming years to clarify this issue.

The sources do not contain any information about when the Turkic Khanate annexed the Khorezm oasis. In researching this issue, Chinese chronicles indicate that after the Tu-kyu defeated the Eftaliy, the lands his

rule were occupied by the Sasoniys and Turks [5]. Khorezm, however, fell under the control of the Turks. The Amudarya served as a border between the Sasoniys and Turks.

Information about the annexation of Khorezm to the Turks is found in Greek and Byzantine sources. In particular, in Byzantine sources, in the records of the kagan's ambassadors sent to Byzantium in 568, the Hephthalites were completely defeated and the territories under their control were transferred to the Turks [6].

According to the historian Theophanes of Byzantium, under the influence of the Turkic Khanate, not only captured the major cities and ports of the Persian-controlled trade centers, but also the cities of the Amudarya lands, especially the Caspian regions [7]. On this issue, N.V. Pigulevskaya, in her scientific views, cited the fact that the capture of major commercial and trading centers by the Turkic Khaganate contributed to the increase in its economic power [8].

Greek sources provide information about Byzantine ambassadors visiting the Turkic khan in the late 560s and 570, and about the vassal principalities requesting permission to send ambassadors to Byzantium during their return. This information states that the khanate only granted permission to the vassal principalities of

Khvalis(Khorezm)[9].

Also, in one of the written sources in the Armenian language, "Ashkharatsyuts": "Scythia, that is, Apakhtark, which is the property of the Turks, begins from Etil (the Volga River) and goes to Emavan (Pamir, Himalayas), and then forms the distance to the country of China.... Many peoples live in Scythia: these include Sogdians, Tocharians, Ephthalites and other nomadic herders," along with Khorezm [10]. Based on the information mentioned in Armenian sources such as "Scythia", "Turkestan" and "Turkish Empire", the Western Turkic Khaganate is spoken of, and valuable information is provided about the Sogdians, peoples within it: Tocharians, Ephthalites and Khorezmians, who formed ethnic groups [11].

There is also information about Khorezm being a part of the West Turkic Khaganate. In particular, I. Marquardt and Z.V. According to the conclusions of Dams, they put forward the view that the origin of the Khorezm people belongs to the ancient Iranian dynasty, which originated from the Abdals (Ephthalites) [12] who ruled before Islam. Regarding this issue, it was noted in the "Tanshu" chronicle that the rulers of Hosyun (Khorazm) were from the Zhaowu dynasty [13]. B.I. According to Weinberg, according to Chinese chronicles and numismatic materials, Khorezm was ruled by the Zhaowu dynasty in ancient times, and later by the African dynasty [14]. This conclusion was later confirmed by G'. Boboyorov also supported [15]. In the sources, it is noted that not only the rulers of Samarkand, but also the rulers of Khorezm and Bukhara were organized as chajavus[16].

The encyclopedist Abu Rayhan Beruni gave information about more than twenty rulers who ruled in Khorezm, and noted that their origins go back to Siyovush, the son of the Iranian king Kaykhusrav[17].

G. Boboyorov did not believe that all the rulers mentioned by Beruni belonged to the same dynasty. On the contrary, they belonged to different dynasties, justifying their belonging to the Zhaowu dynasty [18]. S.P. Tolstov, based on information about one of the rulers mentioned in Beruni's work, noted that the ruler named Turksabas or Turkasbaz was a representative of the ruling family of the Turkic Khaganate and was the same as Tuksanf mentioned in Greek sources [19]. O.I. Smirnova enriched the name Turkbabas with her scientific conclusion that the meaning of the name Turksabas is "owner of the Turkish army" [20]. The name Turksanaf in Turkic is originally the same as Tuksabaz, and Tuksabaz is considered the son of Yabgu Khagan. However, Shad was a title given to the son and close nephews of this khaka, and the holders of this title also served as the head of the right thousandth

army in the military army [21]. Based on the above information, it can be concluded that Khorezm was ruled by the Zhaowu in ancient times, and then by the Afrigiis in the early Middle Ages. G. Boboyorov's work considers the origin of the Afrigiis as a branch of the Zhaowu dynasty [22].

In this place, O.I. Smirnova gave his opinion on the origin of the concept of Zhaovu found on coins to the representatives of the Iranian dynasty [23]. At the same time, the scholar cited the term Zhaowu in Chinese annals as the name of the pre-Islamic noble class in the Chinese of the Tang Dynasty (t'siä miu) and the archaic Chinese of the Han Dynasty (tiog miwo) [24] and "jamuk" (meaning "precious stone") [25]. On this issue, B. Gaibov cited the great influence of Iranian tribes in the origin of the Zhaowu dynasty [26].

The geographical location of the oasis principalities under the Western Turkic Khaganate was determined by the richness or, conversely, the scarcity of natural resources in the oasis, while the principalities located in relatively narrow valleys in East Turkestan did not have extensive pastures and were not very suitable for the residence of a large population. The Khaganate can be assessed by the possibility of moving a certain population group to these lands or deploying troops. A similar situation is observed in some principalities in the Amu Darya-Syr Darya interfluvium. The Western Turkic Khaganate ruled the Khorezm oasis, as the local dynasty of the Africans did during the Hephthalite state, and during the Western Khaganate, they retained their rule, limiting themselves mainly to paying tribute to the Khaganate, and, with the exception of some titles and epithets, the Turkic state system did not have such an impact. This can be explained as follows: First, the Khorezm oasis was located far from the central region of the Khaganate, the Ettisuv, and secondly, the absence of any major political force that could threaten Khorezm at that time. True, the Khorezm oasis was relatively close to the territory of Sasanian Iran in the southwest, but the oasis principalities in this region, such as Merv, Dehistan, and Gurgan, were also subordinate to the Khaganate.

The following information is also important regarding the fact that Khorezm was part of the Khaganate. The word twrk appears in the ancient Khorezm inscription on a ceramic surface found at the Khumbuztepa monument in Khorezm, and the inscription twrk appears in East Iranian inscriptions, indicating that it was part of the Western Turkic Khaganate during this period [27].

In the early Middle Ages, the names of individuals with the titles of Chor, Chabysh, and Tutuk were mentioned

in Khorezm, and the holders of these titles were given to perform a certain task during military operations during the period of the Turkic Khaganate. There are scientific opinions among scholars about these titles. In particular, Mahmud Kashgari interpreted Chabysh as "a person who organizes the ranks in battle and protects the soldiers from oppression during rest" [28]. There is also information that the holder of the Chabysh title was a commander-in-chief and a person who sent ambassadors [29]. The Japanese scholar Y. Yutaka, on the other hand, considered the title Chabysh to be a title belonging to the Hephthalites and adopted by the Turks [30].

In the early Middle Ages, local writing spread in Khorezm. Examples include the royal archives found in Tuprokkala, inscriptions on pottery, coins, and palace walls [31].

It can be seen that the confederated states of the Western Turkic Khaganate, such as Chach, Fergana, Khorezm, Ustrushan, Tokharistan, and Bukhara, had their own independent coins [32]. From the early Middle Ages, coinage was established in Khorezm, as in Sogd [33].

On the coins of Khorezm, mainly stamps and inscriptions MR'Y MLK' were found [34]. According to the form of this seal and inscriptions, it can be seen that Khorezm was ruled by an independent dynasty compared to other regions.

In addition to the above information, let us turn to the conclusion of the scientist G. Boboyarov, who states that Khorezm was considered a separate oasis within the Turkic khaganate, had its own ruling dynasty, that various legendary plots were depicted on its coins, and that the stamp found on the coins was later characteristic of the Chaghanid ruler, who was not characteristic of the Turks [35]. After comparing it with Tokharistan coins, it can be seen that Weinberg is based on the opinions of Abu Rayhan Beruni, one of the 22 rulers of Wzk'nšw'r (Azgachvar, Chag'an in Arabic sources) [36], who is actually one of the rulers of Khorezm.

The archaeologist S.P. Tolstov, who conducted scientific research in Khorezm, draws special attention to a frieze discovered in the ruins of Tuprokkala. It is interesting that in this frieze the ruler is seated on a throne, and black servants are sitting next to him. [37] Thus, it is known that during this period the rulers of Khorezm hired their servants from neighboring countries, East India, or, more likely, from Africa.

In general, we can conclude that the Khorezm oasis, although it was part of the Western Turkic Khaganate in the early Middle Ages, had its own coinage and independent activities in conducting diplomatic

relations with neighboring regions, which laid the foundation for its subsequent economic, cultural, and political rise.

REFERENCES

1. Смирнова О.И. Очерки из истории Согда. - М., 1970. - С.37., Бобоёров Ф. Б. Турк хоқонлиги даврида Хоразм // Хоразм тарихи замонавий тадқиқотларда. – Тошкент: Урганч., 2018.- Б. 49.
2. Бичурин Н.Я. (Иакинф). Собрание сведений о народах, обитавших в Средней Азии в древние времена. В III-х томах. М.-Л., 1950. Т. II. - С.310; Б.И. Вайнберг Монеты древнего Хорезма. - Из-во. Наука. - М.1977.- С.85-100. Chavannes E. Documentssurles Tou-Kiue (Turks) occidentaux / Сборник трудов Орхонской экспедиции. СПб., 1903. Вып. 6. - Р.134. Бобоёров Ф.Б. Турк хоқонлиги даврида Хоразм....- Б. 49.
3. Абу Райхон Беруний. Қадимги халқлардан қолган ёдгорликлар / Таржимон А. Расулов / Танланган асарлар. II-жилд. – Тошкент: Фан, 1968. - Б.71-72. Бобоёров Ф.Б. Турк хоқонлиги даврида Хоразм.....- Б. 49.
4. Togan Z.V. Umumi Türk Tarihine Giriş. - İstanbul, 1981. – S. 60.
5. Бичурин Н.Я. (Иакинф). Собрание сведений о народах, обитавших в Средней Азии в древние времена. В 3-х томах. М.-Л., 1950. Т. II. - С. 310; Б.И. Вайнберг. Монеты древнего Хорезма. Из-во.- Наука. М.1977.- С.85-100 Chavannes E. Documentssurles Tou-Kiue (Turks), Вайнберг. Б.И. Монеты древнего Хорезма. Из-во. Наука. - М.1977. - С.85-100
6. Бобоёров Ф.Б. Турк хоқонлиги даврида Хоразм. // Хоразм тарихи замонавий тадқиқотларда. – Тошкент: Урганч. 2018. - Б. 49.
7. Бичурин Н.Я. Собрание сведений. ... II. – S. 311-318.
8. Абу Райхон Беруний. Танланган асарлар. 1-жилд. – Тошкент: Фан, 1968. -Б.71-72.
9. Бобоёров Ф.Б. Турк хоқонлиги даврида Хоразм. // Хоразм тарихи замонавий тадқиқотларда. – Тошкент: Урганч., 2018.- Б. 50
10. Толстов С.П. Древний Хорезм. М.: Издание МГУ, 1948. - С.188; Зуев Ю.А. Ранние тюрки: очерки истории и идеологии. Алматы: Дайк-пресс, 2002. – С. 190.
11. Смирнова О.И. Каталог монеты с городища Пенджикент. М.: Изд-во восточной лит-ры, 1963. - С. 28.
12. Gömeç S. Kök Türk Tarihi. - Ankara: ТТК, 1997. - S.25,92, Бобоёров Ф.Б. Турк хоқонлиги даврида

- Хоразм. // Хоразм тарихи замонавий тадқиқотларда. – Тошкент: Урганч 2018. - Б. 50
13. Бобоёров Ғ.Б. Турк хоқонлиги даврида Хоразм. // Хоразм тарихи замонавий тадқиқотларда. – Тошкент: Урганч, 2018. - Б. 48-55
 14. Смирнова О.И. Очерки из истории Согда. ... – С. 25.
 15. Смирнова О.И. Очерки из истории Согда. ... – С. 28.
 16. Frye R.N. Jamuk, sogdian peal? // JOAS, 1952. – S. 105-106.
 17. Ғоибов Б. Суғд конфедерациясининг шаклланиши, тараққиёти ва танназули. - Самарқанд 2017. – Б.101.
 18. Бичурин Н.Я. Собрание сведений ... - Т. II. - С. 229.
 19. Феофилакт Симокатта. История // Великие степи в античных и византийских источниках. Сборник материалов. Сост. и ред. А.Н. Гаркавца. Алматы: Баур, 2005. - С. 624; Комар А. Наследие тюркских каганатов в Восточной Европе // Мәдени мұра - Культурное наследие. Астана, 2009. № 1. -С. 100-101.
 20. Феофан Византийский..... 493 б, Гумилев Л.Н. Қадимги Турклар..... - Б.55.
 21. Пигулевская Н. В. Византийская дипломатия и Торговля шелком в V-VII вв. Византийский временник.\\ М. Академик Изд.- 1947. - С.71.
 22. Шювен П. О Византийских посольствах к первым тюркским правителям Согда (Проблемы ономастики и топонимики) // ОНУ. 1995. № 1–3. С. – 33-38.
 23. Тер-Мкртичан Л.Х. Армянские источники о Средней Азии V-VII вв. - М.: Наука, 1979. - С. 60–61. Бобоёров Ғ.Б. Турк хоқонлиги даврида Хоразм // Хоразм тарихи замонавий тадқиқотларда. – Тошкент: Урганч, 2018. - Б. 50.
 24. Бобоёров Ғ.Б. Турк хоқонлиги даврида Хоразм. // Хоразм тарихи замонавий тадқиқотларда. – Тошкент: Урганч, 2018.- Б.50.
 25. Лившиц В.А., Мамбетуллаев М.М. Острак из Хумбузтепе // Памятники истории и литературы Востока. – М., 1986. С.39.
 26. Қошғарий Маҳмуд. Туркий сўзлар девони (Девону-луғот ит-турк) / Таржимон ва нашрга таёрловчи С.М. Муталлибов. III томлик. – Тошкент: Фан, 1960–1963. Divanü Lügati-türkTercümesi. Cilt I-IV. Çev. B. Atalay, TDK yayınları. – Ankara, 1985. Cilt I. - S.349.
 27. Donuk A. Yeski Türk devletlerinde idari-askeri unvan ve terimler. - İstanbul,1988. - S.93; Буниятов З.М. Государство Хорезмшахов - Ануштегинидов (1097–1231). М.: Наука,1986. - С. 91.
 28. Yoshida. Y. On the Origin of the Sogdian Surname Zhaowu and Related Problems // JA. – Paris, 2003. – No. 1–2 (291). - P. 35–67.
 29. Сагдуллаев А.С ва бошқа... Ўзбекистон тарихи. 1-қисм, – Тошкент: Фан, - 2019. – Б.263.
 30. Смирнова О.И. Сводный каталог согдийских монеты. ... – С.324-336; 336-341; 371-382; Вайнберг Б.И. Монеты древнего Хорезма. – М.: Наука, 1977,
 31. Ғоибов Б. Суғд конфедерациясининг шаклланиши, тараққиёти ва танназули. – Самарқанд. док дис.... 2017. - Б.62.
 32. 33,34,35. Бобоёров Ғ. Ғарбий турк хоқонлиги тарихи ва танга пул тизими. - Тошкент: Тафаккур авлоди. 2021 – Б.83
 33. Толстов С.П. Хорезмская археолого – этнографическая АН СССР 1948. Изв. АН СССР. Серия отд. Ист. II философ., т.6. №3, - С.257-258,
 34. Пигулевская Н. В. Византия на путях в Индию (Из истории торговли Византия с Востоком в IV-VII вв.). – М-Л.: Изд-во АН СССР, 1951.- С. 72