

INFORMATION ON THE HISTORICAL GEOGRAPHY OF FERGANA IN ARABIC SOURCES

Yuldashev Saidanvarbek Bakhromjon

Doctor of Philosophy on historical sciences, Senior Lecturer of the Department of World History FerSU

Khasanov Lazizbek

2nd year master's student, Fergana State University, Uzbekistan, Fergana

ARTICLE INFO.

Key words:

Historical geography, Fergana Valley, historical sources, information, Arab historians, Arabic sources.

Annotation

The article provides information on the historical geography of the Ferghana Valley in the 9th-10th centuries based on historical sources in Arabic.

<http://www.gospodarkainnowacje.pl/> © 2022 LWAB.

Muqaddasiy says the following about Ferghana: "Ferghana begins in the eastern part of the region before you turn left. He died very prosperous and there were 40 mosques there " [1: 271-272 - p]. Arab historians and tourists recognized settlements with mosques as cities. If we conclude from this, by the time of the Somonites, there were more than 40 cities, large and small, in the valley.

In the work "Hudud ul-Olam", Fergana is a large and prosperous region, where delights flourish: there are many mountains, steppe cities, and flowing water. It is described as "the door of Turkestan" [2: 239-p]. Ibn Havqal also describes Fergana as "it is the name of the country, a vast region including large cities and villages" [3:80-p]. According to al-Sam'ani, Farghana was one of the major provinces of the east, located behind the Jayhun and Sayhun rivers. He mentioned the names of 17 places of Fergana, 9 of them are cities, 7 are villages and one is a town.

"Khojanda", is located on the banks of the ash-Shosh river [3: 80-p]. According to A. Khojaev's assumption, the toponym Khumin given in Chinese sources is a transcription of the city of Khojand [4: 85-p]. The city is located on the side of a mountain, with a river running through the middle of it. Ya'qut also repeats this information given in Sam'ani [5: III: 402-b]. According to Al-Istakhri, merchant ships also sailed from the river that flows through the city.

The capital of the region is the city of "Akhsikat", which is mentioned in the Chinese sources as "Akhsikas" in the works of "Shijyan" [6: 718-p], al-Sam'ani [7: 150-p] and Yakut Hamavi [8: 84-p]. It was one of the most beautiful and neat cities of Fergana. This city is located among the mountains, 1 farsakh away from the ash-Shosh river (Syrdarya). According to Samani, the city had a castle and a fortress, and they were surrounded by a wall consisting of 4 gates [9: 8-p]. There were many canals and ditches in Rabad. But Ibn Havqal writes that the city has 5 gates and mentions their names in [3:38-p].

It is noted that "Hudud ul-Olam" is located at the foot of the mountain, on the banks of the Ahsikat Hashart river [10: 116-p]. According to Al-Muqaddasi, there was a mosque, a palace, a market and many buildings inside the city [1: 271-272-p]. In terms of area, the city was 1.5 times larger than the city of Raml in Palestine [12: 20-p]. In addition to the information provided in the sources, based on the conclusions of the archaeological research, the city of Ahsikent became the political, economic and cultural center of the valley at the end of the Arab period and during the Samanid period. Pottery, colored glass, craft workshops, and metal melting furnaces found here testify to the economic development of the city.

Sources mention another city of Fergana, Kason, and al-Sam'ani describes this city as being located behind the al-Shosh river and having high castles. In Chinese sources, Kason is mentioned as "Kweishan", "Guyshan" and is said to be the capital of the ruler. In the Uyghur translation of "Beyshi" "Guyshan" is translated in Kason style. The city borders the lands under the rule of the Turks, and it is noted that the Kosonsoy flows in front of its gates. Al-Yaqubi in his work "Mujam al-buldan" tells a short story about the regions of Ferghana, Kason and Khojand, and notes that Kason is the residence of the rulers of Ferghana. In Ibn Havqal, as the name of the city and district, it is noted that Kason is an area rich in crops and livestock [3: 80-p].

Another city in Ferghana is "Quba", which is the second largest city in Ferghana after Ahsikas. We mentioned above about the occurrence of the toponymy of Khumi in Chinese sources. Some scholars localize it to the city of Kuva. There is a square in the center of the city, and the mosque is located in the middle of the market. According to Al-Muqaddasi, Quba was a bigger, more beautiful and cleaner city than Ahsikent, and it is the capital of the province [1: 272-p]. The fact that the city of Kuva is a trade and craft center is confirmed by written sources as well as archaeological materials.

According to Al-Sam'ani, "Marginan" was considered the most famous city of Ferghana. He also remembers the city's dasha called Gandob. Researcher Z.Alimov writes that there is no information about Gandob in other sources. But in Yaqut Hamawi's work "Mu'jam al-buldan" it is told about the Gandab daha and the scholars who came out of it [8: 85-p]. True, it should be noted that the information provided by Yakut Hamavi is almost the same as the ideas in al-Sam'ani's work. According to Al-Muqaddasi, Marginan was a small town with a mosque and its own bazaar [1: 272-p]. And in Ibn Havqal, Margilan appears as a city located in the Lower Nasya district [3: 81-p]. Recent studies show that the city is more than 2000 years old.

As-Sam'ani listed the city of "Osh" among the cities of Ferghana. This city is located near Quba and is surrounded by a wall with 4 gates. The city castle is located on the mountainside. According to Ya'qut Hamavi, al-Istakhri and al-Muqaddasi, the mosque of the city is located in the middle of the market near the mountains [8: 84-85-p]. Also, the city had a river and was rich in running water [1: 272-p]. According to "Hudud ul-Olam", the fighting spirit of Osh residents was high [10: 116-p]. Ibn Havqal's work mentions the existence of a city named Madwa in Osh region [3: 81-82-p].

Among the cities of Ferghana, information is also given in the sources about "Uzkand", which is a trade center on the threshold of the lands of the Turks, [3: 81-p]. In the Uyghur translation of Sima Qian's "Historical Memoirs", the city "Yucheng" is translated as "Uzgand". The correctness of this opinion is also supported by A. Khojaev. Al-Sam'ani notes that the city of Ozgand is located in the outskirts of Ferghana, on the border with the Turks. Inside the walled city with several gates, there is a market, where the Turks are said to have come to trade. In the work, this city appears again in the form of "Yuzkand". According to al-Muqaddasi, al-Istakhri and Ya'qutlar, the city was surrounded by walls consisting of 4 gates [8: 79-p; 1: 271-272-b], where there is a market, a mosque and a palace in the inner city. According to the work "Hudud ul-Olam", "Uzgand is a city located on the border between Ferghana and Turks" [10: p. 116-117]. Two rivers [flow] near it: one is the Tabogar river they say, it starts from Tibet, another one is called Barskhan [river], it flows from Hallukh. In the 10th century, this

city was named after a farmer named Churtegin. Many villages of the city of Uzgand were located in the Shorabashat area in the 9th-10th centuries.

Among the cities of Ferghana, "Khailam" is also mentioned in the sources [92: V: 238-p]. The city is located in the "Miyān-Rudon" area, where there was a luxurious mosque and a market. According to the work "Hudud ul-Olam" and geographers such as al-Sam'ani, Muqaddasi, Ibn Havqal, "Miyān-Rudon" was considered the homeland of Samani Nasr ibn Ahmed [3: 81-p]. The city is located between the Black Darya and Norin rivers. The name of this city is recorded in the form of "Khatlam" in the work "Hudud al-Olam" [10: 116-p], and in the form of "Khairalam" in the work of al-Muqaddasi [2: 239-p].

"Khuqand" was another one of the cities of Fergana. Al-Sam'ani notes that it is located one farsakh away from Ahsikas. Ya'qut and al-Istakhri also rewrote this information [5: III: 480-p]. Ibn Havqal also lists it among the cities located in the Lower Nasya district, only in [3:81-p]. It does not give any other information about the city [3: 81-p]. Al-Sam'ani also recorded the names of 7 villages belonging to Fergana province: Andukon, Lomish [7: 154-p], Gazak, Zarqan, Yadukhkat, Karvan, Nuqoda. Thus, the most remarkable aspect of al-Sam'ani's information about the Ferghana region is the mention of the villages of Gandob dahasi, Lomish and Yadukhkat among the place names. Other sources do not mention the names of these places.

Andukon ^{*1} is listed as a city in the Lower Nasya district in Ibn Hawqal [3:81-p]. In Yaqut Hamavi's work, it is mentioned as one of the villages in the valley [8: 75-90]. Ghazak is mentioned together with the village of Ghazan-darak in the Bosmandisuv valley, 40 km from Khojand [7: 152-p]. In the work of Zarkan al-Muqaddasi, it is mentioned in the style of Zorakon and is mentioned as a medium-sized city [1 271-272-p]. It corresponds to the village of Zarkend in the Ferghana Valley.

Lamish ^{*1} is found in Samani century [7: 154-p]. Yakut H Amavi writes about Lamish and mentions that many scholars came from here. In his work, Samani talks about the village of Yadukhkat, and says that many scholars came from there. Yakut mentions Yadukhkat as Yadakhkas (Yadakhkat) and mentions that it is one of the villages of Ferghana [8: 85-p].

In the work of Ibn Havqal, Naqod is mentioned as one of the regions of Ferghana, and its central city is Miskon. Istakhri recorded that Naqod was located 7 farsakhs away from Quva. Navqat ^{*2} is mentioned as the name of the village in the work of Muqaddasiy [1: 272-p].

The next settlement is Karvon, which is 4 farsakhs away from Kason. The distance from Ahsikent to the border of Karvon ^{*3} was 7, and to Karvon itself was 9 farsakhs. In Ibn Havqal, Karvan is mentioned as the name of a region and a city in Fergana, and its territory and number of villages are noted.

From the above, it can be concluded that the Ferghana Valley was mentioned in early medieval Chinese sources and by Arab authors during the Samanid period as a settled region of Central Asia, in particular, Movarunnahr. It is divided into districts such as Upper Nasya, Lower Nasya, Asbara, Naqod, Miyon Rudon, Jidgil, Urast, Biskand and Salot. Cities such as Akhsikat, Qubo, Osh, Uzgand, Khaylam were among the largest cities of Fergana in the 9th - 10th centuries. There were also Vankat, Suj(x), Khuvokand, Rishton, Koson, Karvon, Madvo, Marginon, Andukon and other cities in Fergana region. The sources do not say anything about the ethnic composition of the Fergana region. Through the names of rulers written on coins, we can conclude that Iranian-speaking Ferganians and Turks lived in Ferghana.

*Note 1.: According to V.V.Barthold, Andukon was mentioned as a village by medieval authors. It is said that its name as a city is related to the names of the Mongol Khans Khaidu and Duvakhan. See: Barthold W. Turkestan... - P. 214.

* Note 1.: The famous battle of Ilamish, which took place in the Middle Ages, corresponds to this area and is located between Andijan and Talas. See: Barthold W. Turkestan... - P. 215.

*Note 2.: This corresponds to the village of Eski Nogat, located southwest of the present-day city of Osh. See: Belinitsky A.M., Bentovich I.B., Bolshakov O.G. Srednevekovyy... - P. 203.

Bibliography:

1. Al-Makdisi. Descriptio imperii moslemici auctore Schamso'd-din Abu Abdullah Mohammed ibn Ahmed ibn abi Bekr al-Banna al-Basschhari al-Moqaddasi. Ed. M. J. de Goeje, Lungduni Batavorum, 1877: ed. 2: 1906. – 514 p.
2. Al-Muqaddasi. The best divisions for knowledge of the regions / A translation of Ahsan al taqasim fi Ma'rifat al-Aqalim translated by Basil Anthony Collins. Reviewed by Muhammad Hamid Al-Tai. The centre for Muslim Contribution to Civilization and Garnet Publishing Limited. 1994. – 438 p.
3. Ибн Ҳавқал. Китаб сурат ул-ард / Араб тилидан таржима ва изоҳлар муаллифи Ш. С. Камолитдин. – Тошкент: Ўзбекистон миллий энциклопедияси, 2011. – 408 б.
4. Хўжаев А. Фарғона тарихига оид маълумотлар (Қадимий ва илк ўрта аср Хитой манбаларидан таржималар ва уларга шарҳлар). – Фарғона, 2013. – 288 б.
5. Ибн ал-Асир. *تاريخ كامل* (эски ўзбек тилига Домулла Отажон Бакчали таржимаси). ЎЗР ФА ШИ қўлёзма инв. № 824-825.
6. *يېڭى تاڭنامە «24 تارىخ» تىكى غەربىي يۇرت تارىخىغا نائىت ماتىرىياللار. شىنجان خەلق نەشرىياتى. 2013. 798 س*
7. Ас-Сам'оний, 'Абдулкарим. Насабнома / Таржимонлар: Ҳожи Абдулғафур Раззоқ Бухорий, Комижон Раҳимов. – Тошкент, 2017. – 273 б.
8. Хамави, Йакут. Му'дjam ал-булдан (пер. с арабского О. Б. Фроловой и Б.Вахабовой) // Материалы по истории Средней и Центральной Азии X–XIX вв. – Ташкент: Фан, 1988. – С. 76 – 90.
9. Ибн Хаукал. Китаб сурат ул-ард / Пер. с арабского О. Б. Фроловой // Материалы по истории Средней и Центральной Азии X–XIX вв. – Ташкент: Фан, 1988. – С.18–20.
10. Hudud al-'Alam. The Regions of the World. A Persian Geography 372 A.H. – 982 A.D. Translated and explained by V. Minorsky. – London, 1937. – 610 p.
11. Абдухалимов Б. Байт Ал-Ҳикма ва Марказий Осиё олимларининг Бағдоддаги илмий фаолияти. – Тошкент, 2010. – 243 б.
12. Yuldashev S.B. *Ferghana in the VII century: It's development as a powerful state and its collapse* // History Reseach Journal. 2019 vol. 5. Issue 6. – P. 2952–2964.
13. Yuldashev S.B. *Samanids of Ferghana* // International journal for social studies. 2020. vol. 6. Issue 01. – P. 120–135.
14. Yuldashev S.B. *The impact of the Aksu battle on Ferghana* // ERPA International Journal of Research and Development. 2020. Vol. 5 (8). P. 60–64. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.36713/epra4917>
15. Yuldashev S.B. *Early arab invasions of Fergana* // «Евразийский Союз Ученых» научный журнал. – Москва, – 2020. – № 8 (77/4). – P. 31–35.