TO THE STUDY OF THE ORIGINS OF THE ORIGIN OF LOCAL CIVILIZATIONS IN THE LENGTH OF THE SYRDARYA RIVER

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ABSTRACT

The article presents some results of the study of paleogeographic conditions during the periods of formation of the producing economy in the Syrdarya river basin. The chronological framework of the study includes the epochs of the late Pleistocene and early Holocene, corresponding to the time of the formation of the Mesolithic, Neolithic and early metal cultures. The paleographic framework of the study corresponds to the basin of the Syrdarya River, which originates in the zone of high-mountain glaciers of the Tien Shan, as a component system of the northern slopes of High Asia, foothills and flat spaces of the Turan platform. The basin of the Syrdarya River includes almost the entire range of vertical zonality, paleoclimatic conditions, ranging from high-mountain glaciers, foothills, plains, steppe and desert spaces of the Turan platform. The noted paleogeographic features left their mark on the local features of the development of the flora and fauna, as well as on the features of the formation of the most ancient cultures of mankind, which became the basis for the formation of the origins of early civilizational structures.

Keywords: Syrdarya basin, Tien Shan, Turan platform, local civilization, material culture, productive economy, evolutionary transformation, agriculture, cattle breeding, handicraft, multicomponent cultural and historical aspects.

INTRODUCTION AND PROBLEM STATEMENT

Interdisciplinary studies of the history of the development of material and spiritual culture in the zone of the right bank of the Syrdarya, which includes the territories of the sovereign republics of Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, the Autonomous Republic of Karakalpakstan, are devoted to the most pressing problems of our time - the study of the origins of the emergence of local features of the formation of worldview, national mentality, tolerance, which must be taken into account in determining the prospects for the development of society. In the process of a comprehensive study of the most ancient historical monuments in the Syrdarya river basin, the cardinal changes in society that have occurred in the world over the past centuries have been taken into account to the maximum extent. As a result of the development of modern ideological views, the tasks of research have also changed significantly. At the end of the 20th and at the beginning of the 21st centuries, on a global scale, there has been and is a reassessment of intellectual, ethical, legal, aesthetic values, which to a large extent determined the dynamics of political and socio-democratic transformations. In this regard, of particular relevance is the analytical study of local geographical conditions, within which the centers of ancient civilizations arose, as the basis of modern social structures. Particular attention is drawn to the fact that the material and spiritual wealth of the world is made up of different views and skills, the historical diversity of cultures. In addition, it is taken into account that in the modern period, a trend is developing to study local or national cultural and historical phenomena, including such aspects of history as the emergence and spread of languages, religions, ethnic groups, and a number of other areas. These processes are studied in the context of the development of the world community, and are due to the fact that the entire history of mankind is an ever-expanding interaction of local cultures. Modern means of communication multiply their mutual influence many times over.

The relevance of the research topic is also due to the need to study the origins of the historical process of the emergence and flourishing of the local cultural and historical development of social life, the features of the formation of civilizational structures in the length of the Syr Darya River, which since ancient times has been considered as an integral part of the space of Central Asia. The search for criteria that can contribute to the development of mutual cultural enrichment, to the sustainability of economic changes, social progress, strong democracy, civil harmony and peace in the region.

It is very relevant that the study of the history of the formation of local features of cultural and historical processes, in modern conditions of the development of society, allows us to supplement, and in many ways radically change our ideas on the forms of civilizational solidarity. To determine the conditions for respecting the identity of social development in each region, to promote the development of opportunities for cooperation in such important areas as education, science and culture, opening the way to a freely chosen future.

In the 21st century, the world community pays special attention to the development of interethnic and civil understanding and harmony, the modern concept of tolerance and humanism in the world, developing in the context of globalization, interdependence and integration, in the transformation of social structures, the growing pluralism of forms of social life. In this regard, it is necessary to note the active work of UNESCO, which adopted in 1995 the "Declaration of the Principles of Tolerance" and considers it as a value and social norm of modern civil society, further formation of the concept of harmonization of interethnic relations. On a broader scale, these tasks form the basis of UNESCO's activities and the main goal of strengthening ties with interethnic states, ensuring the recognition of unique and multicomponent cultural and historical aspects in providing assistance for the development of civilized international relations.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

Raising the questions of studying the origins of the formation of civilizational structures outlines a number of new research problems, which include a concrete historical approach to each of the local variants of cultures in various natural conditions and necessitates a clear, scientifically based periodization of the development of society. The interdisciplinary method of studying the history of the development of an ancient society determines the desire to formulate a holistic concept, standing at the level of the achievements of modern humanities, and to compare historical and cultural processes and phenomena with similar cultural traditions on a regional scale.

In order to fully reveal the significance of each local fact and features of the development of the most ancient society, it is necessary to establish its place in relation to world history. However, for practical reasons, the study is limited by the limits of the culture to which the phenomenon under study belongs, taking into account the dominant interests of modernity. Such limitations are compensated by the desire to extract from each individual fact an indication of the contexts with which it is organically connected. In this regard, the local features of the origins of the historical formation and further development of the level of tolerance of the population, based on the richness and diversity of cultures, the origins of which go back to ancient times in a separate historical and cultural zone, are being studied. The study of the origins of complex historical events that developed in the zone of the right bank of the Syr Darya includes a wide range of topics that are directly related to the analysis of the formation of local variants of material culture starting from the final epochs of the Stone Age in the peculiar ecological conditions of the region of study. Considering local features as "unity in diversity", the contribution of many peoples who have historically found themselves in the zone of cultural influence of Central Asia, the Middle East, Hindustan, the Far East, and Eastern Europe is determined. A comprehensive interdisciplinary study of the origins and their role in the further development of local features, the main directions in the formation of early civilizational structures, is very promising not only in general historical, but also in ethnogenetic terms.

Despite the limited size of the territory, the most ancient monuments of the development of material and spiritual culture are beginning to attract the closest attention of outstanding orientalists, researchers of the history of Central Asia from the second half of the 19th to the beginning of the 20th centuries and up to the present. The concentration of attention to the monuments of archeology is due to the fact that they are located on the territory where for thousands of years the formation and organic formation of the spiritual and material culture of the peoples of agricultural oases, the nomadic and semi-nomadic population of the steppes, mountains and highlands, the development of mining and metallurgy took place.

The material and spiritual culture on the territory of the Syrdarya river basin, which includes the territory of a number of sovereign states, has been dynamically developing since the Stone Age, forming a set of local traditions throughout the history of nature and society. At the same time, there was an active mutual enrichment of the cultures of the Near and Far East, Hindustan and Eastern Europe with innovative achievements, opening up rich opportunities for the most in-depth study of the origins of cultural genesis in general, which is of great interest to the international community.

Study of the problem. In the course of the study, attention was drawn to the fact that traditionally in the historical literature throughout the twentieth century, the centers of ancient civilizations were limited to the Nile River valley, in Mesopotamia by the Tigris and Euphrates rivers, where the foundations of the Egyptian and Babylonian civilizations arose. In III-II millennia BC. e. in the valley of the Indus River, the birth of the Indian civilization was noted, and in the II millennium in the valley of the Yellow River, the Yangtze, the Chinese civilization. The zone of emergence and development of civilizations covered not only the Old World, but also America, where the civilizations of the Maya, Aztecs and Incas developed in its central part. It is generally accepted that many civilizations of the Old World arose in the river valleys, where

the fertile soil in the deltas contributed to the development of agriculture. Rivers linked together different countries and created opportunities for trade and mutual cultural communication.

Thus, the point of view was established that all ancient civilizations arose in tropical, subtropical special climatic conditions. Much later, after several thousand years had passed, the zone of civilizations began to spread to the north, where nature was distinguished by a more temperate and harsh climate.

This point of view was formulated in periods when the historical events and phenomena of the ancient history of mankind, for a long time, remained vague for science, lying far beyond the bounds of any reliable sources. Until the beginning of the twentieth century. it was believed that primitiveness belongs to the field of hypotheses, "prehistory" and is not the subject of genuine historical knowledge, which is studied with the onset of the era of civilization.

It is also noted that during the 19th and 20th centuries, during the periods of formation of primitive history as a scientific direction, there were many obscure facts and unexplored problems. There were many conditional assumptions, controversial issues and provisions, and the objectivity of the study of archaeological complexes was sometimes replaced by the desire to prove one or another a priori consideration. In the context of the politicization of science, in the past centuries, "backward - non-historical peoples" were identified that did not reach civilization, and which, accordingly, were not active participants and creators of historical development. These circumstances, to a certain extent, explain the existence of many controversial hypotheses and provisions in the field of primitive history.

Materials and methods. The results of many years of research, material and spiritual culture, analysis of the results of archaeological research, written sources, numismatics, toponymy, ethnography and a number of other social and natural scientific disciplines made it possible to determine that the region of the Syrdarya basin, in fact, was a kind of physical, geographical, economic and cultural and historical zone.

The research region is characterized by a complex and multicomponent ethnic diversity, which, in turn, allows us to study the features of the evolutionary formation of socio-economic processes and phenomena in the context of the development of new civilizational concepts in the conscious life of mankind and the mentality of society.

Considering the history of the development of local features of material and spiritual culture, starting from the Stone Age, based on materials discovered on the territory of the Syrdarya basin in a single complex with the history of other regions, an analysis is made of the material known to date, with the resulting historiographical conclusions available for review by scientists related specialties. This is the reason for the deep interest in the development of the concept of "civilization". Based on the historiographic heritage, a creative rethinking of the richest material on the history of the emergence and development of civilizational concepts is being carried out, starting from the early stages of the development of human history.

It should also be noted here that modern theoretical research, in essence, cannot be carried out without an analytical study of the existing scientific heritage. In the process of studying the development of scientific thought in historiographical terms, one of the main tasks is solved: studying the experience of scientific areas, schools, research teams, the creative activity of prominent scientists, concepts and teachings. To date, numerous publications of works by scientists from almost all continents on this topic are known. Therefore, in this work, we limited

ourselves to only listing the main areas that are directly related to the problems of chronological detailing of archaeological materials discovered on the territory of the right bank of the Syr Darya and adjacent regions. For the rest, quite competently covered issues, references are made to published works and it is noted that mankind has always been interested in the problem of its own origin.

In modern historical science and journalism, the term "civilization" is one of the most frequently used concepts. At the same time, its meaning remains a very ambiguous definition and is explained by the fact that the theory of "development of civilizations" has been developed over the past centuries, and the word itself appeared even earlier - it goes back to antiquity. The term "civilization" - a synonym for "culture", has the Latin root "civilis", which means "urban, state, civil". In antiquity, and later, in the Middle Ages, it was opposed to the concept of "forest, wild, rough", and meant that already in ancient times people were aware of the difference between "civilized" life and "rough, barbaric" reality.

The undoubted cognitive value of the history of the progressive development of material and spiritual culture in the final periods of the Stone Age and the emergence of a qualitatively new phenomenon in the history of the emergence and formation of civilizational relations in society, throughout the history of the development of human thought, aroused increased interest. From the myths of primitive peoples to the philosophical systems of antiquity, a thread of reasoning and attempts to unravel this mystery is stretched.

In the era of antiquity, a number of scientific ideas were already formulated, which have come down to the present. These include the first concepts of the development of the economy of mankind in the form of a successive change of "three stages". Lucretius Car attached great importance in the history of mankind to the manufacture of tools. He proposed dividing ancient history into three epochs according to the material from which tools were made. Thus, already in the ancient period, there were ideas about three historical eras: stone, copper, (bronze) and iron.

The remarkable achievements of ancient science were revived by the thinkers of the Renaissance. From the end of the 17th century the ideas of progress again took possession of the minds of philosophers. This was facilitated by the great geographical discoveries and the development of technology that accompanied the industrial revolution in Europe. The theory of "three stages" also revived at this time. However, not all thinkers followed the classical "triad". The theory of "three stages" was widely used in the works of famous philosophers and thinkers Rousseau, Diderot, Montesquieu and others. Jean-Antoine Condorcet (1734-1794) in his work "Historical Pictures of the Progress of the Human Mind" (1794) described the development of the economy from hunting and fishing to the domestication of animals, and from cattle breeding to agriculture. In his opinion, each stage of history was characterized by its own characteristics of culture and social structure.

In the 30s of the XIX century. the successes of archeology in the study of the ancient history of Europe led to the emergence of the scientific scheme of Christian Thomsen, who revived the scheme of Lucretius Kara and distributed the antiquities of Denmark in the collections of the Copenhagen Museum into three periods: the Stone Age, the Bronze Age and the Iron Age. Thus, the fundamental "system of three centuries" was created, which gave rise to the emergence of primitive archeology as a science.

However, the growth of scientific knowledge about the peoples of the world, as well as the appearance of works devoted to agriculture and agricultural tools, determined the need to revise the universality for all times and peoples of the theory of "three stages". The German geographer Eduard Hahn in 1892 published a generalizing work "Forms of the Land Economy" and the first map of the geographical distribution of diverse traditional forms of economic activity.

Since the 18th century, the term "civilization" has been firmly included in the dictionaries on the history of the development of society and is used in close connection with the concept of "culture", the degree and typological characteristics of which can be determined and compared. Enlightenment philosophers are developing substantiations for ideas about the formation of a "civilized society" based on the principles of reason and justice. They were the political consequence of profound changes in attitude, in the way of thinking and acting that took place throughout the eighteenth century. At this time, the social movement was embraced by a broad ideological development. Suffice it to mention the discovery of the New World, geographical and ethnographic expeditions, discoveries of cultures of a different type, the development of sciences, observations and experiments made the world around us more accessible to knowledge and analysis.

In the 19th century Thanks to the discoveries of Boucher de Peter (1788-1868), the level of cultural development of mankind during the Stone Age was recognized as a deep antiquity. The main conclusions were initially not accepted by the scientific community. New discoveries were accompanied by no less fierce, like a century and a half ago, clashes of views when it came to understanding the beginnings of the beginnings of human culture. In subsequent periods, archaeological materials on the history of the Stone Age, discovered and studied in France, served as a starting point in the creation of a number of historical concepts and attracted increased attention of researchers on almost all continents. In the second half of the XIX - early XX century, the study of the history of the Stone Age begins to develop under the influence of the doctrine of evolution.

"Evolutionism" proceeded from the idea of progressive development in time of all natural phenomena. Its main provisions were formulated in the works of Charles Darwin "The Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection" (1859) and "The Origin of Man and Sexual Selection" (1871). Thanks to the works of C. Lyell, T. Haeckel, E. Haeckel and others, the concepts of evolutionism triumphed in all natural sciences, and were transferred to the development of human culture and its individual elements. Charles Darwin's research also laid the foundation for the "evolutionary school" in ethnography, which was associated with the names of such scientists as E. Taylor, A. Bastiani, G. de Mortillet, I.Ya. Bahoven and others.

Thus, spread in the XVIII-XIX centuries. civilizational ideas acquired a decisive influence. The civilizational method of studying the history of the development of society makes it possible to develop creative and free thinking, to determine a new multidimensional vision of local and regional features of the formation of world civilizations, to develop criticism in a society fettered by hereditary privileges, absolutism and religious dogmatism.

In the process of development of world historical thought on the problems of the history of civilizations, by the beginning of the 20th century, a huge scientific, historical and philosophical potential had been accumulated. In this regard, the works of F. Braudel, M. Weber, N.Ya.

Danilevsky, K.N. Leontiev, P.A. Sorokin, A. Toynbee, O. Spengler, K. Jaspers, and others, which have received worldwide recognition and are considered classic in the study of the theory of civilizations.

The civilizational method of studying social development has a number of advantages that allow one to develop creative and free thinking. To define a new multidimensional vision of the history of the formation of world civilizations, to get an idea not only of the unity, but also of the diversity of the historical process of the formation and development of social structures. At the same time, a number of controversial, unresolved issues remain in the science of civilizations to this day. It should also be noted here that throughout the 20th century, the formational method, based on the determination of social and economic relations that objectively exist, regardless of the will of man, prevailed in the study of the history of the development of society. The formational stages throughout the history of society did not actually coincide with the real processes of the social division of labor, the formation of socio-political structures in time and space. At the same time, the civilizational research method allows for a multicomponent analysis of the history of both material and spiritual culture, social phenomena on an interregional scale. It determines the long-term inherited features of the development of society, which largely explain the history of the formation of ethnic groups and peoples, nations and countries, regions and multinational communities.

In the process of historiographic study of this problem, results were obtained that allow us to note that the formational and civilizational approaches are not mutually exclusive, but rather complement each other. At the very least, elements of the formational approach are included in the analysis of the development of socio-economic relations, which are an important part of the civilizational process in the history of the development of society. The principles of complex analysis seem to be more fruitful, in contrast to the complete rejection of the formational approach, in the study of historical phenomena, and with it the achievements that historical science has achieved in the field of study, feudalism and the development of bourgeois relations.

The desire to understand the features of the development of society led to the intensive development of numerous "theories of civilizations" and methods for studying them during the 18th-20th centuries. This process continues at the present time, and new theories have not completely replaced the old ones, and exist in parallel. Among them, two main varieties are distinguished: the theory of the stage development of civilization and the theory of local civilizations.

In the global civilizational process, three main stages are distinguished: "pre-industrial", "industrial" - the beginning of which was laid by the industrial revolution. Considering that the historical development of various regions of the world has always been out of sync, therefore, the proposed periodization needs some detailing, this applies, first of all, to the pre-industrial stage, covering more than one millennium. In this regard, in this study, it is considered appropriate to maintain the chronological division of the stages of development of society into "antiquity - antiquitas" - in the broad sense of the word, it is equivalent to the term "antiquity", "Middle Ages" and "modern times", while paying attention to the fact that that in the era of modern times there was a breakthrough in the "industrial civilization".

The "stadial theory" includes the laws of the development of society that are common for all mankind. Thus, both theories have their advantages and complement each other. Despite the

fact that attempts to combine them have already been made more than once, a "universal" scheme of history has not yet been created, in which the local and stage approaches would be ideally combined. In this regard, it is considered appropriate to consider the term "civilization" in two main meanings: civilization as a stage in the development of mankind and civilization as a socio-cultural community, which are taken as the basis for studying the history of civilizations and are recognized as the most fruitful.

An integrated approach to the study of the development of society makes it possible to highlight the multifaceted and multicomponent aspects of historical processes and phenomena that developed on the territory of the right bank of the Syr Darya. In the process of studying the historically established community in ancient times, with the characteristic features of socioeconomic and cultural development in a specifically allocated territory, it is defined as the basis of a local civilization. In the context of this study, the term - "local" - corresponds to the translation from Latin and is defined as - "local". In this case, we mean limited space and time frames.

Certain stages in the development of society, which characterize the emergence of a producing economy in the research area, as in other regions, begin to stand out in ancient times, during periods of transition of primitive society to a state of "civilization". If in the XIX - early XX century, to solve the issues of the origin of agriculture, plant growing and cattle breeding skills, mainly data from botany, zoology and ethnography were involved, then starting from the second half of the 20th century, archaeological sources are becoming increasingly important. Archaeological research has made it possible to study the history of the development of material and spiritual culture during the transition to a productive economy. As a result of the study of cultures belonging to the early periods of the Holocene, at the end of the 19th century, a peculiar stage in the history of the development of society was identified - the "Mesolithic", which is characterized as a boundary of qualitative difference from earlier periods of the Stone Age.

It is generally accepted that the term "Mesolithic" was first introduced by Allen Brown in 1893 to designate stone tool complexes intermediate between the Paleolithic and the Neolithic. The term "Mesolithic" was widely used after it was introduced by A.M. Hansen at the geological congress in Chicago in 1894. A.M. Hansen divided the Stone Age into three epochs: the Paleolithic, the Mesolithic and the Neolithic, understanding the Mesolithic as the transitional time from the Paleolithic to the Neolithic. In this regard, the term Mesolithic is used by most researchers to this day.

A number of authors considered the term "Mesolithic" as a purely chronological stage, while others, on the contrary, excluded the meaning of chronology and considered the Mesolithic as a stage of cultural and economic development of ancient society.

Questions about the legitimacy of identifying the Mesolithic as a special period in primitive archeology, the characteristics of the historical content, the history of the study of Mesolithic cultures are considered in sufficient detail by G.N. Matyushin.

The intensification of Mesolithic research in the Near East made it possible for H. Child to formulate in 1925 the idea of a "Neolithic revolution". Later, G. Child pointed to the Middle East as the place where a new, productive economy first appeared. He became interested in the impact that the emergence of a productive economy in Asia had on primitive hunter-gatherer communities in Europe in the era following the Ice Age. G. Child considered the Near East as a

probable center of origin of the new economy, from which, in his opinion, it "diffused" several millennia before the beginning of ancient history generally accepted at that time.

The attention of archaeologists at that time was concentrated on the monuments located within the limits of Southwest Asia, which did not go beyond the chronological framework of ancient history. It was believed that the history of mankind began with the first dynasties of the kings of Mesopotamia and the pharaohs of Egypt. Objecting to this, G. Child wrote that civilization could not have arisen without an economic base - the foundation, which were the early forms of a productive economy that contributed to the development of urban culture.

In the postwar years, based on the excavations at Jarmo, R. Braidwood developed G. Child's idea of the "Neolithic Revolution". He suggested that agriculture and pastoralism first arose in the Mesolithic era, in the large alluvial zone of the Near East.

At the same time, Breasted's term for the "crescent of fertility" was revived. However, its boundaries have been somewhat changed. So, if Breasted attributed the territories to the "crescent of fertility" starting from the Persian Gulf through the Tigris and Euphrates basins to the Eastern Mediterranean, then R. Braidwood transferred it somewhat to the north through Zagros, Tauros and the Lebanese mountain ranges. Later it was found that this "crescent" is associated with the zone of natural growth of domesticated cereal species of plants and animals. But in those years, according to R. Braidwood, the catchphrase about the "crescent of fertility" threatened to hang around the neck of the authors "like a dead albatross." Only after 10 years of field research did it become clear that there was a certain expediency in this idea. The positive thing about the work of R. Baidwood's expedition in the Middle East was that the research was carried out in a complex manner with the involvement of palynologists, paleozoologists, paleocarpologists and other specialists. In the same years, R. Wright conducted research into the sources of raw materials for the manufacture of tools. In parallel with the work in Iraq and Iran, reconnaissance was carried out on the territories of Turkey. Most of these monuments are dated by 14C.

CONCLUSIONS

Despite the outstanding achievements in the study of the ancient history of mankind, the main conclusions regarding the definition of the emergence of centers of early civilizations and the barbarian periphery differed little from the ideas formulated by the philosophers of Ancient Greece. So, as a result of many years of research into the most ancient historical monuments in the Middle East, Asia Minor and the Balkans, in the 20th century. A hypothesis was formulated that an efficient manufacturing economy was formed for the first time in the territory from Northern Greece and Palestine to Turkey and Balochistan. In this regard, it should be noted that many civilizations of the Old World originated and developed in river valleys. The rivers Tigris and Euphrates, Nile, Indus, Yangtze and others played such a huge role in their lives that these civilizations are often called river civilizations. The rivers linked together different regions of the country and created opportunities for trade, the fertile soil in their deltas contributed to the development of agriculture.

It should also be noted that in the study of the history of world civilizations, not enough attention was paid to the rivers of Central Asia, especially the Syr Darya, which was also important in the history of anthropogenesis, sociogenesis and is the cradle of an ancient local civilization. According to the figurative definition of K.A. Akisheva: "The Syr Darya played the same role as the Nile for Ancient Egypt. The Syr Valley is the main ancient center of urban culture and irrigation lands. Otrar, Sauran, Yasy, Suyutkent, Uzgend, Zhanket and hundreds of other cities and settlements located along its banks are witnesses of intensive settlement and development of coastal lands.

Modern studies of cultures that are at the stage of development of the Stone Age, discovered in the valley of the Syrdarya River, have a rich arsenal of research methods that include a wide range of social and natural sciences and make a significant contribution to the knowledge of the ancient history of mankind.

The local civilization coincides with the physical and geographical boundaries of the territory and is studied as a complex multicomponent system that includes almost all chronological stages in the development of the cultures of the Stone Age and early metal epochs. The research region includes the valley of the Syrdarya River, from its source to the confluence with the Aral Sea and is 2260 km. After the confluence of the Naryn and Karadarya rivers, which form their flow in the territory of the Central Tien Shan, on the slopes of the Fergana and Alai ranges, the Syrdarya flows for about 300 km through the Ferghana Valley. Here the river receives tributaries flowing from the Chatkal, Kuraminsky and Turkestan ranges. The largest rightbank tributary of the Syr Darya within the Ferghana Valley is the Sokh River. As a result of large-scale research in this territory, the monuments of the ancient Stone Age Sokh, Chashma, Selungur, etc. were discovered and studied. The discovery of the oldest archanthrope remains on the Asian continent is of great interest. The study of the conditions of occurrence of bone remains in the stratified cultural deposits of the multilayer cave site Selungur made it possible to draw a number of conclusions on the history of the paleogeographic development of the natural environment. make geochronological determinations and attribute the discovered oldest traces of human ancestry on the territory of Fergana to 1.5 million years. In the process of studying the paleogeographic features of the development of nature during the Pleistocene and Holocene periods, results were achieved that led to the emergence of new ideas about the history of the development of nature. Local and regional variants of material and spiritual culture in the most ancient periods of the Early Anthropogen of Central Asia are noted.

The development of new and improvement of previous methods for studying the ancient history of mankind, in the context of regional features of paleogeographic transformations of the natural environment, made it possible to determine fairly reliable criteria for chronological determinations of deposits of the early Anthropogen. Paleogeographic studies and searches for new sites containing the stone industry of the most ancient human ancestor led to the discovery of the most ancient monuments of material culture in the Syrdarya basin.

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