

ANCIENT SOGDIANA

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ABSTRACT

This article is about ancient Sogdiana, the beginning of the history of its statehood is determined. At the same time, ancient historical monuments of Sogdiana, ethno-cultural similarities with Bactria, Margiana are shown.

Keywords: Sogdiana, Gava, "Avesta", Bactria, Margiana, Afrasiab (Marakanda), Uzunqir, Yerkurghan Qiziltepa, Achaemenids, satrap, Alexander the Great.

INTRODUCTION

Most researchers consider the formation and development of the first states in the territory of Uzbekistan to be the period before the Achaemenid era and define it as the IX-VIII centuries (M.Dunker, V.Tomaszek, F.Altxaym, S.P.Tolstov, M.M.Dyakoniv, I.M.Dyakov, V.M.Masson, M. Dandamayev, Ya. Gulamov, B. A. Litvinsky, E. V. Rtveladze, I. V. Pyankov, A. S. Sagdullaev and others). Scientific literature talks about the following state associations that existed in Central Asia before the Achaemenid period: 1. Aryoshayana - the "genius" union of the ancient regions of Central Asia, 2. Aryonam Vaijo - this is also like Aryoshayana, or the "Big Khorezm" or Amudarya, whose center is Aria and Margiana. the downstream state of Khorezm; 3. The ancient state of Bactria. 4. Confederation of nomadic tribes.

Based on the research conducted in recent years and a new approach to the issue, it became possible to include ancient Sogdiana in this list. According to the results of the research, the processes of the main factors of statehood become more accelerated during the Late Bronze and Early Iron Ages. People came to Sogdiana region in the earliest times and spread to mountain, river oases, and later steppe regions. The favorable natural-geographical conditions in these regions create ample opportunities for the development of socio-economic and cultural life. It is also necessary to recognize external influences (economic, cultural-political and military). BC The historical and cultural monuments of the IX-VII centuries (especially the ruins of the old city) indicate that the history of statehood in the regions of Sogdiana began from this period.[1.64]

The origin of the names Sugda, Suguda, Sogdiana in various sources and their meaning are currently unknown. "Gava" mentioned in the "Yasht" book of "Avesta" may be the oldest province of Sogdiana . According to some information, it is connected with Gava (Gau - "bull", "herd"), Kashkadarya oasis. This term is repeated in many geographical names of this region (Gavdara, Gavkhona, mountains Gau, peak Gau, etc.). Perhaps, the term "Gava Sugda" reflects the concept of "powerful Sugd".

The center of Sogdiana is the city of Marakanda in the Greek form (in the Sogdian inscriptions of the 7th-8th centuries it is translated as Smarokansa - "place of meeting, assembly"). In Marakanda, it is the ruins of the present-day Afrasiab city. During the Achaemenid era, its area was 219 hectares, and the city was surrounded by defensive walls. According to Greek historians, the defensive wall and inner fortress of Marakanda were built. Other urban centers of Sogdiana are Yerkurghan in the Karshi oasis, Uzunqir (area 70 ha) in the eastern part of Kashkadarya, and Koktepa (area 100 ha) located 30 km north of Samarkand. The archeological research carried out in these monuments made it possible to study the economy and culture of the inhabitants of ancient Sogdiana in depth.[2.155-156]

In recent years, the cities of Yerkurghan, Uzunqir, Daratepa (Kashkadarya oasis), Afrasiab and Koktepa (Zarafshan oasis) were organized as a result of the research conducted in the present-day Zarafshan and Kashkadarya oases, called Sugda and Gava-Sugda in "Avesta" is testifying that he found it.[3.75]

In the book of Videvdat, Gava Sugda is mentioned as the second country "from the best countries and lands". Bactria is not mentioned in Yasht's list, but Sogd is mentioned before Khorezm and after Margiana. [4.50]

Early Greek historians rarely mentioned Sogdiana compared to Bactria or Sak-Massageti. After the campaigns of Alexander the Great, the historical and geographical information about Sogdiana became more complete and expanded.

There is almost no early written information about Ancient Sogdiana and the Sogyds, which includes the present-day Kashkadarya and Zarafshan oases (Bukhara, Navoi, Samarkand, Kashkadarya regions and Panjikent suburbs of Tajikistan). In "Avesta" the name of regions is shown in two ways. Gava Sugda and separate Sugda. Herodotus mentioned the Sugids twice when he enumerated the peoples of the 16th Satrap of the Achaemenids and when he showed the place of the Sugids in the ranks of the Persian armies. Therefore, the inscriptions found in the city of Susa also mention the name Sogdiana.

Darius I declares: "When I built the palace in Susa, its decorations were brought from distant lands...gold from Sardis and Bactria, glittering stones and sapphires from Sogdiana, turquoise from Khorezm..." [5.39]

Farming was of great importance in Sogdiana's life. It is important to note that agriculture is based on artificial irrigation, written sources provide information about this. In particular, according to Strabon, the Politiment "Zarafshan" river was the largest source of water in the oasis, and water was brought to the irrigated lands through canals. Crafts and trade developed in old cities.

Analyzing the results of the latest archeological researches, we can witness that ancient cities and settlements such as Qiziltepa (Surkhandarya), Yaztepa (Turkmenistan), Uzunqir, Yerkurghan (Kashkadarya), Afrasiab, Koktepa (Samarkand) are extremely similar in terms of pottery and construction methods. However, items similar to those found in Yerkurghan, Kuchuktepa, Qiziltepa, Yaztepa belonging to the IX-VII centuries BC have not been found in Khorezm regions until now.[7.62]

So, the similarity in construction methods and material culture indicates that at the beginning of the 1st millennium BC there was at least an ethnic historical-cultural unity between the regions of Bactria, Margiana, and Sogdiana. It also depended on the transit routes.

In conclusion, it should be said that the history of ancient statehood in Sogdiana is formed earlier, like Bactria and Khorezm, that is, at the beginning of the early Iron Age. We can see this through the historical and cultural monuments and historical information shown above. After the campaigns of Alexander the Great, Sogdiana became an independent state and further developed relations with neighboring countries.

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