

## KARAKALPAKS IN RUSSIAN MILITARY-HISTORICAL LITERATURE OF THE THIRD QUARTER OF THE 19TH CENTURY

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### Abstract

This article examines information about the Karakalpaks reflected in the works of the participants of the Khiva campaign in the 19th century. It highlights the scientific research conducted by A.N. Glukhovsky, A.V. Kaulbars, M.N. Bogdanov, I.I. Krauze, and A.L. Kun. Special attention is given to the settlement territory of the Karakalpaks, their economic activities, lifestyle, ethnographic characteristics, and historical events. The article also analyzes materials related to cattle breeding, fishing, agriculture, housing construction, and the socio-economic life of the population of the Khiva Khanate. The importance of manuscripts and archival documents collected by A.L. Kun as valuable sources on the history and ethnography of the Karakalpak people is emphasized. The study concludes that the literature of the 19th century serves as an important source for understanding the culture, lifestyle, and history of the Karakalpak people.

**Keywords:** Karakalpaks, Khiva campaign, Khiva Khanate, A.L. Kun, M.N. Bogdanov, I.I. Krauze, ethnography, Amu Darya, Kungrad, historical sources, expedition, economic activity, archival documents, 19th century.

### Introduction

#### Аннотация:

В данной статье рассматриваются сведения о каракалпаках, содержащиеся в трудах участников Хивинского похода XIX века. Освещаются научные исследования, проведенные в ходе экспедиций А.Н. Глуховского, А.В. Каульбарса, М.Н. Богданова, И.И. Краузе и А.Л. Куна. Особое внимание уделяется описанию территории расселения каракалпаков, их хозяйственной деятельности, образа жизни, этнографических особенностей и исторических событий. Анализируются материалы о скотоводстве, рыболовстве, земледелии, жилищах и социально-экономической жизни населения Хивинского ханства. Отмечается значимость рукописей и архивных документов, собранных А.Л. Куном, как ценных источников по истории и этнографии каракалпаков. Делается вывод о важности литературы XIX века как источника сведений о культуре, быте и истории каракалпакского народа.

**Ключевые слова:** каракалпаки, Хивинский поход, Хивинское ханство, А.Л. Кун, М.Н. Богданов, И.И. Краузе, этнография, Амударья, Кунград, исторические источники, экспедиция, хозяйственная деятельность, архивные документы, XIX век.



**Annotatsiya:**

Mazkur maqolada XIX asrdagi Xiva yurishi ishtirokchilari asarlarida qoraqalpoqlar haqidagi ma'lumotlar tahlil qilingan. Unda A.N. Gluxovskiy, A.V. Kaulbars, M.N. Bogdanov, I.I. Krauze hamda A.L. Kun tomonidan olib borilgan ilmiy tadqiqotlar yoritilgan. Qoraqalpoqlarning yashash hududi, xo'jalik faoliyati, turmush tarzi, etnografik xususiyatlari va tarixiy voqealar haqida muhim ma'lumotlar keltirilgan. Shuningdek, chorvachilik, baliqchilik, dehqonchilik, uy-joy qurilishi hamda Xiva xonligi aholisi ijtimoiy-iqtisodiy hayoti tasvirlangan. A.L. Kun tomonidan to'plangan qo'lyozmalar va arxiv hujjatlarining qoraqalpoq xalqi tarixi hamda etnografiyasini o'rganishdagi ahamiyati alohida ta'kidlangan. XIX asr adabiyotlari qoraqalpoq xalqining madaniyati, turmushi va tarixini yorituvchi muhim manba sifatida baholangan.

**Kalit so'zlar:** qoraqalpoqlar, Xiva yurishi, Xiva xonligi, A.L. Kun, M.N. Bogdanov, I.I. Krauze, etnografiya, Amudaryo, Qo'ng'iroq, tarixiy manbalar, ekspeditsiya, xo'jalik faoliyati, arxiv hujjatlari, XIX asr.

Some information about the territory of the Karakalpaks, their population, historical events, and way of life was reflected in the literature of the participants of the Khiva campaign. The participants of the campaign were engaged in studying numerous issues related to the historical, cultural, and ethnographic exploration of the region. The tasks of the expedition included many issues concerning the collection of military-statistical information about the population of the Khiva Khanate. General Kaufman organized scientific research in all military detachments: officers received specific assignments to conduct astronomical observations, geodetic and topographic surveys in various localities.

Immediately after the conclusion of the treaty with the Khivan Khan, the Urundaya expedition was organized to study the channel of the Laudan branch and the old channel of the Amu Darya — Daryalyk, from Kunya-Urgench to the Sarykamysh lakes. The expedition was headed by A.N. Glukhovskiy and A.V. Kaulbars. After completing the Urundaya expedition, Kaulbars was instructed to travel by boats to the Amu Darya delta in search of a navigable passage suitable for the steamships of the Aral flotilla through the delta channels from the sea into the river.

The scientific studies carried out by the participants of the Khiva campaign proved to be fruitful. M.N. Bogdanov, I.I. Krauze, and A.L. Kun traveled partly by boat and partly overland throughout the khanate, visiting the delta, the left and right banks of the oasis, and became acquainted with the nature, population, and economic activities of the Karakalpaks, Uzbeks, and Kazakhs.

As a result of the research conducted by the zoologist M.N. Bogdanov, besides the collected specimens, a number of articles and a book about the nature of the Khiva oasis and the Kyzylkum desert were published [1]. In the chapter devoted to domestic animals, he described cattle breeding among various peoples, including the Karakalpaks, noting that cattle constituted the main wealth of the Karakalpaks, that cattle breeding was their specialty, and that their



livestock was better than in other parts of the oasis. Bogdanov also studied fish species and fishing in the Amu Darya delta among the Karakalpaks and Kazakhs [1, 118].

I.I. Krauze was a pharmacist who founded a pharmacy in Tashkent and was also a botanist studying useful plants — medicinal, dye-producing, as well as agricultural crops such as cereals and legumes. The result of his journey was an article on Khivan agriculture describing the plant species cultivated in the khanate — grain crops, industrial crops such as cotton, flax, sesame, madder, and others, as well as trees, fruit-bearing and those used for construction purposes. He also provided information about the localities and peoples cultivating these plants. In the section on trees as construction materials, he wrote that most inhabitants of the khanate lived in yurts, for which not very thick willow branches were needed, while poplar was used for making yurts and roofing houses [3, 41–46].

The orientalist A.L. Kun mainly conducted ethnographic observations. He collected up to 300 books by Eastern authors, including historical works translated from Persian into a Turkic dialect. Among the manuscripts collected by Kun was an extremely valuable discovery — a complete copy of the official history of the Khiva Khanate, written in the 19th century and presenting in chronicle form all the major historical events that took place in the khanate from the beginning of the 17th century until 1872. The authors of this history of the Khivan Khans were close associates of the khan, historians and poets who held the court rank of mirab — Shir Muhammad Mirab and his nephew Muhammad-Riza Mirab, who continued his work, whose literary pseudonyms were Munis and Agahi [2, 10].

A.L. Kun immediately appreciated the importance of his discovery, reported it in the report of the Imperial Geographical Society, and published an article based on the chronicles of Munis about the events in the Khiva Khanate from the reign of Abul-Ghazi Khan (1643–1663) to Muhammad Rahim Khan (1806–1825) [4].

Equally unique in their scientific value were the archival documents of the Khivan Khans of the 19th century discovered by A.L. Kun together with the manuscripts. These were documents from the offices of the main Khivan officials responsible for tax collection, organization of labor (irrigation) duties of the population, accounting of money, grain, and livestock collected from taxpayers, collection of zakat from trade caravans and market merchants, military maintenance expenses, organization of military service, and so on. The documents also contained information about the population of different nationalities and social categories, as well as reports, petitions, and complaints submitted by the inhabitants of the khanate to the khan and high officials.

A.L. Kun began studying the documents containing extensive information on various social and economic issues; during his travels through the khanate, taking several documents with him, he verified their accuracy by talking with the population about taxes, duties, and other issues.

During his journeys across the Khiva Khanate, A.L. Kun studied the population, its numerical and ethnic composition, the history of settlement and geographical distribution, and surveyed cities, villages, and historical monuments. The routes of his expedition covered all the main localities of the khanate, including the areas inhabited by the Karakalpaks — Kungrad, Khojayli and its surroundings, the lower reaches of the Ulkendarya branch and the delta, and the Kushkanatau lowland with its lakes and floodplains. From there, Kun traveled accompanied by



several Karakalpak elders to Chimbay. After that, the expedition moved upstream along the Kegeyli toward the Amu Darya and Khojayli, then to Nukus. Further, the route covered the right bank with the towns of Biybazar and Sheikh-Abbas Vali.

In addition to the official report article about his journey through the khanate, Kun published a detailed description of his travels in several issues of the newspaper “Turkestanskije Vedomosti.” About the Karakalpaks of Kungrad, Kun wrote that they had participated in the founding of the city and now constituted the majority of the population in the city and its district; that before the Kungrad uprising of 1855, during the reign of Khan Seyid Muhammad, the entire Kungrad district of the khanate had been inhabited by Karakalpaks, but after the suppression of the uprising almost all of them migrated to the right bank, to Chimbay, due to the resulting water shortage — because the Laudan branch and the ancient channel of the Amu Darya (Daryalyk) had dried up, blocked by dams built by the Turkmen-Yomuds on the orders of the khan to subdue the rebels. According to Kun’s observations, the remaining inhabitants in the vicinity of Kungrad were forced to lead a semi-nomadic way of life [5].

The literature of the 19th century containing information about the Karakalpaks is not extensive; however, it includes materials from the observations of participants of various expeditions studying the region, identifying natural resources, and much more. The value of these works lies in their description and preservation of certain ethnographic features of the Karakalpaks and their way of life.

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