

THE ADMINISTRATIVE-TERRITORIAL STRUCTURE OF FERGANA VALLEY IN “BABURNAMA”

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Abstract:

This article analyzes the administrative structure of the Fergana Valley during the time of Amir Temur and the Timurids based on Zahiriddin Muhammad Babur's work “Baburnama”. The information presented in “Baburnama” was compared through other historical sources, as well as opinions expressed in scientific literature. It is shown that the Fergana valley is divided into bekliks, and the bekliks are divided into orchins, and preliminary conclusions about the administrative boundaries of each beklik and orchin are given.

Keywords: administrative-territorial division, region, beklik, district, Orchin, Navahi, Fergana, Andijan, Osh, Uzgand, Margilon, Isfara, Konibadom, Khojand, Akhsi, Koson, Pop, Yettikend, Khokhani Orchin, Amir Temur, Timurid dynasty.

Introduction

In world historiography, the study of the history of Amir Temur and the Timurid period, that is, Temurology, is rapidly developing. In the works created in English, French, Russian, Turkish, Arabic, Persian, Uzbek and many other languages, various issues of the Timurid kingdom, political, economic and cultural life are researched through historical sources, and many scientific news are published in this regard. However, scientific works related to Amir Temur and the administrative-territorial structure of the Timurid state have not been carried out. The main reason for this is the lack of information about this in historical sources, they are very scattered and fragmentary. This requires a lot of hard work from the researcher. But despite this, the study of this issue is undoubtedly important in the study of the management system of the Timurid state.

LITERATURE ANALYSIS AND METHODOLOGY

In many scientific works dedicated to the history of Amir Temur and the Timurids, there are some opinions about the administrative-territorial structure of the kingdom [1;14;15;16;17;18;19;21;22;23;24;25;26]. However, they have very few ideas about the administrative-territorial structure of the Fergana Valley during the Timurid period. Based on this, it was found necessary to analyze the information given in Zahiriddin Muhammad Babur's work “Baburnama” on the basis of opinions expressed in other historical sources and scientific literature.

In researching the issue of the administrative-territorial structure of the Fergana Valley during the period of Amir Temur and the Timurids, a comparative analysis method was used based on the principles of scientificity, objectivity, and historicity.



RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In the study of the history of Amir Timur and the Timurid period of the Fergana Valley, Sharafuddin Ali Yazdi's "Zafarnama" [1], Nizamiddin Shami's "Zafarnama" [2], Muiniddin Natanzi's "Muntakhab ut tawarikhi Muini" [3], Abdurazzak Samarkandi's "Matlai sada'yn va majmai bahrain" [4], "Habib us-siyar" [5] by Khondamir, "History of Rashidi" [6] by Mirza Muhammad Haydar serve as important sources. The work "Baburnama" [7] by Zahiriddin Muhammad Babur is considered more valuable than the above works from the point of view of the subject we are researching, due to several factors. These include the fact that the work is written as a memoir, the author himself participates in these processes, and is well aware of the administrative-territorial division.

Zahiriddin Muhammad Babur stated that Fergana region has "seven kasabas" [7: 60]. He pointed out Andijan, Ush, Margilan, Isfara, Khojand, Akhsi and Koson as the seven kasabas, that is, cities of the valley. At a glance, based on these words of the author, it is possible to conclude that the Ferghana Valley is divided into seven provinces. However, information from other sources is different. That is why it is important to analyze this issue first.

In his work "Mutnakhbat ut Tawarikhi Muiniy", Muiniddin Natanziy writes about the fact that the Fergana Valley, consisting of 12 districts, was given to Mirza Umarshaikh as a gift in 1376: "Thanks to the efforts of the prince of the world, after the victory was achieved, twelve districts of Uzjand were given to the Prophet as a gift, and according to the order of the world ruler, the prince went to the far side" [3:191]. It can be seen that in the documents of Amir Temur's time, the Fergana Valley was considered as one estate consisting of 12 districts. Based on the fact that Muiniddin Natanziy used the terms of statehood such as juldu and iqta, it can be assumed that the author wrote these lines after looking at some official document regarding the appointment of Mirza Umarshaikh as governor of the Fergana Valley.

It should be noted that in the sources of the Timurid era, when talking about the Fergana Valley, toponyms such as Andijan, Uzhand, Uzgand were also used. Therefore, it should be understood that when Muiniddin Natanziy used the term Uzhand, he meant the entire Fergana Valley. Here we will focus on the meaning of the term district. In the scientific literature, the word "district" is explained as follows: "Muzafat with a population of ten thousand or capable of supplying an army of ten thousand people, that is, an administrative-territorial unit. Also, an army consisting of ten thousand cavalry was called a district" [8: 83]. In the Fergana Valley, instead of the word district, the term orchin is sometimes used. Academician B.Akhmedov noted about this: "According to the military-administrative reform carried out by Kebek Khan, the ulus districts (in Bukhara and Samarkand) were divided into regions (in Fergana and East Turkestan) [9: 285]". Therefore it is a mistake to understand the districts or settlements in the Fergana Valley as a region that can provide an army of 10 thousand people. In addition to the kasabas mentioned by Babur Mirza, we can mention Uzgand, Konibadom, Pop, Yettikent, Hokhani Orchin as the 12 districts mentioned by Natanzi. The towns of Uzgand, Konibadom, Yettikent, Pop were administrative centers with their fortresses. The sources also contain information about the governors appointed to them.

"Baburnama" provides information about the Pop Fortress in 16 places. One of them says: "One of the fortresses of Aksin is the fortress of Pop. People of Pop closed the Pop fortress and sent people to us. Said Kasim was sent with some young men. They crossed the river in the direction of the upper towns of Akhsi and entered the fortress of Pop." [7: 166]. It can be seen from this



information that the city of Pop was a strong city-fortress with its own fortress. Therefore, it can be recognized that it was a separate district.

Bobur Mirza says the following about Uzgand: “Uzgandnik is the capital of Ferghana, it has a good fortress, it is located on the border.” p.161. Also, when the author talks about Uzgand, he mentions it with the term navahi. Sharafuddin Ali Yazdi also emphasized about Uzgand. When Amir Temur first entered the Ferghana Valley from the east, he was welcomed in the city of Uzgand. “After the wedding, they moved to Yassi Dabondin and settled in Uzgand,” Yazdi writes. And Mahdi Ulya Kutlugh came to Samarkand with the wives of Turkon begs and congratulated all the people. After leaving Uzgand, they arrived in Khojand, Bahram Jalayir’s son Adilshah tied his service belt around his waist, led a wedding ceremony for his Majesty, and drove horses to peshkash” [1:78]. Nizamiddin Shami also noted that the ceremonies of welcoming Amir Temur were held in the city of Uzgand [2: 97]. There is a lot of information about Uzgand in other historical sources. This city, which was once the capital of the Karakhanid state, suffered a crisis in the 13th century, but during the Timurid era, it recovered its position to a large extent. But by this time, the city of Uzgand was considered a small administrative region of the cities of Andijan, Margilan, Khojand, Akhsi and Ush.

There are special notes about Konibodom in “Boburnoma”. The author noted that it is not a big town, but it is a good one: “Kandibodom is the reason for this. It's not a kasaba, it's a good little kasaba.” [7:62]. At that time, this city, called Kandibodom, was quite famous. Sharafuddin Ali Yazdi in some places called Sirdarya “Kandibodom suyi” by the name of this city [1:38].

There is little information about Yettikent in “Boburnoma”. He spoke only about Yettikent mountains, and did not give information about its population and territory [7:63]. Information about Yettikent can be found in Mirza Muhammad Haydar’s “History of Rashidi” [6: 110-111]. He noted that Yettikent was one of the important political regions. A number of information about the role of “Yettikent” region in the political history of Fergana Valley can be found in scientific literature. Yunus Khan, defeated in the battle of Khansolor, came to Sultan Abu Said asking for help in 1458-1459. Having lost all his army, Yunus Khan had no chance to start marching back to Mongolia. For this reason, Mirza Sultan Abu Said gave him Yettikand, located in Fergana bordering Mongolia. Yunus Khan fought for the throne of Mongolia for a long time from Yettikand. However, he could not achieve any great results. At that time, Sultan Abu Said, who did not have much power, was not enough to gain control over all of Mongolia. The most important result for the Timurid ruler was not the complete subjugation of Mongolia by Yunus Khan, but the fact that they were busy fighting each other and did not pose a threat to Movarunnahr. V.V.Bartold noted that Yunus Khan lived in Yettikand from 1456 to 1462 and fought for the Mongolian throne from here. But if we assume that Yunus Khan was given Yettikand after he came to ask for help for the second time, it turns out that his life in Yettikand began in 1459-1460. B. Ahmedov also noted that Yunus Khan settled in Yettikand after his defeat by Esan Buga Khan, without giving a date” [9:184]. In general, in the period of Amir Temur and the Timurids, Yettikand (Yettikent, Haftdeh) — the village of the Ferghana Valley bordering Mongolia, it is stated in the sources that it consisted of a town and a region, and the inhabitants of the region were mainly engaged in agriculture [9:37].

There is very little information about the Hokhani settlement in the sources of the Timurid period. Only two places in "Boburnoma" provide information about Hokhani Orchin [7:81]. In one of



them, this place is described by the term Navaho. So, we can understand the Khokon region as an area consisting of several residential addresses. It can be understood that the city, which was once known as Hovoqand, was not restored during the Timurid period.

Another information about the administrative division of the Fergana Valley belongs to the Arab historian Ibn Arabshah. Ibn Arabshah, talking about the big cities of Movarounnahr, mentions the cities of Khojand, Margilan, Andijan among them and makes a special mention of the city of Margilon. In this work, it is stated that Andijan and its surroundings consist of nine districts [10:86], this information was separately indicated by the researcher of the source, U.Uvatov. This information of Ibn Arabshah is also reflected in foreign studies [11:35]. Based on this work, foreign researchers also understood the Fergana Valley as a region consisting of nine districts. We think that Ibn Arabshah meant Andijan, Margilan, Khojand, Akhsi, Ush, Uzgand, Kosan, Isfara and Konibodom when he said nine districts.

CONCLUSION

As a conclusion, it can be said that there is no single conclusion in the scientific community about the administrative-territorial structure of the Fergana Valley during the time of Amir Temur and the Timurids. The main reason for this is that the information in historical sources differs from each other. Comparative analysis of information from historical sources and research of opinions and opinions expressed in scientific literature allows to draw relatively reliable scientific conclusions in this regard.

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