

## REASONONG ON THE STUDY OF THE URBANIZATION PROCESSES OF THE ANCIENT PERIOD IN THE KHOREZM OASIS

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### Abstract:

In this article, the study of the emergence and development of urbanization in the territory of ancient Khorezm is analyzed in the work of researchers. The history of the study of urban processes in Khorezm based on archaeological and written sources is described. Controversial issues related to the study of urbanization processes are analyzed.

**Keywords:** Urbanization, Kozalikir, Khumbuztepa, Bazarkala, Lower Amudarya, "urbanization explosion", antiquity, irrigation, urban development.

### Introduction

We know that urbanization processes play an important role in the life of society as the beginning of statehood. In world history, the development of cities is of particular importance in the regions where civilizations such as ancient Egypt, Mesopotamia, India, and China were formed. As a result of urbanization processes, cities have developed and their influence in the life of society has increased. Urbanization processes in the history of Uzbekistan began in the Bronze Age. Determining the period of the beginning of urbanization processes in the ancient Khorezm region is one of the controversial issues today. In the course of research, we can consider the emergence and development of cities in the Khorezm region from the results of researchers' works, articles and scientific works.

### Methods

This article analyzes the results of research on urbanization processes in the Khorezm region. The article uses generally accepted historical, scientific, comparative analysis, sequence methods.

### Research Results

The urbanization process is an important indicator determining the development of society in the history of mankind. During the separation of agriculture from animal husbandry, the foundation of the urbanization process began. The first urbanization processes began to be observed, starting with the separation of handicrafts into a separate field and the development of trade. Initially, the proto-city, the first cities were formed, and over time, the structure of society and cities became more complex. This happened mainly depending on its geographical location, specialization, political status and processes of population accumulation.

As a result of the research conducted in the Khorezm region in the 20th century, many research results on the development of cities in the region were published. Scientific collections, monographs and numerous articles on the history of cities were published. At the beginning of the



21st century, large-scale works on the study of ancient cities were carried out.

The study of the development of cities in the ancient Khorezm region, the beginning of archaeological research in the region begins in 1936. In the researches of the Khorezm archeological ethnographic expedition led by S.P. Tolstov, we find information about the early urbanistic processes. In particular, during the research conducted in Kozalikir, Bozorkala, Korgoashinkala and Anqakala, Khorezm was shown as the starting area of the urbanization process [1].

The issue of the beginning of the urbanization process in ancient Khorezm is one of the most problematic issues in history. In the history of ancient Khorezm, fundamental economic changes were observed in the 6th century BC.

These changes are not related to the historical development of the region. In the 10th-8th centuries BC, the people of the Amirabad culture lived in the territory of ancient Khorezm, living in shacks and semi-basements, engaged in primitive field farming and cattle breeding. With the increase of water in Sarikamish basins in VIII-VII centuries BC, various ethnic groups living in chaylas and semi-basements settled here. He entered the science under the name of Kuyisoi culture.

In the 6th century BC, two different trends can be observed in the development of ancient Khorezm. The first direction is the culture of semi-sedent herders, and the second direction is the culture of farmers and craftsmen who founded a high civilization.

When analyzing the history of ancient Khorezm in the 6th century BC, it is important to divide it into 2 periods, that is, the period before the Achaemenid invasion and the period of the Achaemenid rule. The issue of the beginning of the urbanization process in ancient Khorezm is related to this. Researchers put forward different opinions in this regard.

The monuments of Kozalikir and Khumbuztepa are the first cities identified in the course of archaeological research. According to the results of archaeological research and comparative analysis of written sources, Khazorasp fortress is included among the first cities. However, due to the high level of underground water, it was not possible to determine the lowest cultural layer of the monument.

Researchers such as O.A. Vishnevskaya, V.N.Yagodin, M.Mambetullaev, S.B.Bolelov, S.R.Baratov in their works or articles put forward the opinion that the monuments of Kozalikir and Khumbuztepa laid the foundation for the urbanization process in the ancient Khorezm region. Important information can be found in the works of O.A. Vishnevskaya and M.G. Vorobyeva on the emergence and development of the cities of the VII-V centuries BC in the area of ancient Khorezm, and in the researches of Y.A. Rapoport and E.E. Nerazik on the history of the cities of Khorezm in antiquity.

Academician A. Sagdullayev scientifically justified the issues of urbanization processes in the Khorezm region in his works [2]. Academician A.S. Sagdullayev's research on the beginning of urbanization processes in the Khorezm region mentions the emergence of the Kozalikir culture in Khorezm as a result of the migration of Margiyona and Bactrian people. V. N. Yagodin also approved this idea. According to the researches of V. N. Yagodin, it proves the arrival of agricultural population groups from Bactria to Southern Khorezm. They applied advanced craft skills and house-building traditions to the life of the oasis and created the foundation for the beginning of the urbanization process [3]. In the work of V. N. Yagodin, we can find information about the crafts of the population, the skills of building houses, and the processes of urbanization.



We can consider the issues related to the processes of urbanization in the territory of ancient Khorezm from the works and articles of academician A. Askarov [4]. In the Khorezm region, the IV-III centuries BC are considered a period of great growth in the cultural and economic life. In this regard, academician A. Askarov has given information in his works. During the 4th and 3rd centuries BC, the urban development process developed on both banks of the lower Amudarya. About a hundred big and small castles have been built in the country. The political situation in the country stabilizes, development of new lands, cities become larger, and centralization begins [4]. Academician A. Askarov, who analyzed the history of ancient Khorezm on the basis of written sources and archaeological research, based on the analysis of the information of the ancient authors Skilak, Herodotus, Hecataeus and "Avesta", the people of Khorezm lived in the Herat Valley. As a result of Darius I's tax policy, i.e., after 513 BC, he puts forward the idea that those who fled to Khorezm region now. Connecting the construction of the first cities in ancient Khorezm with this, he gives the idea that the people who migrated first came to the shore, i.e., they settled in the Kozalikir monument.

When analyzing the urbanization process of ancient Khorezm, the analysis of written sources and legends preserved among the local people is also important. They have preserved information about the people who migrated to the lower reaches of the Amudarya. In Greek written sources it is recorded that Khorasmians lived in the east in Parthia. Herodotus's information about the Akse River also shows that the Khorezmites lived south of their current territory. During the analysis of these data, two different directions were formed among the researchers. The first group of scholars believes that the Khorasmians first lived in the south and later moved to the lower Amudarya, while the second group of scholars admits that they lived in the lower Amudarya from time immemorial. In this process, the scientific hypothesis of "Big Khorezm" was put forward. Based on the research carried out today, the scientific hypothesis of "Greater Khorezm" is rejected, and the idea that the Khorezm people first lived in the south and later moved to the lower Amudarya is based on the idea.

Archeologist S.R. Baratov connects the beginning of the first urbanization processes in ancient Khorezm with the monuments of Kozalikir and Khumbuztepa. According to his opinion, the beginning of urbanistic processes along the banks of the Lower Amudarya was influenced by the population from the south. The lower reaches of the Amudarya were initially inhabited by people from the Murghab oasis, and later, as a result of the Achaemenid invasion and policy, people came from the regions of Margiyona and Bactria [5]. As a result of archaeological research, Khorezm BC. Traces of the syncretic culture of the 6th century have been found. Then Parthia, material findings characteristic of the Margian and Bactrian cultures were found.

The people who came to the banks of the Lower Amudarya took advantage of the vacant land, but suitable for farming. The local herders maintained peaceful neighborly relations with the population. This has been proven as a result of archaeological research. BC Strongly defended fortresses and artificial irrigation networks were built in the southern and western Khorezm regions from the 6th century. Settlements of herdsmen were recorded around large centers of agricultural oases.



There were three factors that led to the settlement of the people who came from the south to the territory of ancient Khorezm:

1. The drying up of the Murgab river;
2. The invasion of Cyrus II;
3. Policy of Darius I [11].

The researches of Y. E. Nerazik also mention the processes of urbanization in Khorezm. In his opinion, the factors of the processes of urbanization in the Khorezm oasis are uncertain in many ways, and it is necessary to take into account the influence of the culturally highly developed southern regions, where the relations between farmers and herders are the main driving force in the economy of the indigenous population, and the influx of people from these regions to the lands of the Lower Amudarya. wrote that [6].

In his works, M.A. Itina talks about the processes of urbanization in Khorezm, and also expresses his thoughts about the socio-economic structure of cities. In the process of raising the question about the socio-economic structure of the ancient cities of Khorezm, it is noted that they played an important role as trade, craft, religious and political centers [7].

In later periods, the researches of M.Mambetullayev and G.Khodjaniyozov provided information on the culture of urban planning and the history of military fortifications in the Khorezm oasis [8]. G. Khodjaniyozov also provides important information about the development of urbanization processes in the territory of the Khorezm oasis in his research. On the threshold of the 5th-4th centuries BC, after the separation from the Achaemenid state, the process of urbanization of Khorezm society began, many urban centers, including Bazarkala, Katta Oybuyir, Hazorasp, Akshakhankala, etc., began to appear, and the boundaries of its cultural region expanded [8].

Important information about the acceleration of urbanization processes in Khorezm during this period can be found in research. In particular, P.A. Pugachenkova also expresses such thoughts: in the 5th-4th centuries BC, the ancient state of Khorezm was formed, a unique "urbanization explosion" took place, and a whole series of urban centers appeared. A system of border forts and long walls were built on the borders. Nomads were pushed out from the borders of Khorezm, from old villages. But this does not mean that they were divided in war relations with the settlers. The interaction of settled peasants and city dwellers with settlers took two forms. Sometimes they exchanged livestock products peacefully, and sometimes they were in a state of war. The peoples living in the steppes used to attack the cities with the aim of looting [9].

In his research, Kh. Matyakubov recorded his opinions on the emergence and stages of development of urban planning culture in the Khorezm oasis. In his opinion, the recording of many rural settlements of the archaic period on the right and left banks of Amudarya shows that the population and density of the area increased by this period. This, in turn, became the basis for the beginning of the first urbanistic processes in the lower Amudarya basin. It shows that the emergence of irrigation systems is connected with the establishment of the state union in Khorezm. [10]

As a result of the new archaeological research conducted in the ruins of Khorezm city, new information indicating the culture of the first urban development in the Lower Amudarya regions was found and investigated, and the results of the research were published.

The studies of N.A. Egamberdieva also contain important information about the processes of urbanization in the Khorezm region. In the researches of N.A. Egamberdiyeva, the urbanization



processes in the ancient state of Khorezm, formed in the lower reaches of the Amudarya, in the millennium BC. He puts forward the opinion that it started from the VI century. He says that the influence of the people who moved from the south was the reason for this. Also, the economic development of the western and eastern sides of ancient Khorezm differed from each other. It has been shown that this can be caused by the different supply of water to the right and left banks of Amudarya [11]. From this we can see that issues related to the irrigation system had a direct impact on the development of cities.

Information about the rapid growth of urbanization processes in Khorezm in ancient times has been given in recent years of research. In particular, the researcher X. O. Matkarimov in his researches mentions that cultural achievements in the Khorezm region are not only taken from others and that the task of enriching material and spiritual culture and developing it on new bases is constantly based on appropriate skills and experience. It is necessary to admit that there was such a practical experience in Khorezm. That is why, in the ancient oasis, new forms of activity in the fields of economy, crafts and construction emerged, and the process of urbanization developed rapidly. Also, the unification of the country under a single centralized state was of great importance in the development of civilization [12].

### Summary

In the results of the archaeological research conducted in the area of ancient Khorezm, opinions were analyzed regarding the period in which the urbanization process began and how it took place. In the 6th century BC, the castles created by peasants and artisans in Ancient Khorezm - Kozaliqir, Khumbuztepa, Khazorasp castles - started the urban process in the region and followed a unique civilizational development path.

In the course of the research, the following conclusions were reached:

- As a result of archaeological research in Khorezm oasis, as the initial period of the first urbanization processes 6 th century BC is determined;
- The development of urbanization processes was influenced not only by the local population, but also by the population that migrated from the southern regions;
- The development of the urbanization process in the Amudarya basin was also caused by changes related to the irrigation system;
- Urbanization processes accelerated in the ancient times in the oasis area. It was during this period that the political situation stabilized, the development of new lands, the growth of cities was observed;
- In the Khorezm oasis, in the ancient times, new forms of activity in the fields of economy, crafts and construction emerged, and the process of urbanization developed rapidly.

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