

FOREIGN STUDIES ON THE HISTORY OF THE FERGANA VALLEY DURING THE KARAKHANID PERIOD

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Abstract

This article examines how the history of the Fergana Valley during the Karakhanid period has been studied in foreign scholarship. The main focus is on the scientific analysis of research works published in Uyghur and Chinese languages in Europe and the People's Republic of China.

Keywords: Fergana Valley, Karakhanid State, numismatic sources, B. Kochnev, E. de Zambaur, Liu Zhishyao, Turgun Almas, Uyghurs, Hasanid dynasty.

Introduction

PA considerable number of studies have been conducted abroad regarding the governance of Fergana by the Karakhanids and the historical events that occurred during this period. Initially, scholarly works were primarily devoted to the analysis of numismatic materials; however, over time, research expanded to include written and archaeological sources. Among foreign scholars who have studied this period are B.D. Kochnev, E. Gyul, T. Almas, O. Karayev, M.M. Ozgerish, Reshat Gench, M. Kamaloglu, N. Bobleva, A.M. Kilycheva, S. Azibaev, G.A. Anarbayeva, B.A. Mamasydykov, K.A. Chimbaev, R.S. Kazakov, Ch. Samariddin, R.S. Beysebaev, E.M. Molotova, D.E. Zhelobov, Ye.A. Davidovich, Michel Biran, Roven Amitai, René Grousset, and Omeljan Pritsak [1].

Literature review

In world historiography, the study of the Karakhanid state began primarily in the late nineteenth century. Over time, numerous works and scientific studies that serve as historiographical sources have been produced. Among them, the historical-numismatic studies of B.D. Kochnev and M.N. Fedorov are of particular importance [2].

A comprehensive study of the Karakhanid state based on written sources and numismatic materials is notably presented in B. Kochnev's monograph "Numismatic History of the Karakhanid Khaganate (991–1209)". Unlike his earlier articles and theses, this monograph provides a detailed and chronological examination of the Karakhanid rulers who governed Fergana. The data presented in this work help to clarify many complex aspects of the political life of Fergana during the Karakhanid period [3].

E. de Zambaur, in his work "Manuel de généalogie et de chronologie pour l'histoire de l'islam," provides information on various Islamic dynasties, including the Karakhanids who ruled in Fergana [4].

Studies conducted by X. Fren, O. Pritsak, and G. Weil provide insights into the Hasanid dynasty that ruled in Transoxiana. They also mention the administration of Ayna al-Dawla in Akhsikent, who was subordinate to the Hasanids. In addressing this issue, M.N. Fedorov effectively utilizes the works of Ibn al-Athir and Bayhaqi [5].

When analyzing Uyghur-language studies on the Karakhanid Khaganate chronologically, it is essential to first mention the two-volume work "History of the Uyghurs" by Chinese scholar Liu Zhishiyao, published in Beijing in 1987. The sixth chapter of this work is devoted to the history of the Khaganate. The author discusses its formation, development, territorial expansion, division into eastern and western parts, relations between them, administrative structure, economic and cultural development, and the adoption of Islam by the Karakhanids [6].

According to the introduction written by Sayfiddin Azizi, the first chairman of the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, Liu Zhishiyao had a strong command of the Uyghur language and made effective use of Turkic-language sources. Furthermore, he succeeded in incorporating certain data from Chinese sources into scholarly circulation. The work was originally written in Chinese and later translated into Uyghur [7].

Result and discussion

Chronologically, the third major study on the Karakhanid Khaganate was conducted by the Uyghur historian Turgun Almas. The results of his research were published in 1989 in Urumqi within chapters 10–16 of his major work "The Uyghurs." In this study, the author extensively used Chinese and Turkic sources, expanded upon the issues addressed by Liu Zhishiyao, supplemented them with new data, and provided

independent interpretations on many topics [8].

In 1991, another significant work titled “The History of the Peoples of Xinjiang” by Uyghur scholars Anvar Baytur and Khayriniso Sidiq was published in Beijing. Its thirteenth chapter is devoted to the history of the Karakhanid state. The authors discuss its formation, political, economic, and social life, as well as its culture, and attempt to synthesize previous studies, including those of the aforementioned scholars 9-10].

The twelfth chapter of the two-volume work “History of Central Asia,” translated from Chinese into Uyghur by Professor Wang Zhilai of Wuhan University and published in Urumqi in 2000, is also dedicated to the history of the Karakhanids [11]. The first volume was translated by Ablat Nuriddin, Ghayrat Abdurahman, Abdushukur Maqsut, and Jumakhun, while the second volume was translated by Ablat Nuriddin and Aziz Yusuf [12-13].

Specialized studies on the Karakhanid Khaganate were also conducted by Professor Wei Liangtao of Nanjing University and Professor Khoja Nurkhoji, Deputy Head of the Research Department of the Academy of Social Sciences of the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region [14].

Around 1164, the Western Karakhanid ruler Ali ibn Hasan (referred to as Qiagelenhan in Chinese sources) relocated the Karluks living in Samarkand and Bukhara to the Kashgar region. The existence of a Karluk settlement near Kashgar today can be cited as evidence of this event [15].

According to Wei Liangtao, this relocation was preceded by the conflict between Karluk leaders and the ruler following the Battle of Qatwan (1141).

Conclusion

In conclusion, a significant portion of research on the history of the Fergana Valley during the Karakhanid period has been conducted by Turkish and Chinese scholars. However, in these studies, the history of the Fergana Valley in the 11th–12th centuries has not been sufficiently explored, and the available information is often fragmented. Therefore, these sources require careful and critical analysis.

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