

ANCIENT KHOREZM AND ANCIENT BACTRIA ARE THE FIRST CENTERS OF CENTRAL ASIAN STATEHOOD

Nigina Nuriddinovna Ismatova, B. N. Rizayev

BukhSU, History (by directions and types of activity)

Abstract: Ancient Khorezm and Ancient Bactria state occupies an important place in the history of Central Asian states. The reason is that these countries are the oldest countries of Central Asia. This article describes the origin of the names of Ancient Khorezm and Ancient Bactria, their meanings, locations, main occupations, and their role in Central Asian statehood.

Keywords: Avesta, Khorezm, Bactria, Herodotus, Aeschylus, "Jewel of the land of the Aryans", Sunny land, Ayryana-Vaija, Behistun, Bactrish, Zoroastrianism.

From the Eneolithic period, agriculture based on artificial irrigation appeared in the south of Central Asia. In the middle of the 3rd millennium BC, bronze became the main material used in the preparation of tools, weapons and ornaments. People with bronze tools were now able to cultivate the fields more accurately and expand the acreage. We know from history that the first countries in the history of the world, Egypt (Nile) and Mesopotamia (Tigris and Euphrates) were formed and developed in places where artificial irrigation was somewhat convenient. One of the main factors of early cities and statehood is the wide spread of metal in the life of society.

Ancient Khorezm and Ancient Bactria states are considered to be the first states in Central Asia, and their past dates back to many years. "Avesta", which is considered the holy book of Zoroastrian religion, is an important source in our study of the stages of the emergence and development of these states. The book of Avesta is considered an important source for Central Asia. We can get information about ancient Khorezm and Ancient Bactria from the book of Avesta. The word Khorezm itself means "Sunny Land" ("khvar" - sun and "zam" - earth) and indicates that it was a country that worshiped the sun. BI Abdiyev explains the connection of Zoroastrianism with Khorezm as follows: The first sacred fire of Zoroastrianism was lit in Khorezm. The country called "Ayryana-Vaija" (Iron Vij) described in "Avesta" is probably Khorezm, Ahura Mazda appeared to Zoroaster in this country. The description of the legendary country "Ayryana-Vaija" in "Avesta" corresponds to the geographical conditions of Khorezm.

Some scholars believe that the origin of the term "Khorazm" is from the union of the words "Khvar" and "Zam", and based on this, they make a judgment about the origin of fire worship.¹

In "Avesta" Bactria (Bakhdi) is mentioned as a land of "flags (always) flying high", i.e. a land of glory. In the Avesta, the name of the Ancient Bactrian state is Bakhti, in the monuments of Behistun it is written as Baktrish, in the literature of ancient times it is written as Bactriana. Herodotus mentions Bactria and Bactrians 45 times in his work "History". The term "Bactria" is also found in Aeschylus' tragedy "Persians", staged in the 5th century BC. Another ancient historian Strabo describes Bactria as "the jewel of the Aryan land".²

¹Avesta. Historical and literary monument. Translation by Askar Mahkam. — "Sharq", 2001. — T.: 361 B.

²BahadirEshov, "History of state and local government in Uzbekistan". "New century generation", T.: 2012. 54 B.

In the Avesta, the ancient state of Bactria is called Bahdi, where the term "arakhtra" is also found, which probably corresponds to the term "Bakhtar". The earliest information about Bactria is found in Achaemenid inscriptions, in particular the Naqshi Rostam and the world-famous Behistun rock. also occurs. Paintings from the Persepolis Palace depict the Bactrians with ships and Bactrian camels. As an independent satrapy, Bactria played an important role in the economic and cultural life. The most diverse information about it is available in ancient Greek works. Historians-Herodotus, Strabo, Diodorus, Arrian, Quintus Curtius Rufus, and others emphasize the antiquity and high level of culture of this country. emphasizes.

In his work, Diodorus wrote the details of the Assyrian king Nin's battle against Bactria. At the beginning of the work, the details of Nin's marriage to Semiramis are described. According to the writings of Diodorus, Ninus knew the difficulty of defeating Bactria, the large population and skill in battle, and the large number of fortresses. Nevertheless, he gathered a large army and in the first battle he was defeated by the Bactrian king Oxyartes at the place where the mountain road leads to the plain. Nin prepares for a new battle with Bactria.

Diodorus describes the city of Bactria, the capital of Bactria, as follows, "... Bactria is one of the great cities, it is a beautiful, impregnable fortress." Nin besieges the city of Baktr for a long time. The city is occupied as a result of the cunning of Semiramis. The Bactrians are defeated. The king of Bactria is killed. Nin plunders the gold and silver wealth of Bactria.

Bactrians are mentioned among the nations described by Ctesius. Access to the Bactrian plain from the west is blocked by "mountains".

Bactrians are always described by many authors as follows: Bactrians are a "numerous", "warrior" and "Brave" people.³.

The ancient state of Khorezm appeared in the 7th century BC. The ancient state of Khorezm arose from the middle course of the Amudarya in the lands near the island. The territorial boundaries of the ancient Khorezm state passed through the lands of the Middle Amudarya. The territory of ancient Khorezm in ancient times extended from the Amudarya river to the upper reaches of the Murgab and Tajan rivers. Therefore, this ancient historical region has two types in science: Ancient Khorezm. and known as Khorezm the Great.

According to the reports of Hecataeus and Herodotus about the lands using the waters of the Akhes River, the scientific theory about the state of "Great Khorezm" was born. This country also included the lands of the peoples listed by Herodotus - the Hyrcanians, the Parthians, the Sarangians and the Tamaneans. According to some researchers (W. Tarn, F. Altheim), before the Achaemenid era, the Khorezm people were located on the slopes of Kopetdag in the eastern direction from the borders of Parthia. The center of the Khorezm state was around Marv and Herat, and after the conquest of this state by Cyrus II, it is assumed that the Khorezm people moved to the present Khorezm region of Lower Amudarya (V.B. Henning, I. Gershevich). So, according to this theory, the ancient Persians pushed the Khorezm people to the lands of the Lower Amudarya.⁴.

In his book "Ancient Khorezm", the famous Russian scientist S.P. Tolstov, who has deeply studied the history of Khorezm, divides the history of ancient Khorezm into four periods:

1. Urban culture with residential walls (VI-IV centuries BC)

³Essay P O HISTORII GOSUDARSTVENNOSTI UZBEKISTAN Tashkent Main editorial office publishing co - printing joint-stock company "Shark" 2001. 9-10 B.

⁴Sagdullaev A. In the first written sources of ancient Uzbekistan: a guide for students of higher and secondary special educational institutions, school teachers, source scholars. - T.: Teacher, 1996.- 51-52 B.

2. Kanga (Kang') culture (4th century BC - 1st century AD)
3. Kushan culture (II - II centuries AD)
4. Kushan-African transitional culture (III - V centuries AD)

Since the territory of the ancient state of Khorezm was located on the river, the main source of livelihood of the inhabitants of Khorezm at that time was agriculture and animal husbandry. Irrigated agriculture has developed in various forms in the regions where natural conditions have made it possible to dig canals and ditches and release water. During this period, canals with a length of several tens of kilometers and a width of several tens of meters were dug. It is known that huge artificial irrigation systems were operating in Khorezm as early as VII-VI centuries BC. The fact that artificial irrigation works were so important testifies to the place of agriculture in the life of our ancestors. In fact, scientists have proved that during those times such fields as cultivation of grain, oil-bearing plants, policing, horticulture were developed.

SP Tolstov mil. avv. In the 8th and 7th centuries, he connected the presence of large canals in Khorezm with the powerful central state policy, and concluded that such large and long canals could not have been dug and preserved if there was no state organization in Khorezm.

Ancient Bactria is located in the north-east of present-day Afghanistan, south of Uzbekistan and south-west of Tajikistan. 700-540 BC was the period of development of the ancient Bactrian state (namely, Bactria, Margyona, and Sogdiana), and the territorial boundaries of this large state were: Murgob Oasis, Hindikush Range, Badakhshan, Nurota Range, and Bukhara. may have gone to the oases (river oases - Murgob, Balkhob, Kunduz, Panj, Vakhsh, Kafirn Khan, Surkhan, Kashkadarya and Zarafshan). Bactria united five provinces on some river oases. Surkhan, Balkhob, Kafirn Khan - Vakhsh, Panj, Kokcha - Kunduz oases are among them.⁵ "Ctesius" work "Persica" contains information about many fortifications and castles of Bactria. Currently, more than 240 houses and fortresses from the first half of the 1st millennium BC are found on the soil of Bactria. The remains of villages and cities were found and examined.

In the first half of the 1st millennium BC, many historical and cultural changes took place in Bactria. These changes were related to the following processes:

1. The emergence and spread of iron products.
2. The emergence of villages with fortresses and their subsequent transformation into cities.
3. A significant change in material culture.
4. Migration of Eastern Iranian tribes.

In the "History" of Herodotus, the father of history, the Bactrian people are mentioned among the great countries such as Egypt and Babylon. The Greek historian Ctesius Cnidsky provides valuable information about Bactria. Many cities in the historical state, the fortified capital city of Bastra (Balkh), the Bactrian king Oxyart. tells about his inexhaustible wealth. According to researchers, the Kingdom of Ancient Bactria was more powerful than the neighboring regions and had a special position among them. The natural resources of Bactria were famous in the region as far as Ancient Asia. Badakhshan lapis lazuli and lapis lazuli were especially valued⁶.

⁵Sagdullaev A. In the first written sources of ancient Uzbekistan: a guide for students of higher and secondary special educational institutions, school teachers, source scholars. - T.: Teacher, 1996.- 47 B.

⁶Bakhodir Eshov, "History of state and local government in Uzbekistan". "Generation of the New Century", T.: 2012.-53 B.

As can be seen from these data, Ancient Khorezm and Ancient Bactria have an important place in the history of Central Asian statehood. Because these countries are the first centers of Central Asian statehood.

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