

Historical and Geographical Regions of Chaghaniyan

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Abstract: In this article, the place which is called Chaganiyon or Sogoniyon, located northeast of Termez, is discussed. In the early Middle Ages, the region was located in the Chogonrud (now Surkhandarya) basin. It is bordered by the Kashkadarya oasis in the east and the Termez region in the southwest. At present, the territory of this property corresponds to Boysun, Denov, Kumkurgan, Sariosiyo, Shurchi, Uzun and Boysun districts of Surkhandarya region on the basis of historical and scientific sources.

Keywords: Chagankhudot, Chaghaniyan, al-Saghaniyan, Termez region, Surkhandarya region, Baysun, Denau, Kumkurgan, Sariosiyo, Shurchi, Uzun, Baysun region, Gurmалitepa monument.

INTRODUCTION

The Surkhandarya oasis, which has been called Tokharistan since the early Middle Ages, was divided into two major historical and cultural regions in the Middle Ages, such as Chaghaniyan and Termez. There is no generally accepted conclusion in science as to the origin of the term Chaghaniyan. The term “Chaghaniyan” was first mentioned in the form of “Chi go yen na” in the diaries of the Chinese tourist Xuanzang [1: 559]. After the Arab conquest, the Chaghaniyan property occurs in the form of the al-Saghaniyan, which may have originated in connection with the features of the Arabic language. The property, called Chaghaniyan (or Saghaniyan), was located northeast of Termez. Based in the early Middle Ages in the Chaganrud (now Surkhandarya) basin, the region included mountainous and foothill and fertile river valleys, bordered by the Kafirnikhan Valley in the southeast, the Kashkadarya Oasis in the northeast, and the Termez region in the southwest. Currently, this property area belongs to Baysun, Denau, Kumkurgan, Sariosiyo, Shurchi and Uzun districts of Surkhandarya region.

LITERATURE ANALYSIS AND METODOLOGY

Medieval Chinese sources such as Chapter 97 of Beishi, Chapter 83 of Suyshu, and Chapter 221 of Tanshu contain important information on the history and historical geography of the “Western lands”, that is, the countries of Central Asia. Among them, there are information about the territory of Northern Tokharistan (Tuxolo), in particular, the territory of Chaghaniyan and Termez, historical and geographical conditions and its socio-economic life, population and economy, geographical location and boundaries of towns and villages. Especially important are information relating to the era of the Tang dynasty- Xuanzang’s “Da Tan Xiyu Tzu” written in 630 (“Xuan Jing’s Travel Records”), who passed through southern Uzbekistan to India, and in 723-727, the Korean Buddhist monk U Kun’s “U Kun Ju Zhu Tzi ” (“Records of U Kun’s Journey to India ”), crossed from China to India by water, and from there to Tokharistan. Information about the early Middle Ages can be found in the Byzantine historian Prisk Paniysky’s (5th century) History of Byzantium, in the History of Justinian’s Wars by Procopius of Caesarea (6th century historian, who personally participated in many Byzantine wars), and in Agafi’s (VI century) work on Justinian’s kingdom and in Menander’s (VII century) “History”.

Movarounnahr’s description of the book “Kitab Hudud ul-Alam Min al-Mashriq ila-l Maghrib” (“A Book on the Boundaries of the Universe from East to West”) contains information about the cities of Termez, Chaghaniyan, Darzangi, and Bosund in the Surkhandarya oasis.

The section devoted to the description of “Movarounnahr” (Transoxiana) at the book “Kitab surat al-ard” by the Arab geographer Ibn Hawqal (Abulqasim an-Nasibi), who lived and worked in the X century, provides valuable information about the cities of Southern Uzbekistan.

The Kitab al-Masalik wa-l-Mamalik, a collection of works by historians and geographers of the ninth and tenth centuries such as Abu Zayd Balkhi, Istakhri, and Ibn Hawqal, lists major cities such as Chaghaniyan and many smaller cities, including Khorasan and Movarounnahr. There is valuable information about the distance between the cities, their structure (three parts), city forts, city gates, roads connecting cities and about the natural resources of Movarounnahr. The Arab geographer Mutahhar ibn Tahir al-Maqdisi (tenth century) wrote in his book Al-Bad’u wa-t-Tarikh that there were four cities in the region from Khurasan to the Amu Darya, the roads leading to Saghaniyan, Nakhshab, Kumayd

and Rasht after crossing the river, and the division of Movarounnahr by Jaihun, Fergana, Isfijob, Shosh, Ushrushona, Sughd, Bukhara regions, and Ilaq, Kesh, Nasaf, Chaghaniyan nohias (districts).

The Arab geographer Abul-Qasim Ubaydullah ibn Abdullah ibn Khurdodbeh in his work "Roads and Countries" gave information about the districts (cities) of Termez and Saghaniyan, their location, economic life and distances between them, villages, medieval urban culture of the Surkhandarya oasis.

These include Abu Ishaq Ibrahim Istahri Chaghaniyan's size from Termez, the cities of Sarmingon and Hadjimgird, the city's markets and buildings, and many other occupations.

The ninth-century Arab geographer Abu Ja'far Muhammad ibn Jarir at-Tabari, in his History of Tabari, gives information about the life, historical geography and toponyms of the cities of Mawarounnahr, and about Qutayba ibn Muslim's travels to Termez and Saghaniyan. Abusaid Abdulhay ibn Zahhak ibn Mahmud Gardizi's work Zayn ul-Akhbar (Decoration of Messages) is a valuable source rich in historical, geographical and ethnographic information, as well as information about some historical oases located in and around the Chaghaniyan region.

DISCUSSION

The results of archeological researches show that the human occupation of the Sogdian region dates back to the distant past. Ancient sources state that Alexander the Great's armies crossed from Sogdiana to Bactria via the Pareytaka or Pareytakina region in the upper reaches of the Surkhandarya [11: 101].

The Sogdian region was later part of the Greco-Bactrian and Kushan kingdoms. The first major city and the first capital of the Kushans dynasty was built in this area. This city is mentioned in Chinese sources as Hodzo [3: 183] and located 30 km south of Denau, on the site of a monument known as Dalvarzintepa in the nowadays Shurchi district.

In the early Middle Ages, the rulers of Chaghaniyan were called Chagans by the title of god, while according to Arabic sources, from the X century onwards, they were called amirs. Whether they were descended from the Chaghankhudot who converted to Islam or from the Arabs is still a matter of science. The most famous of the Chaghaniyan emirs in the early Islamic period was Ahmad ibn Abubakr Muhammad [1: 559].

The diary of Xuanzang, a Chinese traveler and Buddhist monk who passed through the Chaghaniyan region in 630 AD, contains important information about the historical geography of the region. In particular, the ancient caravan route through the Iron Gate and Darband, the northern gate of Chaghaniyan, the major cities and villages of Chaghaniyan, its population, religion, economy, connections and other information are reflected in his work. He notes that the central city of Chaghaniyan is the same as the name of the province, and it is one of the largest cities and trade centers of Tokharistan [7: 47-48].

The administrative center of Saghaniyan (Chaghaniyan) in the XI century, one of the most important provinces of Tokharistan at that time, was larger than Termez in terms of the size of Chaghaniyan [6:57]. The distance between Termez and Chaghaniyan was 24 fars, which was covered by caravans in 4 days. Between them was the city of Sarmangan (Charmangan), 6 fars or 1 day journey from Termez [14: 394-398]. Large villages called Bug and Darzonchi (or Darzanji) were also considered as the main stations in this direction [2: 123].

At the beginning of the X-XIII centuries, the Chaghaniyan region was distinguished by its productivity and richness in various minerals, population density and cultural development. According to Arab geographers, in the X century Chaghaniyan was a densely populated property, with the number of villages reaching 16,000. The population has led to the development of large areas for agriculture and horticulture. For this reason, water was pumped to the fields from Chaganrud (Surkhandarya) through many canals. The water of Surkhandarya, which overflowed from Saghaniyan, was used for the needs of the population of Termez region and agriculture. Therefore, its water often did not reach the Amudarya [1: 95-231].

These data indicate the existence of a wide-ranging irrigation system in the developed Middle Ages in the Surkhandarya oasis. Their study, in turn, makes it possible to obtain other information about the first and advanced medieval territories of Chaghaniyan and its historical geography.

The Chaghaniyan area is one of the best studied areas in archeology. The historical geography of Chaghaniyan was first examined by V.V.Barthold. According to the data, the settlements in the Chaghaniyan region appeared in the most ancient centuries of history. In different historical periods, the region was part of the Achaemenid Empire, the Macedonian Empire, the Greek Bactrian state and the Kushan Empire. In the early Middle Ages, it was first part of the Hephthalites, then the Turkic Khanate.

In the early Middle Ages, more precisely in 630, a Chinese traveler, the Buddhist monk Xuanzang, who was in Chaghaniyan, said that his territory stretched from east to west for 400 li (Li - the main distance in ancient and medieval China. The average was 500 meters) and from north to south for 500 li. The central city of Chaghaniyan stretched for 10 miles and had 5 Buddhist temples, which did not escape the attention of the Chinese tourist [7: 133].

There are different opinions in determining the location of the ruins of the city, which is the center of Chaghaniyan. According to G.A. Pugachenkova, who conducted many years of research in the Surkhandarya oasis, the site of the Dalvarzintepa monument, located 30 km south of Denau, is the central city of Chaghaniyan in the early Middle Ages. Later, from the X century until the Mongol invasion, it was on the site of the Budrach monument, located 6 km from the city of Denau, at the confluence of the Red River with the Surkhandarya [10: 49-64]. According to other researchers, a large city was formed during the Kushan period on the site of the Budrach monument. Built in the 2nd century B.C., the total area of this city is 20 hectares. The ruins of the city arch are now called Akmozortepa, and the shahristan is called Dunyotepa [7: 134].

The territory of the city of Chaghaniyan, one of the most important provinces of Tokharistan at that time, had occupied more than 50 hectares in the early Middle Ages. In the XI century, the size of Chaghaniyan was larger than Termez, according to sources [6:57].

Analysis of the data in the sources shows that all the settlements belonging to Saghaniyan are located along the wide caravan routes. The largest settlements were situated on the road from Chaghaniyan to Termez. According to Arab geographers, the distance between the cities of Termez and Chaghaniyan was 24 farsahs, which were covered by caravans in 4 days. Between them was the city of Sarmangan (Charmangan), 6 fars or 1 day journey from Termez. Built in the early Middle Ages, the city had a mosque in the X-XII centuries and was the center of a separate district of Termez [14: 394-398]. Its ruins may be a monument near the village of Minor 4-5 km from located in the south Jarqurghan. Here, the tower was built by the Seljuk ruler Sultan Sanjar in the early twelfth century, more precisely in 1108-1109 [4: 570].

Among the next settlements in this direction was a large village called Darzonchi (or Darzangi, Darzanji), located between Termez and Chaghaniyan. There is information about it in the work "Hudud al alam" of unknown author. It states that this settlement was a small town surrounded by a ditch, and that its inhabitants were known for knitting and weaving woolen carpets [2: 123]. The ruins of this city (50 hectares) are now a monument near the village of Jaloyir, located west of Kumkurgan, at the confluence of the Bandikhon and Surkhandarya rivers [7: 136-137].

The distance from Chaghaniyan to Darzangi was a 2-day journey. Among them was the village of Barangi, which was 5 farsahs from Chaghaniyan and 7 farsahs from Darzangi. Barangi is currently on the left bank of the Surkhandarya river, 8 km from Shurchi. It is believed that the Gurmaltitepa monument was located in the distance. This settlement also appeared in the early Middle Ages and was destroyed during the Mongol invasion [12: 84-94].

There are other considerations in determining the location of the medieval Barangi settlement. In particular, some researchers argue that Barangi was in the place of the present Shurchi. Proof of this is the discovery and study of the remains of a large mosque of the XI-XII centuries near the city of Shurchi, that is, a large city on the site of Shurchi at that time, 28 km in the south-west (i.e. 5 farsah away) from the monument to Shurchi Budrach. It corresponds to the information in the Arabic sources and other relevant information [7: 138].

Another caravan route started from Budrach, the capital of Chaghaniyan, and headed northeast along the southern slopes of the Gissar Mountains to Rasht. From here the mountain road leading to China through the Pamir mountain passes along the Surkhob River began. The study of the settlements located in the direction of this caravan route provides important information concerning the historical geography of Chaghaniyan. So let's look at the location of the villages and towns along this road.

The first village in this direction from Chaghaniyan has different names in the works of Arab geographers (Navand / Navandak, Bunza, Naujan, Burab, Basab). The distance between Chaghaniyan and this village also varies (2, 3, 6 farsahs) [7: 138]. This village is given in the Boburname as Navandak (New Trench) [5: 154]. It is believed that the medieval Navandak was located on the site of the Kofirqala monument, located about 3 km northeast of Uzun [13: 114-119].

Life in Kofirqala lasted from the early Middle Ages to the Mongol invasion. The fact that the Kofiqala monument is 28-30 km away from Budrach, the central city of Chaghaniyan, also corresponds to the data of Arab geographers (Ibn Hurdodbeh, Istahri). The villages after Navandak in this direction were Hamavaran and Rikadasht (Regar). These settlements are located in the territory of present-day Tajikistan.

Thus, considering this trend, which was formed in the early Middle Ages and was widely used in the developed Middle Ages, it can be noted that in the X century the mountainous areas to the east of Chaghaniyan were also sometimes subordinated to the Chaghaniyan emirs. The distance from Saghaniyan to Shumon was 16 farsahhs, and the main stations were Navandak, Regar, and Hamavaran.

The use of mountain roads from the northern borders of Chaghaniyan to Sogdiana through Mount Gissar also continued consistently in the Middle Ages. This road led from Surkhandarya to the Kyzyl-darya basin through the Tashkurgan Pass [8: 251] [9: 94-135]. The distance from the east of Chaghaniyan to Kesh was a 6-day journey. There were several villages in this direction where passengers and caravans could stop. Two of them were settlements located in the Surkhandarya oasis. Among them, the city of Sangardak (Khandiza), located in the middle reaches of the Sangardak River, Yurchi, on a 1-day journey from Saghaniyan, played an important role.

Another route of the road connecting Soghaniyan and Kesh provinces led to the Iron Gate via Boysun and Darband. In this direction, too, there were many villages and fortresses. Determining their geographical location, it can be noted that in the Middle Ages the northern borders of Sogdiana extended to the area up to the Iron Gate.

Information about the Chaghaniyan region is abundant in Arabic and Persian sources. In particular, the book "Kitabi Region al-Alam Minal Mashriq Ilal Maghrib" notes that the Chaghaniyan region is a convenient and spacious place for agriculture, but the population is poor, "The climate is temperate, the soil is excellent, the water quickly digests food. Horses are grazed on the land, and wool, carpets and shawls are processed. The capital of this region is the city of Chaghaniyan, built at the foot of the mountain. There is running water. The climate is good, but the people are dervishes." [15:44]

CONCLUSION

According to the analysis of historical sources and archaeological research, Chaganiyon is located northeast of Termez, and in the early Middle Ages it was located in the Choganrud basin, which included mountainous and foothill and fertile river valleys. It borders in the southeast with the Gissar valley with the Kofirnikhon valley, in the north-east with the Kashkadarya oasis, and in the southwest with the Termez region.

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