



ETHNIC PROCESSES IN THE NORTHEAST OF CENTRAL ASIA IN THE VII-X CENTURIES

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ABSTRACT

This article analyzes the stages of formation of tribes and their states, tribal ethnic groups living in the northeast of Central Asia in the 7th-9th centuries. Ethnic processes have also been described in terms of the ethno-cultural community of the people of Central Asia.

KEYWORDS: *Ethnic Formation, Tribes, Turkic Tribes, Uighurs, Turgeshs, Kimaks, Karluks, Kyrgyz, Kipchaks, Pechengs, Khazars, Oghuzs.*

INTRODUCTION

The Central Asian region is the only place where different nations and people have been living together for many centuries. The issue of ethnic history and ethnogenesis of the people of Central Asia has attracted the attention of many scholars. Scientific works on ethnic issues have been explored by V.V. Bartold, A.A. Semyonov, N.A. Aristov, A.Yu. Yakubovsky, S.G. Agadjanov, K. Shaniyazov, M.I. Artamanov, L.N. Gumilev, L.V. Oshanin, B.A. Akhmedov, A. Asqarov, R.A. Ageev and their works showed the importance of ethnic history and ethnogenesis [10,11,20,5,6,24,3,21,22,23,7,13,14,17,9,8,2].

Studies show that various historical political processes, military conflicts, and sometimes natural conditions have led to changes in the changes of living places. This affected the interference of tribes and nations, economic and ethno-cultural convergence, and migration of economic activities.

Nations were formed at a specific historical period. During this time, the nations living in the same area were always in close economic and cultural proximity to each other. Ethnic groups or ethnic people, who have lived in the area since ancient times and emigrated from other regions and countries, may also be actively involved in the ethnic process [21, P.74-78]

A particular ethnic group or component plays a leading role in the interethnic convergence. Other ethnic groups are linguistically and culturally affiliated with this leading group. Throughout the ethnic process, ethnicities in a given region undergo

certain developmental stages and have a common language, common sense system, and ethnic identity. Now let's look at the ethnic processes of the population living in Central Asia in the VII-X centuries. In the VII-IX centuries the majority of the population in Central Asia was Turkish. Some of them were settled, and the rest were nomadic.

THE MAIN RESULTS AND FINDINGS

VII-XIII асрларда Марказий Осиё ҳудудларининг этник таркири рир текисда рўлмаган. Turkish State in Tianshan (beginning of 8th century), Altai to Manjuria and Uighur state in East Tianshan (mid-8th to mid-IX century), Karluk State in Zhetysu (VIII-IX centuries), Samanid state in Movarounnahr (IX-XIX centuries) (Ninth century), Karakhanid state in Eastern Turkestan and Movarounnahr (beginning of X-XIII centuries), IX-XII century in Afghanistan and Khorasan, Ghazni state, then Seljuk state were in power.

The population of Ferghana, Ustrushana, Shash, Sogd, Kesh, Nasaf, Takharistan, Khorezm regions of Central Asia has always been stable, engaged in farming, handicraft and trade. The people, who lived in the middle and lower reaches of East Turkestan, Zhetysu, Syrdarya and adjoining steppes, were mainly Turkic-speaking peoples with nomadic livelihood.

Residents of Movarounnahr have direct ethnic, economic and cultural ties with Afghanistan, India, Tibet and East Turkestan, and Zhetysu in the south. The territory of northern Takharistan in the IX-X centuries was Choghanyan, Khuttalon, Akharun,



Kobadian, Badakhshan, Wakhan, Shikinan, and Keren. In southern Takharistan, medieval Turkic ethnoses lived in the north-eastern provinces of Afghanistan and in northern India, and they were ethnically and culturally connected with the inhabitants of Movarounnahr, East Turkestan and Zhetysay.

During the Turkic Khaganate, several Turkic tribes living on the Eurasian continent merged into large tribal alliances. Some ethnic groups formed during the Khaganate (Oghuz, Uigur, Kipchak, Kirghiz, etc.) were the basis for the formation of several ethnic groups that emerged during the Middle Ages.

As a result of the disintegration of the Turkic Kaganate, the Turkic tribes united around large tribes and formed strong tribal alliances, one of which was the Turkesh tribal union. Most of the Turkesh lands were settled in the second half of the 7th century in the Ili River valley, on the northern slopes of Tianshan, and were part of the Dulu tribal alliance. Turkeshes were divided into black and yellow groups of Turkeshes. According to L.N. Gumilyov, the "yellow" Turkesh consist of ancient tribes living in Tarbaghatai and the Ili Valley, and "black" Turkesh - the Abar ethnoses who settled here [13, pp.382-386, 14, pp.427-443]

In the beginning of the eighth century, Nushibi tribal alliances and Dulu tribes belonged to the newly formed Turkesh tribal alliance. The groups, which did not want to be subject to the Turkesh state, settled in the middle and lower deserts of the Syrdarya and in the Movarounnahr area. Some tribes in Dulu partly resided in Turkesh state, while some groups migrated westward and settled down on the Volga, and later joined Bulgarians.

At that time Karluks started getting the power in Central Asia. With the formation of the Turkic kaganate (552 CE), Karluks living in the western regions of Altai move from there to the Irtysh River coast, from the slopes of the Mongolian Altai to the northern Ila River. Most of them occupied some areas of Eastern Turkestan, Ferghana and Takharistan in the VI-VII centuries. Some groups of Karluk people had settled in Kashmir. The remaining part of karluks to the north of the Ili River, in the middle of the 7th century, became an alliance that united the three tribes (meulo), chighil or sebek (chjisi or pofu), and other tribes. This association was preserved in ancient Turkic scripts and Chinese sources under the name of "Karluk budun" ("karluk of people") or "three karluk". These tribes established their own Karluk Empire (756-940), which ranges from the Dzhungar Altai to the middle stream of the Syrdarya, the Ili, Chu, Talas valleys, the Tianshan slope between Balkhash and Issikkul, and Isfijab to Utrar. They encamped Siyab in the Chu River oasis. In

addition to karluk people, there were several Turkic tribes and ethnic groups, such as orghu, tukhsi, turkesh, az, uz, yoghma and others [21, P. 87]

According to the ethnographer K. Shoniyozov, as a result of the struggle with the Western and Eastern Kaganate, the union of the karluks was divided and several ethno-territorial associations were formed. These include: karluks dwelling in the lower reaches of the Irtysh River, in the southern Altai; karluks dwelling on the slopes of Khangay, Tannu, Aloda; karluk people living in Turfan Basin, Kashghar, Yorkent; karluks living in Takharistan; karluks living in northwestern India and Kashmir.

In 740, the Uyghur khan Moyunchur (Peylo in Chinese sources) united the tribes and Bashmils, having successfully fought against the Eastern Turkic Khanate and founded the Uighur Kaganate (VIII-IX centuries) [13, P.398-413; 14, C.519-604] Its eastern border reached Manchuria and its western border reached Jungoria. Various information about the Uighur formation process is available in the sources. For example, the Uighur historian, Turghun Almas, states: "The Uighurs have been living since ancient times in the Tarim Valley, bordering the Karakorum and Tangirtogh ranges, in the Jungaria, on the Irtysh River, and on the Ili River in the Altai; They lived in the valleys of Selenga, Orkhon, Tola, and Kerulen rivers" [19, p.6]. Ibn Hordodbe calls the Uighurs the Nine-Oguz [11, pp.19-194, 50-51, 568-569], and gives the following information about the areas in which they lived: "Their region is the largest of the Turkic countries, they border on China, Tibet and Karluks" [15, C.139]

The Uighur tribes united nine tribes during the Peylo Khanate (742-756). The names of these tribes were given by N.J. Bichurin and L.M. Pozdnev in their works: iologe, khuduge, kyulou, mokosige, auchjay, gesa, xuvynsyu, iovuge, xasivu [12, p. 368]

J.Hamilton mentions these nine tribe names in the form of yaglakar, uturkar, turlamvyur, bokasikir, avuchag, korsar, xogorsu, ayagvyurkar, xieyamvyur.

In 840, the Uighur kingdom was defeated by the Kirghiz of Enisey. Then the Uighurs retreated to East Turkestan. Some of them founded Ganjau State in 847 in Gansu province. The rest of the population of the Uighur empire (847-850) came to the Turfan oasis and established the Turfan State. Some Uighur groups resided in Dunhuang, Guajou, Sichuan, Karashar, Beshbalik, Kucha and Eastern Turkestan.

Thus, the Uighur kaganate collapsed in the middle of the ninth century, and the territory where their descendants lived was now dominated by the Kyrgyz. The northeastern provinces of East Turkestan were under Uighur rule since 840. Turkic-speaking Kimak and Kipchak tribes lived on the banks of the



Altai and the Irtysh River, north-west of the Tarbagatay Ranges.

Kimakas were located in the western part of Altai in the middle of the 8th century, in the middle Irtysh. In the second half of the 8th century at the beginning of the 9th century some of the kimakas were located in the north-west, in the Ural Mountains, and the other half in the south-west and north-west of Zhetysu. Most of the Kimaks lived in the middle streams of the Irtysh River. After the collapse of the Uighur empire in 840, some of its tribes (Eymur, Bayandur, Totor) joined Kimak. This is how the Kimak tribal alliance was formed. In the second half of the IX century Kimak Khaganate was formed.

At the end of the VII - the beginning of the 8th century, there was a strengthening of the Kyrgyz position in the political arena. Turks, who were enemies of the 8th century Kyrgyz, refer to the name of the Kyrgyz khan Barsbek in the Turkic inscriptions. Barsbek was the ruler of the Kyrgyz state in Enisey [16, pp.114-133] The years of his reign were marked by a dramatic change in the situation in Central Asia. At that time, it supported the Orhan Turks (Mongolia) against the Tan Empire and was able to break the resistance of the Chinese and their allies.

By the beginning of the ninth century, when the Uighur khanate began to lose its power, the Kyrgyz used the weakening of the Uighur people. With the help of karluks, the Kyrgyz proclaim themselves as independent of the Uighur khanate.

The Kyrgyz kaganate, which strengthened its political position, continued its aggression and expanded its territory. The boundaries of the Kyrgyz state extended to Lake Baikal, to the south to Tibet, and to the south-west to Zhetysu, and to the north, to the present Tomsk and Krasnoyarsk.

Another Turkic tribe was the Kipchaks [21, B.360-364; 11, pp. 550-551; 1]. They belonged to Kimak in the 8th and 9th centuries. The Kipchaks who migrated west to the end of the sixth and 7th centuries shared with Kimaks on the left bank of the Irtysh River and occupied the Ishim and Tobel River valleys. Since that time, the Kipchak tribal alliances intensified, allied with the Khazars and invading the Caucasus. In 722-728 they reached Arran (Azerbaijan) and Armenia, and in 765 - the territories of Georgia. In the ninth century, the Kipchaks moved westward, occupying the upper reaches of the Ural River and the deserts near the river Or and Ilek (left river). In the IX-X centuries they conquered the Emba and Volga region and were adjacent to the Pechenegs, Kanhli, Yuks and other Turkic-speaking tribes. These tribes later became addicted to the Kipchaks. In the middle of the 10th century, the Kipchaks became independent and intensified at the end of the 10th and

early 11th centuries and subordinated Kimakas to them.

The formation of kipchaks was influenced by many kaghli, Turkic-speaking tribes - uran (originating from Eastern Turkestan in the 10th century), bayat, azkishi and turkeshes, karluks and chighils. As the political power of the Kipchaks grew, different tribes and ethnic groups united around the Kipchaks and adopted the Kipchak ethnonym. But the formation of Kipchaks as a people was interrupted by the Mongol invasion [4, P.51-53]

In the 8th-9th centuries, large Turkic-speaking tribes lived in the Pechenegs, Kanhli, and their own ethnic groups, from the northwestern Aral Sea to the Volga River.

The Pechenegs occupied the VIII-IX centuries on the territory between the Ural River and the Volga River. Some of them reached the Ural River to the east of the Uile River and to the north of the Ural Mountains.

Uzs lived east of the pechenegs [21, P.365-370]. Most of them were located in the middle and lower reaches of the Emba, Uile and Ural rivers. In the VI-VIII centuries the Uzs were part of the Western Turkic empire, and in the first half of the 8th century they were part of Turkeshes. After the conquest of Ettsuv, a group of them settled in the northwestern Aral Sea region. The other part of them remained in the middle stream of the Syrdarya and became part of the Oguz. In the late 9th century, they allied themselves with the Khazars, attacking the Pechenegs and expelling them. The Pechenegs had to migrate from the Volga to the southern Russian deserts.

The grazing areas of the Pechenegs were gained by Uzs did not stay there long. The Kipchaks, northeast of Uzs, attacked and expelled them in the middle of the tenth century. Like the Pechenegs, Uzs also left their land and crossed into the South Russian steppes and settled on the left bank of the Don River.

One of the larger associations was Oghuzs. The earliest information on them was mentioned in Arabic-Persian sources of the IX-X centuries. At that time, the Oghuz lived in the lower and middle reaches of the Syrdarya, in the deserts close to the Aral Sea, in the western regions of present-day Turkmenistan. According to Istahri, during his time (X century), the Oghuzs lived in the deserts of the northeast of the Caspian Sea [21, P.370-372]

Some groups of Oghuz people lived in the Shash oasis (Keles steppe, Ugam and Chatkal mountain slopes) with karluks. The Oguz, who converted to the Muslim religion, settled in towns and villages in the oasis.

During VIII-IX centuries tribes living in Dzhungaria, East Turkestan and Zhetysu (kay, sariq, bayat, mukri, etc.) moved to Syrdarya coast and



joined the Oghuzs. Thus, in the VIII-IX centuries the Oguzs formed a large tribal alliance in the territories near Syrdarya and the Aral Sea. At the end of the ninth century the Oguz state was formed on the basis of this tribal alliance.

CONCLUSION

Consequently, as we have seen, in the 7th-9th centuries, many tribes with nomadic lifestyles lived in northeastern Central Asia, the strongest and largest of which established other states around their tribes and established their own states. These tribal alliances greatly influenced the ethno-political and ethno-cultural processes in the Central Asian region.

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