



CONTRIBUTION OF RUSSIAN AND EUROPEAN SCIENTISTS TO THE STUDY OF THE HISTORICAL PAST OF SAMARKAND AND ITS SURROUNDINGS IN THE XIX-FIRST HALF OF THE XX CENTURY

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ANNOTATION

The article is devoted to the contribution and merits of Russian and European scientists in the scientific description, study, and research of geography, geology, flora, fauna, climate, and history of Central Asia, including Samarkand and its environs, in the second half of the XIX - early XX century. Thanks to the established reliable scientific foundation of Russian and European scientists, naturalists, travelers, diplomats, and other representatives, broad prospects for the development of science have opened up. The material presented in the article indicates that Russian and European travelers and scientists have made a considerable contribution to the study of the history, ethnography, economy, and political system of Samarkand and its environs. With their works, they introduced the Russian and the world community to various data about the region.

KEYWORDS: *Samarkand, Zarafshan, Russian and European natural scientists, research, scientific knowledge, scientific study, culture, archaeological work, monumental architecture, expedition, ancient and early medieval period.*

INTRODUCTION

The study of the millennial history of Central Asia peoples in their multinational culture, rooted in the distant past, is one of the most outstanding achievements of archaeological science. The origins of historical ties between the peoples of Central Asia and the Russian people go back centuries. Archaeologists found numerous treasures indicate that trade and ambassadorial ties have existed between Central Asia, Russia, and Europe for a long time. In the course of trade exchanges, various material values were exchanged, which, in addition to communication, also contributed to the rapprochement of the peoples of Central Asia with the Russian and other peoples. Along with establishing contacts with Central Asia, acquaintance with this region and information accumulation went in parallel. Much credit for the study of Central Asia belongs to Russian and European scientists and travelers.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Considering the degree of study of the topic, it is necessary first to dwell on the authors A.N. Castagne, V.A. Shishkina, A.Yu. Yakubovsky [2,4,9], which presents various types of scientific reporting on archaeological, topographic, reconnaissance, and other studies carried out in Central Asia, including in Samarkand and its environs. In the work of N.A. Khalfin [5] is dedicated to E.K. Meyendorf and his trip to Bukhara, the central place is occupied by the Bukhara Khanate; a third of the entire edition is dedicated to him. The author provides information about Samarkand, Merv, Katta-kurgan, Vabkent, Chardzhuy, Karakul, and other cities and villages, paying attention to cities' history and layout of the ethnic composition of the population, its crafts, occupations of residents, etc. Many authors can also be noted who report on the history and material culture of Central Asia peoples. Among them, a special place is occupied by V.V. Barthold [1], read at the University and at the Leningrad Institute of Living Oriental Languages on



the history of the study of the East in Europe and Russia, which also provides extensive bibliographic references. Of particular interest are the works of European scientists and travelers devoted to Samarkand, Bukhara, etc. Among them, it is necessary to note the work of E.A. Eversman [3], which is distinguished by a specific detail, liveliness of presentation, attention to individual trifles, not devoid, however, of scientific and practical interest. This book in German contains a large amount of valuable information about the fauna and flora of Central Asia (the region of Kyzyl-Kum, Nurata mountains, and Bukhara oasis). The book by A. Burns [8] in English, describing a trip to Bukhara, contains valuable information about the history, socio-economic situation, material culture of the Bukhara Emirate.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The methodology for writing this article is based on the principles of independence and a civilizational approach to the historical process. Also, speaking about the article's methodology, it was used methods of selection and classification of material, comparative analysis of the facts, opinions, and conclusions, and the method of historicism and objectivity. The principle of historicism and objectivity made it possible to study the issue's historiography in its species diversity.

ANALYSIS AND RESULTS

The brilliant discoveries of the ancient agricultural civilization in South Uzbekistan with the most ancient proto-city centers of the developed and late Bronze Age, the discovery of monumental architecture and monuments of the fine art of ancient and early medieval times on the territory of Uzbekistan - this is only part of the considerable work that was carried out in the XX century, especially intensively in the second half of the century, by forces specialists from scientific institutions.

The first diaries and notes of Russian and European travelers about Central Asia are distinguished by their too naive character because they are limited to cursory observations and impressions. This was because many authors, being military men, photographers, or scientists of another profile, did not even know what a settlement and a settlement were, especially in Central Asia's conditions. Settlements or settlements, i.e., artificial hills (the local population call «тепа»), found in large numbers in all the oases of Central Asia, were called by the first Russian or European scientists «mounds» left by nomadic pastoralist tribes [2]. By this time, such mounds were already known in the south of

Russia [4]. Even the archaeologist V.V. Radlov, who had previously excavated burial mounds in the Semirechensk region after a trip to the Zarafshan valley in 1869, reports that he saw huge mounds, which he takes for ancient burial mounds of the cattle-breeding population [9].

The earliest information about Central Asia became known after the trip to the Bukhara Emirate organized by the tsarist government, carried out from October 1820 to March 1821 [5]. The head of the embassy was the actual state councilor, A.F. Negri. He worked in the foreign policy department and spoke Turkish and Persian. The mission of A.F. Negri, in addition to his direct duties as an ambassador, also included obligations to collect materials about natural resources, the rulers of the Central Asian khanates and their relations with each other, as well as foreign policy relations with Afghanistan, Iran, the Ottoman Empire, the economic and political situation in these countries, as well as in North India. The Russian Empire was also interested in transport issues, especially the possibilities of navigation along the Syrdarya and the Amudarya. The ambassadors were instructed to determine what European goods are needed there and where they are received from [6]. The embassy also included the naturalist E.A. Eversman (later a prominent specialist in natural sciences) and the captain of the General Staff of the Guards E.K. Meyendorff, and many other employees. The trip was very successful, apparently because of this, many periodicals – «Siberian Bulletin», «Notes of the Fatherland», «Historical, statistical and geographical journal», «European Bulletin», provided their pages for publishing information about the Russians visiting the Bukhara Khanate diplomats [7].

In 1823 in Berlin, the book by E.A. Eversman, «Travel from Orenburg to Bukhara» was published in German [3]. The embassy took away a valuable oriental manuscript, «Tarikh-i Mukimi-khani» («Mukimkhanov's story»), and later it was published by the orientalist O.I. Senkovsky in French [1].

In 1822, E.K. Meyendorff published in the journal «Northern Archive» a note «Brief outline of the Russian embassy's journey from Orenburg to Bukhara in 1820». A monograph by E.K. Meyendorff was published on the same topic in 1826 in French.

The publication of E.K. Meyendorff's book in French was closely related to the fact that at the beginning of the XIXth century, French oriental studies occupied one of the top places in the world. This book was published as they say, «at the right time and in the right place». In the same year, it was published in Berlin in German. E.K. Meyendorff was not in Samarkand, but the book «Travel from Orenburg to Bukhara» contains data for Samarkand



and the regions neighboring Samarkand: Jizzakh, Ura-Tyube, Karshi, Shakhrisabse, etc.

After the publication of «Travels from Orenburg to Bukhara» and «Mukimkhanov Chronicle» («Tarikh-i Mukim-Khani»), a book by the Englishman A. Burns [8] was published in Europe (Russian translation of this book was published in 1848-1849), which became the primary sources of information about Bukhara, Samarkand, and the surrounding area.

The Bukhara expedition of 1841, under the leadership of V. Lehman and M. Bogoslovsky, was a significant milestone on this path. Having passed up the Zarafshan River, the expedition discovered several mineral deposits. The expedition members published many precious natural-historical and geographical works, among which the «Description of the Bukhara Khanate» by N.V. Khanykov, translated into English, French, and German. This work was a kind of encyclopedia about the life, traditions, history, and culture of the Bukhara Emirate peoples.

The military also made a significant contribution to Central Asia's study, who, having arrived in this region, became researchers. For example, the head of military operations in Turkestan, Lieutenant General D.I. Romanovsky was also a researcher. His work «Notes on the Central Asian Question» (1868), published by him, has not lost its scientific value to this day. Among military researchers, a group of border guard officers occupies a special place. Captain A. Kuznetsov and Colonel V. Zaitsev left valuable research on the nature and history of the region. Research on the ethnography of the Pamirs by Lieutenant Colonel A.E. Snesev - one of the founders of the Russian school of geopolitics.

A new stage in the study of the Turkestan region's nature and productive forces began in the second half of the 19th century. Scientific institutions and societies of the Russian Empire played a significant role in natural science research. In the second half of the XIX - early XX century, Russian scientists A.P. Fedchenko, V.F. Oshanina, N.A. Severtsova, I.V. Mushketova, G. D. Romanovsky, P.P. Semenov-Tyan-Shanskiy, D.L. Ivanova, G.E. Grumm-Grzhimailo, V.L. Komarova, S.I. Korzhinsky, B.A. Fedchenko, O. A. Fedchenko, N.L. Korzhenevsky, D.V. Nalivkina, N.I. Vavilov and others, modern ideas about geography, geology, climate, flora, and fauna of Central Asia were laid.

In 1877, the Fergana-Pamir expedition was led by N.V. Mushketova and N.A. For the first time in world science, Severtsova identified the proper relief and prepared a geological substantiation of the Pamir-Alai system. The first map of the Pamirs published by them practically does not differ from the modern one. The famous Russian traveler N.M.

Przhevalsky became famous for his studies of Central Asia. His associate P.K. Kozlov was also one of Central Asia's explorers, collected the wealthiest collections of fauna and flora, studied archaeological sites.

The life of V.G. Grombchevsky, who was sent by the tsarist government in 1886 to the Tien Shan, is truly admirable. He walked and surveyed almost 1000 miles of the way. In 1888 he walked 2800 miles through the little or not at all explored areas of the Pamirs, part of the Hindu Kush, some Indus sources. He made a route survey of 1,383 versts, identified 14 astronomical points, 158 heights, collected various collections.

In 1884, the first geological map of the Turkestan region was published. The first hydro meteorological stations appeared. The involvement of the Turkestan Territory in the sphere of economic and scientific interests of Russia, despite the colonial policy of tsarism, contributed to the acquaintance of residents with more advanced agricultural, industrial, and transport equipment, various methods of land cultivation, new agricultural crops (potatoes, sugar beets, oats, tomatoes, etc.).

Russian scientists were genuine researchers in the scientific study of the Central Asian region. N.I. Veselovsky, V.V. Grigoriev, V.V. Barthold, and other researchers laid the foundation for the scientific study of the history of Central Asia and also educated a galaxy of their followers. In challenging conditions, without means and scientific equipment, in the absence of transport, often with danger to life, overcoming incredible difficulties, Russian natural scientists studied the geographical location, flora, fauna, minerals, history, and ethnography of this region. Professor of the Department of History of the East of St. Petersburg University N.I. Veselovsky has the experience of creating an essay on the history of the peoples of Central Asia. In 1886 in Kazan, V.P. Nalivkin published «A Brief History of the Kokand Khanate», written on the basis of a thorough study of a number of primary sources. Representatives of Russian science, especially orientalists, were able to show the world significance of the history and culture of the peoples of Central Asia.

A special place among Russian orientalists belongs to academician V.V. Barthold. Central Asia's socio-economic and political history received in-depth and comprehensive coverage in his works, a significant part of which entered the golden fund of world science and has not lost its significance to this day. The most important of these is Turkestan in the era of the Mongol conquest, published twice in 1898 and 1900 and containing the complete analysis of the data of early medieval Arab and Persian historians and ethnographers. Essay by V.V. Barthold's «History of the cultural life of Turkestan» is the first



scientific work in world historiography, where, based on a careful study of the entire set of written sources, V.V. Barthold outlined many significant milestones in history, starting from the 1st millennium BC and until the late Middle Ages. He published over 400 scientific works in the form of monographs, articles, reviews, and notes and wrote many articles in the «Encyclopedia of Islam».

From the end of the XIX - the beginning of the XX centuries, an extensive study of the Turkestan Territory began. Russian natural scientists have developed geographical maps, schematic maps of the located glaciers and ridges of high-mountainous regions. Orography, geology, glaciation, limnology, and vegetation have been thoroughly studied. Deposits of coal and other minerals were discovered.

Russian natural scientists collected the wealthiest collections of insects and plants, compiled maps and schemes of floristic zoning, and began a stationary study of the region's nature. Russian scientists introduced and cultivated cabbage, potatoes, cucumbers, and even thermophilic tomatoes.

The foundations of the successes of Central Asian archeology and the flourishing it experienced were laid back in the mid-30s of the twentieth century, when such expeditions as Termez, Semirechensk, Fergana, Nizhnezaravshan were organized, which were faced with the task of obtaining new sources for recreating the history of the peoples of Central Asia, for solving complex problems of the history of the social system of the peoples of the East and, in particular, the social system of the peoples of pre-Muslim Central Asia. Then and later, research in Central Asia was led and participated in by such prominent scientists as A.M. Belenitsky, A.N. Bernshtam, Ya.G. Gulyamov, G.F. Debets, M.M. Dyakonov, B. A.A. Kuftin, M.E. Masson, A.P. Okladnikov, A.I. Terenozhkin, V.A. Shishkin, A.Yu. Yakubovsky and others.

CONCLUSION/RECOMMENDATIONS

Hence, the material presented in this article shows that Russian and European travelers and scientists have made an enormous contribution to the study of history, ethnography, economics, and the political system of the Turkestan region and Samarkand and its environs. With their works, they introduced the Russian and the world community to various data about the region and its regions. The introduction of the peoples of Central Asia to Russian culture influenced the formation of local educational scientific and technical thought in the XIX - early XX centuries. The mass of scientific knowledge, the substantial factual material accumulated by Russian natural scientists, is in many ways unique. Therefore it acquires exceptional value in current conditions.

The volume of scientific knowledge in any era includes a particular layer, consisting of accumulated information and methodological concepts necessary for further developing science. The works of Russian and European scientists who studied the geology, geography, soil, flora, and fauna of Central Asia were significant for science, which to a certain extent contributed to some development of the productive forces.

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