

THE ATLAS OF UZBEKS - THE MASTERPIECE OF UZBEKS**M.Y. Suvonova***Teacher at Karshi State University*ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0009-0007-8269-1931>Email: suvonov a8100@gmail.com

Annotation: Our national fabric, satin, is a product made from natural silk and is also important for human health. All products made from natural silk are among the most competitive in the world, including satin fabric.

Keywords: Atlas, adras, silk, national fabric, abr, khan-atlas, clothing, fiber, thread, patterns, flowers, weaving, handicrafts, cotton, arkog thread, colors.

When we say Atlas, we imagine a rainbow of different colors, a fabric that sparkles, shines, dazzles, attracts attention, and captivates in an instant. In fact, I think that our high assessment of this fabric and the definitions given above are very few. Because none of the countries in the world has such an antique **ATLAS** fabric. Only in our sunny Uzbekistan, it was first woven by the Kokand Khan Khudoyorkhan.

It is known from ancient history that in our country, silk fabrics were produced from high-quality fabrics, which were incomparable in beauty. These fabrics were taken by merchants from the early Middle Ages to all the countries of the East, from China to the ancient Transoxiana, along the Great Silk Road, and gained fame. According to the information of the 10th-century historians - Narshahi, Maqsudi and other historians - about the fame of fabrics produced in Bukhara and Samarkand, our local fabrics were in demand in Baghdad, Khorasan, Syria, Byzantium, and Egypt. Fabric production was associated with the life of the people, based on crafts, and its historical fate. In the middle of the 19th century, various types of high-quality fabrics were produced in Bukhara, Margilan, Namangan, Samarkand, Shahrizabz, and Khujand. The Atlas of Uzbeks serves as both a geographical and historical guide to the lands once known as the heart of the ancient Silk Road. The land, rich with ancient cities like Samarkand, Bukhara, and Khiva, has long been a cultural crossroads. As a country that has witnessed the rise and fall of empires, the atlas offers a bird's-eye view of how these regions have transformed over the centuries.

One of the most striking aspects of this masterpiece is the seamless blend of modern and ancient cartography. From the early settlements of the Persian Empire to the time of the Timurids and the Uzbek Khanates, the atlas not only showcases the geographic boundaries but also traces the movements and cultural influences that shaped the Uzbek people. Its intricate maps tell stories of conquest, trade, migration, and the continuous dialogue between East and West that has defined Uzbekistan's place in world history.

Uzbekistan, the Fergana Valley holds a special place in the production of national silk fabrics. The cities of Margilan and Namangan are a rich source of silk weaving traditions.

The name and types of Margilan satin became known and famous in seven climates. The city was called the "City of Silk". First of all, if we turn to the history of satin weaving, which is an ancient occupation of the city's people, it is known that silk production has been developed in Margilan since ancient times. One of our historians wrote about this: "It is worth paying the entire land tax of Bukhara for a single curtain woven in Margilan."

Indeed, our silk workers have long exhibited their fabrics around the world. The most attractive, most charming fabric of the finished product made from silk is satin.

Atlas is a soft, single-faced fabric woven from natural silk, with a smooth, non-woven texture and decorated with colorful patterns using the abr technique.

There is a legend that the master who first wove the atlas took the patterns from the different reflections of the clouds on the horizon at sunset. That is why in ancient times, atlas and adras fabrics were called "Abr" fabrics. After all, the word "Abr" is Persian and means cloud.

The origin of abr patterns is explained in the legends of Central Asian folklore. One legend says that abr patterns were first created as an imitation of the reflection of clouds in the sky on the surface of a pond. Another legend compares them to the spreading of oil spilled into a pond and the color of a rainbow. Depending on the type of weaving, abr fabrics are divided into 2 groups: adras and atlas.



Atlas is woven from natural silk. In adras, tanda thread is made from silk, and arkog thread is made from cotton thread. According to the master from Margilan, Mirzokirov, in 1856, atlases were first woven by order of the Khan of Kokand, Khudoyorkhan. That is why they are called "khan-atlas". To this day, atlases are called by different names. The names are based on the composition of the weaver. For example, they are called Anorgul, Kiprik, Chumoli, Tumorcha, Kosagul, Sirga, Tomchi and others. Uzbekistan's art and architecture stand as a testament to its long and storied past. The Atlas showcases some of the most iconic examples of Uzbek craftsmanship. The intricate tile work, stunning mosques, and majestic madrassas reflect the deep Islamic roots intertwined with local traditions. The architectural splendor of Samarkand's Registan Square or the historical significance of the Ark Fortress in Bukhara is rendered in high-detail illustrations, bringing forth the grandeur of these structures.

Moreover, the atlas includes references to traditional Uzbek art forms such as suzani (embroidered textiles), ceramics, and calligraphy, which have been passed down through generations. These forms of art are not merely decorative; they carry within them centuries of cultural knowledge and wisdom, making them invaluable in the exploration of the country's history and traditions.

The patterns of satin fabrics can be divided into several groups: the most common are those consisting of everyday objects, plants and animals. In addition, there are geometric shapes, namely circles, rhombuses, straight and curved lines. It should be noted that only the geometric shapes are clearly visible, while the rest are so symbolic that they are difficult to read. The Atlas of Uzbeks is not just about looking back; it also serves as a bridge to the future. As a country located on one of the world's most important trade routes – the Silk Road – Uzbekistan's strategic position has been the reason for its cultural openness and exchange. Through this historical lens, the Atlas explores how Uzbekistan influenced the art, architecture, and scientific knowledge of surrounding regions.

The Silk Road's legacy is not only visible in the material culture but also in the intellectual pursuits of Uzbekistan's past. The country was home to renowned scholars and scientists such as Avicenna (Ibn Sina) and Al-Biruni, whose contributions to medicine, mathematics, and astronomy shaped the development of knowledge in both the Islamic world and Europe. The Atlas pays homage to these intellectual giants, reminding the world of the far-reaching impact of Uzbekistan on global civilization.

Today, it is difficult to imagine modern clothes without silk. Clothes made of adras and atlas fabrics were worn at ceremonial ceremonies, weddings, national holidays, and even military campaigns. Even the soldiers of Iskandar Zulqaynar wore blue silk outerwear as a sign of courage and bravery. At one time, there were attempts to destroy our national clothes. It was repeatedly said that we should not wear atlas shirts, capes, and skullcaps. But thanks to our independence, the memory of our ancestors in our hearts, and our respect for them, we returned to our national clothes while preserving our national values. Today, many people understand that national clothes are a part of our national culture. Therefore, at the "Atlas Day" holiday, which we hold every spring at Karshi State University, our respect for our traditions and values is demonstrated precisely through these national clothes. The main goal of this holiday is to encourage our youth to honor our values, preserve them, and further increase their respect for our national fabrics. By compiling this treasure trove of cultural, historical, and artistic wealth, the atlas serves not only as a historical record but also as a symbol of the unity and strength that has defined the Uzbek people for centuries.

In the face of globalization and rapid change, the Atlas stands as a reminder of the importance of cultural heritage and the preservation of national identity. For the Uzbeks, it is a symbol of their continuing journey, a celebration of their past, and a beacon for future generations to remain proud of their roots while looking towards a bright and prosperous future.

Conclusion. As the organizer of the Atlas Holiday, I consider it one of my important tasks to widely promote our national fabric, the mirror of our nation, the satin fabric, to our students. Uzbek culture and Uzbek fabric, has spread throughout the world, and we should be proud of this.

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