

THE DEPICTION OF THE HISTORY OF THE CITIES OF THE TASHKENT OASIS IN THE RESEARCH OF YURIY FYODOROVICH BURYAKOV

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Annotation: This article analyzes the scientific research of Academician Yuriy Fyodorovich Buryakov dedicated to the study of the archaeological monuments of the Tashkent oasis. It examines the methodological approaches applied, the historical conclusions drawn from archaeological sources, and the scholar's role in historiography. In addition, the article evaluates Buryakov's scientific legacy and his contribution to the study of the history of the Tashkent oasis.

Keywords: Buryakov, Tashkent, Choch, Chirchiq, Fergana, Angren, excavations, urbanization, ancient times, Central Asia, underground resources.

Introduction. During the years of independence, large-scale research was carried out in Uzbekistan aimed at revisiting history and restoring the true historical picture. The Tashkent oasis, as one of the most ancient centers of civilization in Central Asia, holds great historical significance. The history of this region has been studied by many local and foreign scholars, among whom the research of academician Yuriy Fyodorovich Buryakov plays an especially important role in this field. This article analyzes the archaeological investigations conducted by Buryakov, as well as their place and significance in historiography.

The Tashkent oasis has a history spanning several millennia and has been known by different names in different periods. Information about the oasis has been recorded in Chinese, Arabic, and Persian sources since ancient times. In particular, Ibn Khurdadhbih's *Kitab al-Masalik wa'l-Mamalik (Book of Roads and Kingdoms)*, Al-Istakhri's *Ahsan al-Taqasim fi Ma'rifat al-Aqalim (The Best Divisions for Knowledge of the Regions)*, Al-Baladhuri's *Futuh al-Buldan (The Conquests of Lands)*, and Xuanzang's *Da Tang Xiyu Ji (Great Tang Records on the Western Regions)* are among such works.¹

Buryakov's scholarly works served not only to analyze the historical development of the Tashkent oasis in a local context but also to examine it within the broader framework of Central Asian civilization. He highlighted the importance of the Shash oasis along the Great Silk Road and its role in international trade and cultural exchange. At the same time, Buryakov systematically studied the architectural styles, urban features, and transformations of the cities of the Tashkent oasis across different periods.

In his research, Buryakov employed a comprehensive approach, making use of various disciplines such as archaeology, topography, numismatics, and toponymy. In determining the stages of development of the ancient and medieval cities of the Tashkent oasis, he correlated archaeological findings with written sources.

When studying the scholarly works of historians, it is necessary first to thoroughly examine the scientific research they carried out within a specific field, as well as the monographs and academic literature they produced. In analyzing the research of the historian Yu. F. Buryakov, we have sought to present in a systematic manner the scholar's contribution to the development

¹ Буряков, Ю. Ф., Касымов, М. Р., & Ростовцев, О. М. (1973). *Археологические памятники Ташкентской области*. Ташкент: ФАН. – с.33.

of the field, his analysis of the stages of development of our country's archaeology and urban culture, and his theoretical perspectives on these processes.

The literature review shows that academician Yu. F. Buryakov conducted his research on the history of our country, the life of its cities, and the transformations within them in accordance with the principle of objectivity.

Buryakov's studies are an important source for understanding the urban culture and socio-economic development of the Tashkent oasis. In his research, alongside written sources, special attention was given to a comprehensive analysis of archaeological monuments. In addressing historical-topographical issues, he also drew upon the results of numismatics, toponymy, and other auxiliary sciences. This contributed to his research being highly valued by the academic community.

This article examines the scholarly activity of the Soviet and Uzbek archaeologist Yuriy Fyodorovich Buryakov, in particular his research on the ancient cities of the Tashkent oasis. The study employs methods such as historical-source analysis, comparative analysis of archaeological materials, and the historical-geographical approach.

First, Buryakov's works (monographs, articles, and expedition reports) were analyzed using the method of content analysis. Through this, the formation of the author's scholarly views, methodological approaches, and historical conclusions were examined.

Second, the results of Buryakov's archaeological excavations were compared with modern scientific approaches in order to assess the relevance of his methodology and its significance today.

Third, using the historical-reconstructive method, the developmental stages and cultural layers of the ancient cities studied by Buryakov were re-examined.

In addition, through a historical-bibliographical approach, secondary sources on Buryakov (articles and commentaries written by other scholars) were analyzed. This method made it possible to determine how Buryakov's scholarly legacy has been evaluated by other researchers.

Discussion. The Tashkent oasis is one of the most ancient and culturally rich regions of Central Asia, where the earliest forms of human civilization appeared as early as the first millennia BCE. The peoples who inhabited the oasis, their economy, urban planning, and cultural life are first described in ancient Chinese, Arabic, and Persian geographical and historical works. In particular, authors such as Ibn Khurdadhbih, Al-Istakhri, Al-Baladhuri, and Xuanzang provided important information in their writings about the cities of the Tashkent oasis, their role along trade routes, and their socio-economic conditions.

Academician Yuriy Fyodorovich Buryakov, building upon these historical foundations and sources, made a significant contribution to the in-depth archaeological and historical study of the Tashkent oasis. As one of the most prominent representatives of Uzbek archaeology in the second half of the 20th century and the early 21st century, he conducted systematic excavations at ancient cities located in the oasis, including Mingtepa, Qovunchitepa, Shoshtepa, Achamaytepa, and other sites.

In Buryakov's research, special attention was given to the developmental stages of the cities of the Tashkent oasis, their urban structure, defense systems, religious and economic centers. Particularly noteworthy is his approach to the history of Shosh (Tashkent), which was based on historical and archaeological evidence, demonstrating that urban life in this area had already existed since pre-Christian times. Furthermore, Buryakov presented scientifically grounded conclusions regarding Shosh's political-territorial status and economic role both before and after the Arab conquest, relying on archaeological findings.

One of the remarkable aspects of his research is that he regarded archaeological finds not merely as artifacts but as tools for reconstructing the historical context. For instance, through the analysis of excavated palaces, temples, craft workshops, ceramic artifacts, and coins, he was able to determine the socio-economic and cultural development of ancient Shosh. In addition, Buryakov paid particular attention to issues concerning water facilities, agricultural systems, and population density in the oasis.

Results. The climatic conditions of the Tashkent oasis, along with the diversity of its flora and fauna, indicate that this territory was first inhabited by communities of hunters, fishermen, and gatherers. These ancient peoples left behind traces in caves, open settlements, stone tools, and works of rock art. Later, nomadic and semi-nomadic pastoral tribes emerged in the steppe and mountainous regions. They were representatives of the Bronze Age culture, spread across territories from the Caspian Sea to Siberia.² These facts demonstrate that the prolonged presence of nomadic and semi-nomadic tribes in this area made the Tashkent oasis significant not only for agriculture and handicrafts but also for pastoralism and trade. This is further confirmed by the widespread distribution of Bronze Age culture and its representatives across regions from the Caspian to Siberia.

Based on Buryakov's research, an analysis of the historical development of the Tashkent oasis reveals that the region's geographical location and natural resources made it a strategically and economically important center from ancient times. From this perspective, Buryakov's studies show that the Tashkent oasis has always been a vital hub of large-scale migrations and cultural exchanges. In analyzing the history of Central Asia, it becomes evident that precisely such regions were the driving force behind major civilizational leaps. This fact demonstrates that the Tashkent oasis did not lose its strategic significance in subsequent historical stages.

In the mountainous areas of Tashkent province, mining and metallurgy developed from ancient times. Distinctive bronze bracelets, characteristic of Tashkent and southern Kazakhstan, were widely distributed. Large burial mounds, pottery decorated with triangular motifs, bronze bracelets, and various metal objects have been preserved from that period.

During the Early Iron Age, the territory of Tashkent became the habitat of Scythian tribes. According to some hypotheses, when Alexander the Great crossed the Syr Darya in present-day Sogdiana, he encountered precisely these tribes. At that time, cemeteries furnished with bronze spears, arrowheads, and other metal objects began to appear.

Subsequently, an agricultural culture developed in this area, leading to the formation of permanent villages and towns. The Tashkent oasis became a major center of economic and cultural interaction between nomadic pastoralists of Asia and sedentary farming communities.

From the first centuries BCE, Tashkent became part of the large but insufficiently studied Kang state. This state encompassed vast territories from the Syr Darya to the Aral Sea, at times even including the regions of Samarkand and Bukhara. Chinese sources describe the Kang state as follows: "*Kang is a powerful and brave state. It places Chinese envoys in a lower position than those of the Usun state.*"³

Within the Kang state, agricultural culture reached a high level and was closely linked with local nomadic tribes. Excavations at the Qovunchi mounds in Tashkent province reflect the culture of this period.⁴

² Буряков Ю. Ф. (1982). Генезис и этапы развития городской культуры Ташкентского оазиса. Ташкент: ФАН. – с.155.

³ Буряков, Ю. Ф. (1967). Древние города в Ташкенте. *Строитель Ташкента*. – с.95.

⁴ Буряков, Ю. Ф. (1965). О местонахождении «Серебряного рудника Шаша». *ОНУ*, (12). – с.4.

The above information illustrates how Tashkent province developed over long historical periods and highlights its economic and cultural significance. In our view, the formation of this region as one of the centers of mining and metallurgy since ancient times played a crucial role in its development. Where metallurgical technologies advanced, handicrafts, military power, and trade relations naturally flourished. The widespread presence of bronze bracelets and metal artifacts in Tashkent and southern Kazakhstan indicates the population's advanced skills in metalworking.

The settlement of Scythian tribes in the region during the Early Iron Age, their warrior culture, and nomadic lifestyle constitute an important aspect of the history of the Tashkent oasis. The Scythians, militarily powerful and highly mobile, actively participated in ancient international events. The hypotheses linking them to Alexander the Great's campaigns confirm that this area was of strategic importance and served as one of the key points of military activity in its time.

Later, the development of agricultural culture in the Tashkent oasis demonstrates the establishment of a stable lifestyle in the region. The synthesis of nomadic pastoral and sedentary agricultural cultures served as an economically stable and socially enriching factor, fostering cultural interactions among different ethnic groups.

Thus, the developmental trajectory of the Tashkent oasis was shaped not only by the influence of external forces but also by the cultural, economic, and military activities of the local population. This underscores the necessity of studying the region in its own historical context. In this regard, Buryakov's archaeological research and analyses based on written sources play a significant role in determining the past importance of this area.

Today, the study of archaeological monuments in Tashkent province is carried out with the participation of the wider public. Efforts in preserving and researching historical monuments involve not only specialists but also local historians, students, pupils, and enthusiasts.⁵

Numerous historical sources provide information on the geographical location and economic role of the city of Chach. Located in the Syr Darya valley in the northeastern part of Central Asia, Chach long served as a center of trade and handicrafts. Medieval Arabic, Persian, and Chinese sources note that Chach was a region of considerable economic and cultural development.

In the 7th century, the Chinese traveler Xuanzang emphasized that there were dozens of large and small cities in the Chach region. By the 10th century, historians described Chach and the Eloq region as among the most developed provinces of the Islamic world. At that time, the great number of mosques in Chach reflected the city's prominent status in urban life.

Conclusion. Buryakov's research holds great significance as one of the key sources for studying the historical development and cultural heritage of the Tashkent oasis. Through his investigations, it is possible to trace the continuous processes of urban cultural development in the region.

This, in turn, enables a comprehensive understanding of the historical evolution of the area. His studies serve as a fundamental source for future generations of historians and provide a foundation for further research on the history of the Tashkent oasis.

The works of Yuriy Fyodorovich Buryakov contributed to an in-depth and holistic analysis of the history of the Tashkent oasis. His archaeological approach not only aided in reconstructing the historical landscape but also laid the groundwork for future studies. Therefore, the scholarly value of Buryakov's legacy in historiography is truly invaluable.

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