



Economic Life In The Fergana Valley In The Early Middle Ages (Based On Early Medieval Chinese Sources)

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ABSTRACT

The article explores the early middle-age economic development of the Ferghana Valley in the Chinese source based on historical sources and literature. It also covers the development of agriculture, horticulture, livestock and mining in this valley.

Keywords:

Fergana, Ningyuan, Queyshang, gardening, Humin, livestock, riparian, mining, irrigated agriculture

Introduction

The lack of local written sources dating back to the early Middle Ages in Ferghana's history increases the relevance of Chinese sources.

Some work has been done on the study of Chinese written sources on the history of Ferghana in Tsarist Russia and Soviet sources. In this regard the research of N.J. Bichurin, N.V. Kuner, L.A. Borovkova, A.G. Malavkin is of great importance.

Information from the Chinese sources on the history of Ferghana was first reported to us through Russian translations by I.B.ichurin, N.V.Kuner, and A.V.Malyavkin [1, 3, 4]. The information contained in their works has served as a guide to discovering the unexplored aspects of the history of Ferghana in a timely manner.

During the years of independence, Chinese sources telling about the history of Central Asia were translated into Uzbek, in honor of the work of famous historian A.Khojaev, F.Jumaniyozova, Sh. Kuldashev. As a

result of this noble work, the source of the history of Uzbekistan is further enriched.

Chinese sources have provided us with valuable information about the economic life of the Ferghana Valley in addition to its political history. Analyzing the information presented in these sources, we can give a complete picture of the economic development of the early medieval Ferghana Valley.

Although not directly related to V-VIII centuries, the Chinese source of information about the early medieval Ferghana Valley is Jinshu (History of the Dynasties) [8, p. 780]. This resource also provides information on social life and marriage in Ferghana during the early Middle Ages. It says that the people of Ferghana were thoroughly engaged in trade and were professional at it. They made jewelry from the Chinese (Zhungguo) gold and do not use them for money. This means that much of the product was exported from Ferghana to China and converted to gold. The tradition of not using gold as money is reminiscent of the ancient Sax-Massaget tribes.

Results of a research

The historical source of "Vashish" was written by the historian of the palace Vey Shou in the 6th century [5, p. 78]. The information contained in it is also one of the primary sources for covering the history of the Ferghana Valley and its external relations [9, p. 965]. This source provides information on livestock, which is one of the main sectors of the economy. That is, the Fergana ruler sends a horse from the valley as a gift to the Chinese emperor [10: 282].

Another Chinese reference to Ferghana, written in the first half of the 7th century, is the "Beshi" (History of Northern Dynasties). It contains events from 386 to 618 years [5, p. 81]. This source also contains some notes on the progress of the leading industry in the Ferghana economy [10, p. 893]. The information contained therein reflects the views of the "Vashish" historical source.

Suysu (History of the Suy Dynasty) is a work of the history of Ferghana dating back to the 5th and 10th centuries. Due to the fact that the Sui and Tang empires had a serious relationship with the Turkish khanate, the information about the Turks is important in the work [5, p. 80]. Another noteworthy feature of this work is the fact that for the first time between Chinese sources, Fergana minerals are discovered. According to it, much of the red sand, gold and iron is extracted in the valley [11, p. 559].

The relations between Fergana and China were more developed than during the Tang dynasty. Historical compositions of the Tang Empire, containing much more detailed and important information about Ferghana. One such important source is Tangshu (Tannin), which was completed by historians under the direction of Liu Hu in 941-945. This book contains valuable information on political events in Ferghana VIII [1, p. 319] and the participation of Fergana in the Battle of Talas [4, p. 329]. This work was rewritten by historians from 1044 to 1060 [12, p. 798]. The earliest Tang dynasty history was then called "Jyu Tangshu" (the previous Tang dynasty), and the later Dynasty history was called "Shin Tangshu" [5, p. 82].

The book Shin Tangshu states that there are six major, 100 small, major cities in Ferghana's economic life. Increasing the number of cities is undoubtedly a condition associated with economic development [5, p. 84; 6, p. 74; 12, p. 798].

The historic source "Taipei Hui Hui" (Peace Earth Statement) contains information about the rulers of Ferghana, its population and the nature of the valley. With this information we can highlight the dark pages of the history of the Ferghana Valley, which is mainly ancient and dominated by the Suy dynasty [1, p. 158]. The book states that the people of Fergana are deep, [men] bearded, tradable, respectful of women. The silk was not dyed on the floor of [Ferghana] unless it was made of canvas, and iron utensils were not made. The grapes make wine, and the rich have more than ten thousand pounds of wine. [Ferghana] The armor of the Ferghana is still intact for a few years, but it remains intact [1, p. 158]. According to the source, horticulture, silk and trade work flourished in Fergana in the early Middle Ages. Wines made from grape vines are particularly highlighted.

One of the Chinese traveler's works is Datang shiyuy ji (Memoirs of Western countries during the Great Crisis), written by the priest Suan Zang, who traveled to India during the Tang dynasty in the 7th century [2, p. 53]. The information he gives gives us important facts about the population of Ferghana in the 7th century. As an example, we can find information in the travel book that the language of the people of Fergana differs from that of the surrounding property [5, p. 84; 6, p. 119]. An important aspect of the work is the fact that the information contained in it is mainly credited with the author's own eyes [2, p. 53]. In addition, the work records the fertile lands of the valley, its livestock and gardening. They are fertile, well-cultivated, with lots of flowers and fruits, [natural conditions] are good for sheep and horses, wind and cold, people with a strong will, and the language of their people is different [5, p. 119]. According to the source, there is no single ruler in the valley and the state is divided into several

parts, but economic life has not stopped there and its various branches have developed.

Conclusions

Written by another Chinese traveler in the eighth century, Wangshu Tianju-guo chjuan (about a trip to 5 states in India), the author of the Korean Buddhist Huejiao traveled to India by sea and came to Central Asia in about 727. The information given by him gives us some information on the political situation in Ferghana in the first half of the 8th century. In particular, we find that Ferghana was divided in 727 by territorial division, from Syrdarya to northern Turks, and south by Arabs [5, p. 84; 6, p. 120]. This valley specifically mentions camel, sheep and horse breeding, various fabrics made of cotton, leather and cotton fabrics, and bread and bakery products. Hence, in the valley in the early Middle Ages, as well as livestock and horticulture, grain and technical crops were cultivated.

Another historic source written by a Chinese traveler is "Du Juan Jingshing Ji" (the memory of the places where Du Juan went) and its author was captured by the Arabs during the Battle of Talas in 751. Du Juan has been in various parts of Turkestan and Arab countries for 12 years [7, p. 42]. That is why the Ferghana information he cites is high [5, p. 84; 6, p. 122-123]. The author of this work, in addition to the comments cited in the Wangshu Tianju-guo Chuan: From this country to the West Sea [the Aral Sea], [the population] lives in mud houses, wears sheepskins and cotton fabrics, men and women wear boots, women do not use antimony, but only tumors. [5, p. 84; 6, p. 122-123].

According to the historical sources cited above, we can divide them into the history of the dynasties, the historical works by palace historians, and the historical works by Chinese travelers. Unfortunately, local sources have not been reached to date to compare them with the historical data. Nevertheless, as most of the authors of these works have traveled to Central Asia and personally saw this place, the information they provide is of great importance and credibility. At the same time, through these sources, we learn that in the early Middle Ages,

the economy developed in all forms of trade, irrigated agriculture, cereals and technical crops, horticulture and animal husbandry.

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