



Geographical features of the Zarafshan Valley's location regarding

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ABSTRACT

The article highlights the paleogeographic features of the Zarafshan Valley, which is part of the territory of Uzbekistan.

Keywords:

A.V. Vinogradov, L.M. Levina, B.V. Andrianov, E.D. Mamedov, N.U. Khalmatov, I.I. Usmanova, Zarafshan valley, Bukhara, Samarkand, Kyzylkum, Amu Daria, Syr Daria, Nurata, Mirzachul, Akcha Daria, Shurakhan, Sultan Uvays, Karakatin, Okhalik, Miran kul, Tepa kul, Sazagan, Aksay.

As a result of repeated geological processes, the Zarafshan Valley is composed of mountains and plains. These areas differ from each other in several geographical features, natural resources, river incision processes, and population distribution patterns. This geographical diversity is characteristic of the Zarafshan Valley. On the physical-geographical map of Uzbekistan, the Zarafshan Valley is depicted as having three parts: western, northern, and southern. This division includes the western part of the Bukhara oasis and the northern part of the middle Zarafshan (the territories of the Samarkand region). Its geographical and territorial-administrative division is distinct from that of the western and southern Zarafshan. Currently, the Middle Zarafshan territory is divided into two zones: its northern part belongs to the Republic of Tajikistan, while its middle section is located within the Samarkand region of Uzbekistan. Meanwhile, the term "Inner Kyzylkum Desert" has become established in various literary sources to describe the area between the Lower and Middle Zarafshan.

The Kyzylkum is suitable for land development by the majority of Uzbekistan's population. This article analyzes the paleogeography of the Zarafshan Valley based on the results of seismic surveys, highlighting the distinct features and differences in its geography, natural resources, water supply, and population distribution.

Based on the historical data presented in the introduction, we will discuss the results of the paleogeography of the Zarafshan Valley during the primitive communal system and the changes that occurred within it.

During the Quaternary period of Earth's history, as a result of repeated geological development, the Aral Basin was formed as a plain between the Kyzylkum Desert. According to A.V. Vinogradov, a member of the Khorezm expedition, the geographical location of the Kyzylkum Desert between the Amu Darya and Syr Darya rivers in the Zarafshan Valley was 300 thousand square kilometers [1.1981-Б. 14.].

The hydrological features of the lower and middle parts of the territory are described by the Amu Darya, Syr Darya, and Zarafshan rivers. It borders the Aral Sea in the northwest

and the Nuratau Mountains and Mirzachul in the southeast. The Kyzylkum, a plain in Uzbekistan, is considered a distinct paleogeographical landscape, but it is not difficult to observe that it is distinguished from others by its surface, division into regions, and hydrological features. For example, the northern part of the Zarafshan Valley is a plain, and the hydrological features that occurred on its surface are vividly demonstrated by the movement of the old tributaries of the Syr Daria, Zhana Daria, Kuvan Daria, and Inkar Daria [2.1998-C.43].

The eastern Aral Sea plain connects to the territory along the banks of the North Akcha Daria tributary, and their general geographical position is depicted by the Kyzylkum Desert, which connects to the territory of the Shurakhan village. The geographical landscape of this territory is continued by the southern part of the Akcha Daria tributary, and the geographical description of the territory of Sultan Uvays and Shurakhan is described by the Akcha Daria tributary, the Janbas qala height, and the Kukcha mountain range.

According to B.V. Andrianov's work, the territory of Sultan Uvays Mountain and Shurakhan covers 150 thousand hectares, and the population lived in the territory of Bukhara. Starting from the 4th millennium BC, they conducted various economic activities, and this process continues to this day [3.1969-C.98].

The geographical description of the territory of the village of Shurakhan is continued by the Lower Zarafshan Valley. The geographical landscape of the two regions is reflected by the Kyzylkum sand dunes, depressions, and mountain ranges. However, in the geographical landscape, they differ from each other in their unique characteristics. If the hydrological feature of the geographical landscape between Sultan Uvays and Shurakan was formed by a single tributary of the Akchadarya, then in the process of the Amu Darya flowing into the Aral Sea, it divided the plain into two parts.

The Lower Zarafshan has a different geographical characteristic, that is, the Zarafshan River does not divide the Kyzylkum into two parts; it moves within itself. Its movement is hindered by heights, 5 tributaries

that have branched out from it have turned the area between sand dunes into water bodies, as a result of which water bodies and lakes with hydrological properties prevail [4.1968-C.21-24].

The Lower Zarafshan Valley is located between Shurakhan and the inner Kyzylkum Desert and has its own unique geography. This geography is occupied by the inner Kyzylkum. In archaeological literature, the inner Kyzylkum is known as Lavlakan. In the southwestern part of this territory, in the eastern part of the Karakatin Basin of the Kyzylkum Desert, interconnected water bodies formed a geographical position. [5.1986-C.456-457]. The Inner Kyzylkum differs from the Lower Zarafshan in terms of geography and hydrology; a similar geographical situation can be observed in the Kyzylkum of the middle Zarafshan. In the Inner Kyzylkum, the geographical landscape is associated with freshwater basins, which also existed in the middle Zarafshan. The landscape of this territory was formed by Karatepa. The waters flowing from it represented the geographical landscape of the Okhalik, Mirankul, Tepakul, Egrikulcha, Sazagon, and Aksay rivers [6.2020-B.35]. In the research of I. Usmanova, the general aspects and specific features of the paleogeography of the Akchadarya basin and the Lower Zarafshan Valley were analyzed [7.2025-22 C.].

Based on the introduction and results, the following conclusions were made.

- The geographical features of the Lower Zarafshan Valley, the inner Kyzylkum, and the middle Zarafshan are similar, but there are differences in hydrological characteristics.

- The hydrological characteristics of the Lower Zarafshan Valley are described by the Zarafshan River and its Echkiliksoy, Dariasay, Makhan Daria, Ghujali, Ayaqaghitma, and Charbakti channels.

- Reflected the paleogeography of water bodies in the Inner Kyzylkum.

- The paleogeography of the Middle Zarafshan is represented by the Karatau massif, and streams formed as a result of streams flowing from it.

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