

THE ARAB CONQUEST OF SOUTHERN KAZAKHSTAN AND THE BEGINNING OF THE SPREAD OF ISLAM

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ABSTRACT

Today Islam is the prevailing religion of the people of Kazakhstan. Muslims constitute more than 70 % of the population. Kazakhs - Sunni Muslim religion. The spread of Islam on the territory of present-day Kazakhstan has been a history lasted for several centuries. Initially, Islam penetrated south of modern Kazakhstan in the VIII century. And by the end of the Xth century Islam had been established among the sedentary population in the Semirechie and the Syr Darya. Islam became the religion of Turkic empire Karakhanids arising in the Semirechie in the Xth century.

Thus, in the VIII-X centuries due to the increasing Arab Caliphate power in Central Asia and Kazakhstan, the Islamic religion has spread the growing influence of Arab culture. Arabic language on the territory of the Caliphate became dominant but preserved and the local culture and language. In the development of Arab culture actively participated many scientists, people from countries conquered by the Arabs. Medieval cities were known throughout the world not only for its bazaars and crafts but also famous poets, scholars, artists, rich libraries, educational establishments.

Europe recognized exceptional contribution to the advanced thinkers of the East in science and culture in those days. This is evidenced by translations of the works of scholars and poets of the East received in X-XII centuries widespread in France, Italy, Spain and other countries.

KEYWORDS: Kazakhstan, Arabs, Islam, Muslim, Totemism, Paganism, Zoroastrianism, Tengrianism, Conquest