

## THE HISTORY OF "TURKISTAN" IN ARABIC SCRIPTS (COMMON HISTORY OF TURKIC PEOPLE IN CENTRAL ASIA)

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### ABSTRACT

Nowadays, during the globalization, it is actual to explore the history of Central Asian countries of Turkic origin such as Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Kazakhstan where each is independent country. Their common endings "-stan" seem to be confusing. There is a tendency of accepting them all as one. However, their diverse ethnic peculiarities, language, religion, history, cultural heritage and ancient monuments can provoke an interest.

The countries of Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) in Central Asia are repository of natural resources such as gas and oil. And therefore economic, social and political stability of these countries and their cooperation is gaining importance day by day.

In this article we will review the background of the people of Central Asia in the Arabic scripts, select their common values and relate them their current state.

**KEYWORDS:** Social and Spiritual Life, Natural Resources, Central Asia

### INTRODUCTION

#### THE MAIN POINT AND THE PROPOSED SOLUTION

In Arabic scripts the history of the Turkic people is given under the common name "Turkistan". As in the Middle Ages during the time of the Turkic Khanate country Turan was called "The country of the Turks", dissemination and propaganda of the religion Islam, the political superiority of the Arab Caliphate introduced the name "Turkistan" to the historical turnover. As in the VIII-XIX centuries the territory of Turkistan kept expanding and shrinking it had faced different changes.

#### The Territory of Turkistan

Drawing attention to the scripts we can see that the territory of Turkistan displayed differently. For example, Abdulmumin Said Akram in his work "Adua ala tarikh Turan (Turkistan)" [1] wrote that the territory of Turkistan was 5607013 km<sup>2</sup> and in the Shamsuddin Sami's book named "Komusul alam" in the chapter "Turkistan" was written: "The territory of this country is 4703553 km<sup>2</sup>, in which West Turkistan is 3684840 km<sup>2</sup> and East Turkistan 1118713 km<sup>2</sup>. And in the professor Akhmad Zaki Toga's book called "Bügünkü Türkü Türkistan ve yakin Tarihi" [2] ("Turks motherland-Turkistan and its history") is written that the territory of Turkistan is 5340066 km<sup>2</sup>, in which 1503563 km<sup>2</sup> is West Turkistan, and 3836503 km<sup>2</sup> is East Turkistan.

Turkistan is surrounded by mountains as Handuksh, Pamir, Altai and Tien Shan. These mountain chains are the

mountains of basin of Aral Sea and Irtysh. And chain of the mountains Handuksh starts from Afghanistan and ends in the banks of Caspian Sea.

Syr Darya and Amu Darya are the main two biggest rivers in the Turkistan`s territory. These two rivers start from mountains Tien Shan and Handuksh and flow to the Aral Sea. These rivers are divided into several branches and used for irrigation of plants and animals. And therefore plant cultivation and animal husbandry is developed in this territory.

### **Ethnic Composition of the Population**

Turkic people of Turkistan are divided into several groups. Dr. Nasrulla at-Tarazi in his work “Turkistan: Madiha ua hadiruha” (“Turkistan: past and present”) [3] divided them into following groups:

- **Group of Kipchak:** They are Kazakh, Uzbek, Uighur, Mangit-Nogai and Bashkir, Tatar (Turks of Kazan edge).
- **Group of Turk Chigil:** This group consists of Turk that lives in cities and auls, taranzhy, kashkars and kyrgyzs, but they are nomads.
- **Group of Turkmen:** This group consists of Oghyzs. They are so called “middle Turks”: Turkmen, Oghyz, Yakut and Turks of Altai lie. They all live in settle life. Therefore the majority of people living in Turkestan belong to Kazakh, Uzbek, Kyrgyz and Karakalpak nationalities.

Here must be said problem, Turkistan also took in people who are not Turk. For instance, Tadjiks (they are from Persian family and spoke in Persian language), Dunghan, Kalmuck, Yahud (Jews), Indians and Ghajars (gipsies). Besides Arabs came to propagandize religion of Islam there, settled on there and spoke in Shaghatai (Uzbek) and Tadjik languages. [2]

The previous amount of people of Turkic origin who lived in Turkistan is not exactly known. Uncertainty of this has its own reasons.

### **Religious Trust-Faith**

Before religion of islam Turk`s ancient religion was connected with their social and spiritual life. Saying more precisely they are saint places, tree, metal, water and fire. As their neighbour Chinese, Turks believed each of these five things: middle yellow khan, outgoing blue khan, west white khan, north black khan, south red khan are the owners of the earth. Because of that these five things struck on two Gods: the God of the Sky and the God of the Earth. [4]

Location of people of Turkic origin in central Asia entailed a necessity of fresh water. For the reason they were situated in steppe and waterless steppes of central Asia, the water, core of life and of life, turned to be holy for them.

Consequently, notions such as shamanism, buddhism and christian trust-breads spread. Then, in the VII century Arabs began to turn into fatherland of Turks - Turkistan. Hence trusts of Islam religion was accepted and lasted for a long time.

### **Invasion of the Arabs in Turkistan**

In 645 Kok Turk country was degraded in Turkistan and Turkic countries divided into small group as an interior. It opened good possibilities to China. At that time there were Arabs that came to propagandize religion of Islam. It corresponded with caliph epoch of Osman bin Affan, the interval of 644-656 years. In 651 Akhnaf bin Kais and Ubaidullah

bin Amr headed for Khorasan and Mauarannahr and reached an agreement with people of two countries. There is a supposition that Arabs destroyed Mainurgh in the south Samarkand, but it didn't have special impression to people of Turkic origin to accept religion of Islam and they did not attain any result. [5]

In the epoch of caliph Mughauya bin Sufyan (666-714), Zaiid bin Abu Sufyan sent commander Rabigh bin al-Haris from Iraq to Khorosan. It was because of spreaded fearful impression of destroying the last king of Sasan, this case was solved by this commander. He won all the enemy in his way in the East Iran and turned to Balkh city. This city was an entrance gate to the south Mauarannahr, he got to this gate and he was an opener sommander of this gate. Arabs conquered this well-known country with its wealth and the beaches of river of Amudaria without any war.

In 670 after the death of Ziiad Mughauya Ubaidullah bin Ziiad delivered a new conquest to Turkistan. This battle was with definitive plan. The first attack of Ubaidullah turned to the principal city of government, shopping center - Bikent. After a long battle he conquered the city. Then he turned to Bukhara, these are all happened in the end of 672.

The queen of the Bukhara (Bukhar Khadat) was mother of Taghdesh. She ruled Bukhara because of a little age of her son, Taghdesh. When there was a threat she recently asked a help neighbours of Turkic origin. They relieved to help and fought with army of Ubaidullah bin Ziiad. Without going through th time-consuming army of Arab had to come back to Marua, according to at-Tabari army of Arab turned to Tashkent without conquering Bukhara. [3]

In 712 Bukhara passed into the protection of commander of Arab army Kutaib and the citizens began to accept religion of Islam. The conquest of Bukhara, the acceptance of people of Bukhara the religion of Islam were a great victory of commander of Arab army Kutaib bin Muslim. To finish his started business he turned to the east, in 712-713 to head for East Turkestan he declared war to Ferghana. He attacked to rulers of Uighyr and conquered them. In that way vilayets of Kansu Kashghar, Khatan and Turfan accepted religion of Islam without resistance. People of Turkistan say that they accepted religion of Islam without resistance. But there were Buddhists that held on their religion in the territory of Tian-Shan. Kutaib came back to Marua by the way of Ferghana. The main reason of home-coming was death of caliph Uali.

### **Written Sources of Arab about Turkistan**

In Arabic written sources the first information about Turkistan connected with distribution of religion of Islam in Central Asia. Turk historian Dr. S. Shimshir said in his work: "The first Arab writer who gave primordial information about people of Turkic origin was Tamim ibn Bakhr (Temim ibn Behr). He gave information about historical cities of Turks in Issyk kul". [6] Tamim inb Bakhr's journey to Central Asia was in IX century. His work is called "Rihlatu ilal Uyghur" (Journey to Uyghur). This small work also was mentioned in the work of oriental scientist V.Minorsky. [7]

One of the Arab travelers to Central Asia was Abu Dalf. He went out from Egypt, through the place of Aughan he went to Khorasan, then to Mauarannahr (Amudarya and Syrdarya) and then to China. At the end came back to his birth place via India. He wrote down events that he saw during the journey in the letter. There is an analyzed treatise to Abu Dalf's work.

One of the Arab travelers who gave a lot of information about Central Asia was Ibn Batuta. His work is called "Tukhfat an-nuzzar fi gharaib al-amsar wa ajaib al-asfar". [8] Also it is known as "Rihlatu Ibn Batuta". In this written two

volume work takes in information about historical position of Central Asia during the king Shynghys Khan. Just as in the work of Ibn Khordadbeq "Kitab al-Masalik ual-Mamalik" [9] (Ways and countries) takes in information about nomadic life of nomad tribes in Zhetisu. One of the most important written facts was the work of Arab historic at-Tabari "Tarih ar-Rasul ual-Muluk" [10] that takes in information about historical events in central Asia during the VII-IX century.

If to say word for word, we see many facts about the rebellions in Bukhara and Samarkand and the wars along Talas in A.D. 750-751 Especially, the wars that were in A.D. 750-751 have a great influence. And there are information about Turkic countries' social forming, the people's way of lives and beliefs of Central Asia in the work "Kitab al-akhbar al-Buldan" of arabic historian Ibn al-Buldan.

According to the history of Turkic speaking people of Central Asia scripts also can be found in the works of arabic writers in XII-XVI centuries as Ibn al-Asir, An-Nasabi, Yakut al-Hamaui.

There is given some facts about many cities in Turkistan and about local people of Turkic origin's acceptance religion of Islam in the works of Abu Bakr Narshakhi (A.D. 899-956) that is called "Bukhara tarihi (the history of Bukhara)

### **People of Turkistan in the World Civilization**

In the Middle Ages people of Turkic origin showed themselves famous in the forefront in different branches of science. We can say without any doubts about the important shares for developing the world civilization of many unique personalities as Ibn Sina, al-Biruni, al-Khorezmi, al-Farabi, al-Qashqari. More of them wrote their works in Arabic.

### **Turkistan Territory under the Rule of Imperial Russia**

In the mid of XIX century the state of Turkistan has dramatically changed. Because in the west of Imperial Russia and the East China kept an eye.

After the gradual conquest of western Turkistan they were divided by Imperial Russia. For instance, province of Zhetysu (conquered from A.D. 1864) and province of Syr Darya (conquered from A.D. 1864), province of Samarkhan (conquered from A.D. 1868), and Bukhara Emirates and territory of Fergana (Fergana Emirate was conquered by Russia in 1876) that were under the authority of the mandate Russia, conquered province of Khiva in 1873 and Pamir and the places of Caspian were under the authority in 1881. [11]

Territory of Turkistan consists of five provinces. They are: Zhetysu province, Syr Darya province, Fergana and Smarkhan provinces with territory of Caspian, but territory of Khiva and Bukhara doesn't include to these edges. [2]

In 1923 Turkistan immediately was divided into the soviet five republics for Central Asia after the Kazan revolution.

- Soviet Republic of Turkmenistan, the capital is Ashgabat, area 463100 km<sup>2</sup>. It consists of Ashgabat and Maru (Khiva Khanate), Khash Khud regions and Tarzhau and Karki region that were keen over the Emirate of Bukhara.
- Soviet Republic of Uzbekistan, the capital is Tashkent. Area 178632 km<sup>2</sup> The republic consists of the province of Mauarannakhr, Samarkhan where were staying uzbeks, Fergana regions and Bukhara, the Emirate of Khiva. And this republic were divided into 4 provinces. They are Bukhara province, Zaraphshan province, Kashkadarya province (Karash, Shahr, Sabz, Khazar, Ikta, Bag), Sukhandarya region, (from the western Bukhara to Baisun and

Shirabad, Iurzhi and Sarasya and Denu)

- Soviet Republic of Tajikistan, the capital is Dushanbe. It consists of regions where live the tajiks like Khasar (Dushanbe) region, Korgantobe, Karatigen and Kulab and Bukhara's Pamir (Daruz, Shagtan and, Uakhan), from the province of Smarkhan Fergana's Pamir Dinzhikent and Uratobe and Meje and Phalgar that were the residence for tajiks. Area is 135619 km<sup>2</sup>
- Soviet Republic of Kyrgyzstan, the capital is Bashkent (old Frunze), it consists of Syr Darya province's Chu region and Zhetysu and Talas and upper edges of Naryn rivers and Issyk Kul region (Chu), Bishkek, Talas, Karakul, Naryn and from Fergana Zhalalabad and Osh regions. The Republics area is 135619 km<sup>2</sup>
- Soviet Kazakhstan Republic, the capital is Almaty. It's divided into 7 provinces and one region. The republic's area is 447000 km<sup>2</sup>

There were many revolutions against colonization of local people by Imperial Russia, but we can't meet them in the Arabic scripts. Although the Turkestan's people who moved out to Arabic countries because of they couldn't resist the communistic system, formed an organization for independence of their native country and tried to type edition about history and political state in Arabic language. For instance: in Arabic was typed edition as "Saut Turkistan" [12], also were written works like "Turkistan halfa sitar al-hadidi" [13] ("Turkistan between Russian bear and Chinese dragon"), "Turkistan kalb Asia" [14] ("Turkistan-the heart of Central Asia"). But in these works the majority of informations are about "East Turkestan" which remained under the authority of China.

In short, attempts of those who tried to save the integrity of territory, language, religion were in vain. As we mentioned before, western part of Turkistan was divided into five republics and they all were included into Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) and had been there until A.D. 1991. The state of western part which is still remained under the authority of China is still uncertain.

## CONCLUSIONS

In Arabic scripts all Turkish speaking people in Central Asia are called "Turkistan". Despite of that, the title "Turkistan" consisted of little managements and governments like Khorezm, Khiva, Ukhara, Kokan, Seljuk, Kara Khan. One more important moment should be said, is at the second part of XIX century the state of "Turkistan" had suddenly changed. The reason is that Russia was interested in west part and China in east part of "Turkistan". A small part of the "Turkistan" for some years was under Afghanistan and called "Afghan Turkistan". Also some parts of "Turkistan" belonged to Iran.

As the meaning of the word "Turkistan" is "Motherland of Turks" it was taken off from Russian documents. To be exact, the title "Turkistan" was taken off from usage in 6<sup>th</sup> July in 1924. However, nowadays, the city with title "Turkistan" is situated in the south of Kazakhstan. Hence, we can surely say, the title "Turkistan" is still in the memories.

We know that from 1991 the countries like Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kirgizstan, Kazakhstan had declared their independence.

In Arabic Monuments the title Turkistan is regarded as common history of these Central Asian countries Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kirgizstan, Kazakhstan. Also the title Turkistan is divided into "West Turkistan"

and “East Turkistan”. In some documentaries they are referred as Mauarannahr and Kykshak prairie.

In conclusion, in Arabic sources of Central Asia Turkish speaking peoples’ cultural heritage, language and religion, history from middle ages are inseparable.

Do XXI century’s independent Central Asian Turkish speaking people take a lesson from history? I think there might be an impact from Russian Federation and China. This problem is connected with the title Turkistan, can it appear or not in history again?!

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