



The Historical And Geographical Description Of North Bactria

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ABSTRACT

The article summarizes the research on the territorial boundaries of Northern Bactria. Information is given about the direction of Alexander the Great's invasion from Northern Bactria to Sughd. The present-day location of toponyms found in the works of ancient historians is also mentioned.

KEYWORDS

Kohitang Ridge, Oks, Nautaka, Temirdarvoza, Dari Ohanin, Gabzan, river, border, castle, Pardagvi

INTRODUCTION

Interest in the culture and history, territorial location and geographical boundaries of ancient Bactria began in the XIX century. In the 50s of the XX century the concept of "Northern Bactria" was introduced into scientific circulation by MM Dyakonov. From this period, the concept of "Northern Bactria" covered a wide area from the north to the Gissar

mountain range, from the west to the Kohitang ridge, from the south to the Amudarya, from the east to the Pamir ridges. Derived from this term, the terms Northeast and Northwest Bactria also emerged. The origin of the term North-West Bactria extends beyond the territorial boundaries of North Bactria. led to the expansion and incorporation of the

southeastern region of Turkmenistan from Kelif to Kerki and even Chorjui.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

B.Ya. Stavisky extensively involved new archeological and epigraphic data in solving the problem of the northern borders of Bactria, and showed that during the Kushan period, the region from south to north and from the Amu Darya to the Gissar ridges represented a single historical and cultural region. According to the American scientist R. Fry, Bactria is the cultural center of a vast region, surrounded by mountains to the north, east and south, and the Amudarya, which irrigates its lands, divides it into two parts: to the south, that is, to Afghan Turkestan, and to the north, to the right bank, that is, to Tajikistan. A number of scholars disagree. Based on ancient sources, they believe that the above-mentioned region belonged to Sogdiana and that the northern border of Bactria passed through the Amudarya-Oks. I.V. Pyankov points out that in ancient written sources, Oks was recognized as the boundary between Bactria and Sogdia, but there was also information that contradicted it radically. These data are based on two different assumptions. According to one of them was the southwestern part of the Gissar ridge and the Amudarya. Although the region differed from Bactria, but at the same time it was clearly separated from Sogdiana. According to the second hypothesis, this area was directly called 'Bactria'. According to some researchers, the border between Bactria and Sogdiana runs along the Amudarya and Surkhandarya rivers. There are also speculations that this border passed through the Vakhsh and Amudarya. In the discussions on the northern borders of Bactria, I.V. Pyankov clarifies in a sense. Based on a careful

analysis of ancient written sources, a number of researchers believe that Bactria was a region on the left bank of the Oxus. emphasizes that it does not come. According to him, "Bactria" (in the sense of a purely geographical term) originally meant the Balkh oasis. Later, its meaning expands: "Bactria" and "Bactrians" in the earliest times meant the kingdom of Zarathustra, "the people who fought against Cyrus", the Achaemenid state, Alexander, the Seleucids and finally the part of the kingdom of the same name or satrap. but the situation was different in the upper reaches of the river, in Uzbekistan and Tajikistan. Also, this border of Bactria was restored mainly on the basis of the data of Alexander historians. There are no written sources testifying to the northern borders of Bactria in the period before Alexander and after his marches. Thus, based on the data of written sources, by the end of the third quarter of the 4th century, it can be concluded that the lands on the right bank of the Amu Darya - the Surkhandarya region of Uzbekistan and southern Tajikistan - were part of Bactria. According to IV Pyankov, the idea that the Amu Darya-Oks was the border of Bactria and Sogdia IV Pyankov compares Alexander's military route from Nautaka to Bactria with the information of medieval Arab tourists about the distance from Kesh to Balkh. He estimated that the distance from Kesh (Shahrisabz) to Temirdarvoza (Dari Ohanin) in the Boysun Mountains through the Guzar region was four days. The distance from the Iron Gate to Balkh was a five-day journey. In agreement with I.V. Tomashek and V.V. Grigorev, IV Pyankov noted that the fortress of Sisymitr - Horien was located near the Iron Gate, and it was the border on the main road between Bactria and Sogdia. writes that it serves as a point. I.V. Pyankov's views on the

location of regions and fortresses are, in our opinion, quite convincing. The issue of historical and geographical description of the vast, mountainous country, located between two agricultural oases, Kashkadarya in the north and Surkhandarya in the south, is extremely important. In terms of latitude and meridian, the country is divided by the Chakchak, Boysun, Kohitang, Sarimas, Suvsiztog and other mountain ranges, which in the general concept of geographers are called "Western Gissar". At its approximate center are the Sarimas and Suvsiztog ridges. These ridges are separated by the Shurabsoy valley, which flows into the Sherabaddarya. This is where the village of Darband is located. There is a mountain gorge Buzgala (Temirdarvoza) 9 km west of the Shurabsay valley. The main road from Bactria-Tokharistan passed through Termez, Shurob, Chochkaguzar and continued along the Sherabaddarya valley. During the Kushan period, there was a strong Kofirqala fortress in the northern part of Sherabad. From this fort the entrance to the river was controlled. Later, the fortress of Sherabadbeys was located here. The road from Kafirqala to the north went to Darband. He then turned west, passed through the Shurabsay valley and the Temirdarvoza, and reached the village of Kindik. By this time the road was divided into two. One of these roads went to the north-west - Nasaf (Karshi). The distance of this road was a one-day distance through the village of Didegi, and also a one-day distance from Subah to Nasaf. The second route turned north from Kindik and headed straight for Kesh. It was in this direction that the distance to Kesh was a three-day journey. On topographic maps of the XIX-early XX centuries, the places west of Aqrabad were marked as "Gabzan". According to legend, it is in a mountainous country once

ruled by Gabzanshah, and the name of this place is derived from the name of this king. Particular attention should be paid to the similarity between the names of the region, Gabaza and Gazaba. Direction in toponymy Armenian sources contain information about Gozbon, located near the Arang River. Arang is the name of Araks, Oks-Amudarya. According to the Armenian historian Sebeos, the Persian leader MehrivandakBachl (Balkh) and "conquered the whole country of the Kushans to a place called Kazbion on the other side of the Great River." According to these data, the Gabaza-Gazaban concepts of Kazbion, Gozbon, and Curtius Rufus may have been the name of a common region belonging to different centuries.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

In the XVIII-XIX centuries the lands between Dehkanabad and Aqrabad in Kashkadarya were called "Gabzan". The concept of "Kazbion" is associated with the medieval Kasba or modern village - Kasbi around Karshi. Gabzan is a mountainous region between Dehkanabad and Aqrabad. Gabaza was a mountainous region adjacent to Nautaka Province. This region included the lands around present-day Dehkanabad, Aqrabad, and the Iron Gate. According to scientists, the border between Sogdiana and Bactria passed through these areas. From ancient times to the present day, there are two main roads from the Kashkadarya basin to the south and south-east, passing through the Akrabad and Tashkurgan passes.

The first route was through the Akrabad Pass, which was light and even convenient for wheeled vehicles, was through the famous Temirdarvoza to the Sherabad oasis, and from

there to Chochkaguzar and Shurab-Pardagvi in Oks, and from there to Bactria.

The second was more difficult route where passed through the high Tashkurgan Pass and crossed the Sangardak River into the Surkhandarya Valley. According to E.V. Rtveladze, the first road, which appeared much later, passed through the Guzar desert, the second road took the mountain Yortepa region – Big It passed along the Uradarya-Karakhaval village. The distance along the first road is 140-150 km, and along the second road is 110-120 km. At the same time, the distance from the lower reaches of the Kashkadarya to the Tashkurgan Pass is 140-150 km, and to the Akabad Pass - 120-130 km. The second phase of Alexander's march to the southern regions of Central Asia took place in BC. It began in the spring of 327 and passed mainly through the country of the Parets. According to Arrian, after completing his work in Sogdiana, Alexander marched on the paretas and captured the fortress of "Horien Peak" located there.

The Macedonian army was then divided into two parts. Alexander marched into Bactria with the main army. The crater, on the other hand, is marching against Katan and Austan (local guides) with six hundred cavalry - "friends" and his own and the infantry of Poliperhant, Attal and Allekt. They were the only leaders in the land of Paretaka who had not yet obeyed to Alexander. In the decisive battle, Crater defeats the Paretaka rebels. Avstanis taken prisoner, and Katan is killed in battle. After this incident, the crater also returns to Bactria with its troops. Curtius Ruth's account of this military march is almost identical to that of the Arrian, except that the event of the destruction of the country by Bubakena by Poliperhantis

added. In his work, published in 1877, V. Tomashek concludes that the "Horien Rock" is located near the "Iron Gate" gorge, and from there crossed the Bactrian border. According to IV Pyankov, the "Rock of Horien" is located on the caravan route of Bactria-Sogdiana and served as a border.

Studies show that Paritaka was located in the Surkhandarya region of Bubakena - southern Tajikistan. Paritaka and Bubakena are the names of some provinces of Bactria. According to historical and archeological data, Gabaza and Paretaka are located between Sogdiana and Bactria, ie in the mountainous areas of Western Gissar and adjacent areas of Surkhandarya and Sherabadarya. Significantly, in written sources, these regions are clearly different from Sogdiana. Let us recall Arrian's account once again: "... when the Sogdians had finished their work, Alexander set out for the Parets and, first of all, for the summit of the Horien, which was on their land." In some cases, these regions are also different from Bactria, but in many cases they are recognized as Bactrian lands. The names of the two provinces, Paretaka and Gabaza, presumably do not mean ethnic but geographical meaning. Researchers believe that the term 'Paretakena' corresponds to the modern Persian mountain concept. A number of mountainous regions in various parts of Asia are referred to by the term 'Paretaka', including the lands between Media and Persia, the lands north of Assyria and Babylon.

Thus, since the middle of the last century, the term "Northern Bactria" has been introduced into scientific circulation. This region includes the ancient historical and cultural region bordered by the Gissar mountain system in the north, the Kuhitang ridge in the west, the

Amudarya in the south, and the Pamir mountains in the east. Although there has been much debate among researchers on this issue, many clarifications have been made as a result of comparing the results of archaeological data with written sources.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, we can say that the ancient roads passing through northern Bactria and their directions (from Balkh through the Amudarya crossing from Temirdarvoza to Gazar in the direction of Kesh), the location of provinces and fortresses (Paretaka, Bubakena, Sisimitr, Gabaza, Branch City, etc.) issues have been resolved as much as possible. In the middle of the 4th century, the lands on the right bank of the upper reaches of the Amu Darya - the Surkhan oasis and partly southern Tajikistan - became part of Bactria. However, it is not yet known what the common name of these regions was at that time.

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