



## Defensive Structures Of The East Kashkadarya Oasis In The Late Middle Ages

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Journal Website:

<https://theamericanjournals.com/index.php/tajssei>

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### ABSTRACT

This article discusses the defensive structures of the Eastern Kashkadarya oasis in the late Middle Ages. The dimensions of the arch were 42x48 meters and the height of the wall remains was 8 meters. The dimensions of the castle courtyard were 115x165 m. At present, the road passes through the territory of the fortress, and the walls of the fortress are almost not preserved. The first information about the castle is given by E.K. Meyendorf. In his diaries, the author mentions Pistachio as a city subordinated to the Shakhrisabz principality, along with Jovuz, Yakkabog and Ortakurgan.

### KEYWORDS

Jovuz, Yakkabog, Ortakurgan, Meyendorf, Information, Shakhrisabz, Principality, Castle, Fortress, Territory.

### INTRODUCTION

In the late Middle Ages, the study of the defense structures created not only in the history of the Kashkadarya oasis, but also in Central Asia in general, plays an important role. In creating the defense system, experts have made extensive use of the experience of generations. Thick walls and fortifications were

widely used to protect cities, settlements, trade routes, river crossings and other important places. Together, they formed a single defense system that protected the country. Shakhrisabz - The "Chim" defense wall, which played an important role in the defense of the Book, covers a large area and

surrounds the two largest cities in the eastern part of the Kashkadarya oasis, Shakhrisabz and Kitab, and the surrounding villages. In the study of Chim's defensive wall, I. Bichurin data serves as an important source. His article on the Shakhrisabz principality states that the length of the Chim wall is 80 miles (1). It is also noted that in addition to Chim Shakhrisabz and Kitab, it covered three fortresses, namely Shamaton, Ortakurgan, Dakhyak and several other villages.

### THE MAIN FINDINGS AND RESULTS

A.L.Kun also dwells on the “Chim” wall in his diaries and gives information about this wall. He states that the length of the wall is 88 miles, and believes that the opinions of the locals about the wall are close to the truth (2). There are other ideas about the length of the “Chim”. For example: G.Yul in his research shows that the length of the wall is 70 miles (3).

The most important aspect of the “Chim” wall is built to protect it from external enemies. It is fortified with fortifications and cannons. The “Chim” wall was repaired along with all the defensive structures in times of increased threat to the external enemy, that is, it was considered an important means of defense. For example, in the second half of the XVIII century, in the 30s of the 19th century, it was repaired by Khojabek and Hakimbek and Hurrambek (4).

There are different opinions about the construction period of the lawn wall. As in many parts of Central Asia, Shakhrisabz and Kitab also use guvala (guvalak) in construction, and it is noted that its construction period dates back to the XVIII-early XIX centuries (4).

In the second half of the XVIII century, the Chim Fortress was rebuilt by order of Nazarbek, a member of the Kenagas clan. It should also be

noted that Chim was unable to retain his original appearance later. Some parts of it have changed at different times.

In addition to the Chim defense wall, the oasis also had many artillery and fortifications, which served to further strengthen the defense of the province. Pistakhon Fortress, located in Kitab district, is strategically located. The fort is pentagonal in shape, where three flat platforms for artillery were built. There is an arch in the north-western corner of the fortress. The dimensions of the arch were 42x48 meters and the height of the wall remains was 8 meters. The dimensions of the castle courtyard were 115x165 m. At present, the road passes through the territory of the fortress, and the walls of the fortress are almost not preserved. The first information about the castle is given by E.K. Meyendorf. In his diaries, the author mentions Pistachio as a city subordinated to the Shakhrisabz principality, along with Jovuz, Yakkabog and Ortakurgan (5).

The Goyibotatepa fortress, located in the village of Qusam, Kitab district, was the residence of the Kitab principality. The walls of the fortress were made of straw, and inside the fortress there were courtyards belonging to the principality. The wall of the fortress stretches from north to south, the dimensions of the courtyard are 120x335 m. entered the courtyard to the south. Today, very little of the wall has been preserved.

Another fortress of the Book Duchy - this fortress, called Kurgantepa, is located in the upper village of Akboy, and its total dimensions, including the courtyard, are 250 - 265 m x 90 - 125 m. forms. The castle is located on the east side of the courtyard, its dimensions are 50x50 m. On the outside, where the courtyard is surrounded by a cotton wall, traces of the trench surrounding the wall

have been preserved. The fortress was built 15 meters above the flat ground, the upper part of which was surrounded by a cotton wall. Tower marks are preserved in the corners of the walls. The entrance gate to the fort was on the east side.

Along with the Beklik fortresses, it is worth mentioning the Sarvontepa monument located in the village of Qusam. This monument consists of an arch (citadel) and a courtyard with two parts, the dimensions of which are 40x45m. height is 8 meters, width of the yard is 145x200m. surrounded by a ditch around it. The entrance is on the north side near the arch.

Although the book originally appeared as a small fortress, it grew rapidly and took shape as a city. At the end of the XVIII century, the city of Kitab was surrounded by walls, and the guzars took on the appearance of a city with various public buildings. In the XVIII-XIX centuries, the book has a complex shape, taking the form of a city from west to east. Its dimensions were 2000 m in the west-east direction and 750 m in the north-south direction. The city wall, like the southern part of the Shakhrisabz city wall, is mostly made of cotton, and guvala and raw bricks were also used during the renovation. Today, this wall is almost non-existent.

There are six gates in Kitab city: Samarkand Gate on the north side, Kunchikar Gate on the east side, Sharbatxona on the south side, Khoja-Roshnoi Gate on the southwest side, and Charimgar Gate on the northwest side.

In the territory of Shakhrisabz district, such defensive fortifications are relatively rare. To date, most of the defensive fortifications have not been preserved. Of the three large fortresses on the inside of the Chim wall - Shamaton, Ortakurgan and Dakhyak, only Ortakurgan has survived.

One of the fortresses that played an important role in the defense of Shakhrisabz was Ertepa, and about the fortress D.N. Lagofet describes the fortress as follows: "It is a high natural hill surrounded by a river, which has a dominant position over the surrounding area. The high walls and the large area indicate that the fortress is much larger" (6).

In addition to the common wall surrounding Shakhrisabz and Kitab, each city is also surrounded by a separate wall. The city walls of Shakhrisabz are rectangular in shape and extend from north to south.

In the XIV century, the city had four gates, but by the XVIII and XIX centuries, the number of gates had increased to six. The Ark and Kalmyk Gates on the north, the Kunchikar Gate on the east, the Kushkhana Gate on the west, the Charmgar Gate on the south, and the gate on the south-eastern corner of the wall are called the Simkhona Gate.

Shakhrisabz Begi Fortress is popularly known as Shakhrisabz Afrosiyobi, and in the works of local authors it is also called by the same name. Founded in the XVIII century, the fortress is located on the north side of Shakhrisabz, near the gate of the city wall called "Darvozai – Ark". The northern part of the city wall also served as the wall of the fortress. On the other three sides, the fortress is surrounded by cotton walls, and the ruins of the Aqsaroy are also part of this fortress. The castle had two gates, the one on the south side of which was called the Blue Gate. The second gate is on the east side and is called the Artillery Gate (7). Next to the castle gate is the main square of the city - Registan, where all the important issues of city life are carried out.

The fortresses of the beys in Guzar and Yakkabog have also been studied, Guzar Fortress (center) is located in the northern part

of the Guzar River. It is rectangular in shape and measures 130x80 m. was equal. The western part of the fortress wall is about 16 m above the river level. located at an altitude of. To the east, south and north, the walls on the other sides of the fortress are 8 m from the ground. raised in height. In order to strengthen the defense of the fortress, the depth is about 4 m. ditches were dug. M.E. Masson claims that the castle was built in the XVIII century. He also admits that the main rivals of the Guzar principality during this period were the Shakhrisabz and Yakkabag principalities (8).

Yakkabog Bek Fortress - Bekliktepa is located on the left bank of the Kashkadarya, south-east of the old Yakkabog. It is pentagonal in shape and is surrounded by cotton walls. The walls are every 140 - 180 m. which had a tower at. Entrances - the gates are located on the east and northwest sides of the fortress (9).

In the Shakhrisabz -Kitab oasis there are many other fortresses of different sizes of the XVIII-XIX centuries. During this period, many other monuments were studied, such as Kultepa in the village of Novqat, Jangaltepa in the village of Qusam, Azimboytepa in the village of Kushboshi, Bolkontepa in the village of Kaichili, Gishttepa in the village of Ochamayli.

## CONCLUSION

In the Eastern Kashkadarya oasis, defensive structures were built in the late Middle Ages. Fortresses played an important role in the oasis defense system. The Chim defensive walls, which played an important role in the defense of the Shakhrisabz -Kitab region, encompassed a very large area, including two large cities in the eastern part of the Kashkadarya oasis and the surrounding villages.

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