



Topography And Stages Of Development Of Military Architectural Structures Of The Ancient Khorezm Oasis

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ABSTRACT

The article discusses with the topography and stages of development of military architectural structures of the ancient Khorezm oasis, including the stages of formation and development of the ancient Khorezm military architectural structures in the VI millennium BC, i. e. from the Neolithic period to the ancient period are also discussed.

KEYWORDS

Joytun, Chakmaklitepa, Sarikamish, Uzbay, Kaltaminar, Akchadaryo, Tozabagyop, Suyargan, Kozaliqir, Bactria, Margiyona, Erkkal'a, Qanhakal'a, Qoshkal'a, Tuprakkal'a, Aqshaxonkal'a, Ayazkal'a, Dumankal'a.

INTRODUCTION

Archaeological research has shown that changes in the socio-economic and ethnocultural development of Central Asian ancient society are related to the activities of Neolithic historical period seed communities. In the VI millennium BC, tribal communities in southern Turkmenistan became the first owners of agriculture, carrying out economic

activities in the simplest planned settlements of the same size, handicrafts, animal husbandry and agricultural culture, formed the roots of urban culture (Joytun, Chaqmaklitepa) [1.105-107]. In the mud architecture of the Joytuns, defensive structures were of little importance. According to A.S.Kes, who studied the geographical and geological features of the

ancient Khorezm region, In the last quarter of the V-IV millennia, anthropogenic landscape and climatic conditions were formed in the lower reaches of the Amudarya, Sarikamish Uzbay, Tuyamoyin, and there was an opportunity to conduct human economic activities [2.72-79]. According to the researcher A.V. Vinogradov, the peoples of the Lower Amudarya, Sarikamish and Uzbay regions were engaged in simple farming, hunting and gathering, but in this historical period there was a lack of knowledge of clay architecture, defense structures (Kaltaminor culture) [3.286-288].

The Main Findings And Results

Until the middle of the IV-III millennium BC, in the historical process in the Khorezm oasis, seed communities continued the Neolithic economic traditions, but not familiar with the knowledge of clay architecture, developing handicrafts, farming, hunting and domestic livestock in semi-basement houses on the banks of rivers. The socio-economic and ethnocultural relations that took place in the society of ancient Khorezm in this historical period cannot be explained in a broad sense by the objects taken from the address at the Saksovul station in the Aral Sea region [4.44-415]. According to S.P. Tolstov, a researcher of the history of ancient Khorezm, during the Bronze Age, agricultural and nomadic tribes migrated to the oasis from southern Turkmenistan and from the north-east, creating the cultures of Tozabogyop and Suyorgan [5.66-68].

B.I. Weinberg concludes from his research in the Sarikamish basin that the population of Sarikamish moved to the Lower Akchadarya basin due to the cessation of water flow in Uzbay [6.25]. Indeed, since the Bronze Age addresses in the Sarikamish and Uzbay regions have not been studied, one can agree with the

researcher's conclusion. From the VIII-VII centuries BC, the population continued to develop new territories (Sarikamish basin), with the improvement of labor weapons, the emergence of weapons used in defense (nuclear, archery, etc.), the dominance of the productive economy in the economic life of society. From the VI century BC, an architectural culture emerged in the lower reaches of the Amu Darya. Radical changes took place in Khorasanian architecture (Kozaliquir). Written sources related to the historical processes mentioned above can be found in I.V. Pyankov generalized in his research.

In the VI-V centuries BC in the Khorezm oasis, the cities surrounded by large and medium-sized defensive walls formed a line of defense on the border with the nomads, small rural settlements formed the defense of the internal agricultural oases along the rivers.

The planning of the ancient cities of Khorezm is very similar to the method used in the construction of the cities of Sogd, Fergana, Bactria and Margiyana. In the Bactrian region, the Kyzyltepa monument was built at right angles. In the form of a circle and a triangle, Kozalikir, Oyboyirkala, Hayitobodtepa in northern Bactria [7.9-10], Eilatan in the Fergana Valley [8.108-110], in Turkmenistan, it appeared in fortresses such as Erkkala [9.20].

During the Achaemenid period, when written sources about ancient Khorezm became increasingly reliable, Khorezm was part of the eastern Iranian world with its distinctive ethnic appearance, including language, religious beliefs, and customs. The origins of the ethnocultural features of the Khorezmians go back centuries. However, the study of cultural and genetic relations of the Khorezm population of the Archaic period (late VII-VI-V centuries BC) with the population of the area

during the Bronze and Early Iron Ages (II century-early I century BC) has just begun. Although it is possible to assume that the sedentary traditions of urban and rural settlements typical of Khorezm in the archaic and later periods are connected not only with the Khorezm region, but also with the wide world of civilizations that existed before the emergence of cities in Central Asia, many aspects of this problem remain unresolved [10]. In this regard, the socio-cultural influence of the first urbanized southern regions of Central Asia, including Bactria and Margiyana, as well as the fact that Khorezm was part of the Achaemenid Empire, played a role [11].

The first period of formation and operation of ancient Khorezm military fortifications dates back to VII-VI centuries BC. Based on the materials of Kozalikir Shahrstan, the archaic period of Khorezm was divided into two: the first archaic and the last archaic.

Based on the typological analysis of Kozalikir materials, it can be said that the first archaic period of Khorezm military fortifications was irregular in the history of buildings, located on a hill, large in size, with a domed, flat shed with one-story ethnic corridors on the castle walls. The towers are slightly sloping, with no corridors in the inner cavity. The walls and towers of the fort are lined with right-angled shinak. The shinaks are arranged in a checkerboard pattern within the cotton wall layer. Their base is horizontal, the inlet and outlet holes are at the same height. The foundations of the first archaic fortifications were not, and the firing corridors were much lower. Construction materials and equipment also differed from later periods.

In the second stage, square-shaped protective towers with a rectangular shape were seen in Kozalikir. There are three rows of shinaks on the wall. Shahrstan is divided into two parts by

a castle wall. One of them is located in the south-western part of the hill. It was the first center and fortress of the city. The second part is called “Low City” [12.77-80].

There is no doubt that Kozalikir is a primary structure: the construction of crafts, the remains of buildings of worship, the fact that the layers of the population inside the castle fence are socially diverse.

Qalalikir 1 Shahrstan belongs to the end of the archaic period. Its history is in the form of a right angle, the dimensions are 1000 x 700 m. The walls are fortified with towers, and the four gates are also protected by a front porch and towers, which have been preserved in the form of arches. The foundation is the remnants of three walls with three rows of ridges on the foundation. According to the size of the arch, the thickness of the outer wall was 3.80 m, the middle wall - 2.80 m, the inner wall - 2.80 m. In the western part of Shahrstan, right next to the wall, was a castle building built in the tradition of Achaemenid monumental architecture. The construction of the castle and fortifications was not completed, probably due to the fact that Khorezm came under the rule of the Achaemenids [13.153].

Archaeological sites of Khorezm of this period are registered. These are more than 250 on the right bank of the Amudarya and close to 60 on the left bank. Among them are such fortresses and fortified settlements as Qanhqakala [14.138-139], Qoshqal’a, the left bank of Tuprakkala Tashkhirman and others.

However, some objects [15.185] that were previously considered to belong to Khorezm, in particular the monuments in the middle reaches of the Amu Darya, are now considered as independent regions. Therefore, it is impossible to clearly define the boundaries of Khorezm in the archaic period.

We do not have written information about major political events in the history of Khorezm after the march of Alexander the Great, but the archeological monuments of this period testify to the development of ancient culture.

At the turn of the V-IV centuries BC, after leaving the Achaemenid state, the process of urbanization of Khorezm society began, many urban centers (Bazarkala, Big Ayboyir, Khazarasp Akshakhankala, etc.) began to appear, the boundaries of its cultural region expanded. On the left bank, in the north, it reached the Ustyurt Gorge, in the west - on the shores of Lake Sarikamish, in the south - Zaunguzu Karakum. A single chain of fortifications forming a system of border fortresses was built. On the southern border of Khorezm there are Kaparas Khazorasp, Qalajiq Yangiariq Toprakkala, Almaotishgan, Khiva Toprakkala, Ichan kala (Khiva) and other fortresses. On the north-western border there are Govurkala, Konerlikala, Okchagelin, Qanhxakala, Shohsanam, Butentovkala, Devkesgan, Devkesgan gorge, Big Aybuyirkala, in the Aral Sea delta Mizdakhkan Govurkala, Tokovala, Kukala, in the north there are Govurkala, Burlikala, Ayozkala in the Sultan Uvays mountain, and finally in the east there are Kichik Qirqqizkala, Qorgoshinkala, Jonboskala, Ereskala and other fortresses [18.72].

Fortresses are sometimes built in a round or oval shape so that there are no weak spots in the defense, such as unprotected corners with towers. Tarches of this type were associated with both military and worship duties. In Little Kyrgyzstan, for example, the oval tarh was required in terms of military duty, while the Qoykirilgankala was apparently associated with more prayer than military duty. The monumental buildings at Solsohil Toprakkala, Shovot's Toprakkala, Govurkala 3 are built in this way. Ereskala Shahrستان can be included in

this type. The borders of Khorezm at that time were defined in the west by the border fortresses located in the hills from the IV century BC. If we count them from south to north, these are Qanhqakala, Butentov 1 and 2, Devkesgan, Katta Aybuyirkala and others. All of these castles, as a rule, existed until the end of antiquity (until the IV century BC).

During the Kushan period, the ancient tradition of building defensive structures in both the central and border regions of Khorezm was preserved. As before, the leading type of fortifications with a right-angled shape, such as Tpaqrkala, Boldimsoz, Kurgankala and others, remained the leading type [18.72].

Tarh in the form of a right angle, with dimensions of 500 x 350 m, was the culmination of the Khorezm military architecture of the I-III centuries. The walls of the castle are built on a cotton foundation, the average height is 3 m, decorated with pilasters and reinforced with towers. Through the walls passed two-story shooting corridors, the shinaks were placed at the level of the second floor. There are many constellations with a right angle, which protrude 9 m from the wall. The tower is located on a high (14.50 m) stylobate in the northwest corner, the castle (3.24 ha) is part of the Shahrستان defense system.

During this period, the construction of round fortifications in the military architecture of Khorezm has sharply decreased. In the I-III centuries some fortresses with strong round walls lost their defensive function [19.70-90].

Using the experience of the Salafis and attracting new material, it is possible to predict a new version of the classification of ancient Khorezm defense structures. Considering the external features, it is possible to distinguish five main types of defensive structures. These

are: I city type fortified settlements; II castles; III fortified places of worship; IV fortified buildings or barracks; V long walls.

Urban fortifications are large fortifications with an area of 5 to 70 hectares. Their contour is clearly indicated by the outer wall. These, in turn, are divided into two types:

The arch is one of the most important elements of the military fortification of the ancient cities, which is the last milestone of defense. The arches are clearly visible on the surface of the ruins of ancient cities and are clearly visible in their current relief. The arches were found in Bazarkala, Akshakhankala, Devkesgan, Ereskala, Toprakkala and other fortifications of ancient Khorezm.

The energetic Dumanqala arch, located in the area of the Gavkhore canal, like the soil, has not yet been inspected. It is not excluded that Govurkala fortress may be a fortress of Mizdakhkan city [20].

The Khorezm arches are an important link in the overall defense system of the city fortifications. They were built at the most convenient point for protection from the external enemy, and their history is rectangular, located in one of the corners of the castle wall. The arc walls are protected by two different towers. One is semi-oval (Bozorkala) and the other is rectangular (Akshakhankala, Ayozkala 3, Dumankala, Toprakkala, etc.), sometimes they have the shape of a “swallow’s tail” (Bazarkala) in the corners. The shooting corridors of the wall appear to have been two storeys high. Their frontal structures were of different types. The inner buildings were used as a tower, a temple, an armory and a castle shelter. Unfortunately, due to the lack of materials about the ancient Khorezm fortresses, it is impossible to describe

them in detail, and this issue is waiting for its study.

CONCLUSION

So, it is clear from the data that the development of the Khorezm state has a long and ancient history, such as Greece, Rome, Mesopotamia. Khorezm is the first land of agriculture and handicrafts in Central Asia, a place of fire-worshipping religion and science, art and culture. Looking at the ruins of each of the castles and fortresses that we have briefly described, one can understand the deep meaning described in the great historical book.

By the way, SP Tolstov and his followers, as well as academician Yahyo Gulamov, who studied the historical monuments of our oasis for a lifetime, have repeatedly said that although they have collected a lot of information about the history of Khorezm, it is necessary to study it in more depth. Indeed, there are many aspects of our history to be explored. Especially the history of our oasis in the prehistoric period requires a thorough study.

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