THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF SOCIAL SCIENCE AND EDUCATION INNOVATIONS
ISSN (e): 2689-100X DOI: https://doi.org/10.37547/tajssei/Volume02Issue07-46

Nature Management In Historical Context Of Khorezm

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OPEN ACCESS
The American Journal of Social Science And Education Innovations
JULY 2020
Page No.: 353-360
Volume-II Issue-VII
PUBLISHED: 31 JULY 2020
www.usajournalshub.com/index.php/tajssei

Abstract
In this article, some issues of nature management are analyzed in historical context of the Khorezm region of Uzbekistan. The lower reaches of the Amu Darya River River are considered as a socio-natural organism, and the ecological history is studied on the basis of historical and natural science methods. The article focuses on the study of socio-ecological processes in Khorezm in ancient, medieval and modern times, changes in natural living conditions, the approach of the population to them.

Keywords: nature and society, geographical determinism, natural resources, artificial irrigation, urbanization, land development, ecological crisis.

Introduction
If we look at the historical-evolutionary, socio-economic processes on the planet, we see that as human anthropogenic impact on nature intensifies, the impact on people's lifestyles, health, and social environment is becoming more acute as a result of natural imbalances. The growing environmental problems on the planet reflect the consequences of the humanitarian crisis, and the social priority of environmental problems has determined the ecological orientation of research in all areas.

In the second half of the twentieth century, the aggravation of environmental problems on our planet led to the intensification of the interaction of historical science with the natural sciences since the 1960s. These partnerships, in turn, have been reflected in the formation of a number of scientific societies dealing with environmental history.

Environmental history, as an interdisciplinary network of historical research, first emerged in the 1970s as the rapid growth of environmental activity in the United States -

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society's fight against environmental pollution, followed by sustainable development and biodiversity conservation. The European Society of Environmental History is much younger than the American Society, it was founded in 1999. At the XX World Congress of Historians in Sydney in 2005, the topic of "The interaction of man and nature in history" was one of the main issues discussed by historians.

As a result, the history of the environment has become one of the independent trends that is currently developing in the international scientific community, especially in Uzbekistan, based on a unique modern theoretical and methodological framework.

The problems of the Aral Sea and the Aral Sea Basin clearly demonstrate the interdependence of processes in nature and society, that is, in this region it is impossible to consider natural processes without social processes and social processes without natural processes. In this regard, the relationship between nature and society in the history of the oasis in the lower reaches of the Amu Darya is of great interest.

Indeed, the role of historical and geographical information about the Amu Darya, the Aral Sea and the Aral Sea Basin in the study of the history of Khorezm, revealing its new aspects is very large. These data also contribute to the reflection of the location of the oasis at each historical and cultural stage.

Research Methods

According to experts, the following functions of research on environmental history shape theoretical and methodological basis for independent development of this sphere of science: 1. Data collection function (identification and placement of facts, collection of empirical data); 2. Systematization function (initial groupping and chronological ordering of facts); 4. Descriptive function (cause-and-effect statement); 4. Information function (optimization and presentation of research results).

The importance of the method of geographical determinism in conducting research on environmental history is enormous. In showing the role of this method in the development of environmental history, Gumilev's conclusions about the role of natural factors in the development of society are important. According to him, the geographical environment of the Eurasian continent has played an important role in historical development of the desert-forest zones habitat.

The application of the knowledge derived from natural sciences from historical point of view allows historians to re-understand the traversed period of human development. Combining natural knowledge with historical knowledge helps to understand the various factors that impact the development of natural world in human history. It is these factors, in turn, that play a role in influencing nature through the evolution of human views in relation to political, economic, and cultural processes.

The research method used in the study is based on a historical analysis of the processes of continuous interaction between society and its environment in the context of the Khorezmian civilization. Therefore, the study deals with and studies in conjunction the economic, political, cultural, household, etc. dynamic components of the environment: hydrography of the Amu Darya, changes in the Aral Sea level, climate, use of land and water resources, which are important aspects of social development from ancient times to the present day.. In this regard, the synthesis of natural and historical data plays an

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important role in determining the deep mechanisms of socio-political genesis of the Khorezmian civilization.

Many researchers of the history and culture of Khorezm (V.V. Bartold, S.P. Tolstov, Ya.G. Gulyamov, V.N. Yagodin etc.) have always paid attention to the natural habitat and habitat of the Khorezmians. Irrigated agriculture, as the basis of its economic relations, was considered as the main object that determined the specific features of the socio-economic development of the Amu Darya – Khorezm region.

Based on the above, the purpose of this study is to restore the historical landscape of the relationship between man and nature in the lower reaches of the Amu Darya River. Modern approaches show that it is impossible to understand the essence of global environmental problems, including the Aral Sea and the Aral Sea Basin, and to look for solutions without studying historical and natural processes in simultaneously. The peculiarity of the ecological crisis of the second half of the XX century - the beginning of the XXI century is that the force of anthropogenic pressure on nature is incomparably higher than during the previous crises. However, while acknowledging the negative effects of anthropogenic factors, the role of natural or global processes cannot be ignored either (Burnakova, 2002).

The study of natural-economic systems and the application of ethnosocial analysis methods are also important in the study of the traditional use of natural resources in the region. It involves the harmonization of the methodology used by ethnologists and geographers in an objective consideration of the complex system of relations between nature, the economy, and man.

The analysis of traditional use of nature is carried out within the framework of a diachronic approach, taking into account events in the development process. Applying a dichronic approach allows identifying the "roots" of problems of modern nature use, considering their stages and cycles of development, as well as making a definite prediction on some modern trends (Ballieva, 2003).

Collaborative research by climatologists and archaeologists (Vinogradov, Mamedov, 1991) has allowed them to establish a link between moisture in the desert zone and human assimilation of the Aral Desert, deteriorating climatic conditions, and declining populations in desert oases. In their view, the ease of the general ecological situation in the early and advanced Middle Ages was of great importance for the expansion of irrigation facilities and irrigation areas in the region, primarily through the development of deserts. It was in the Khorezm oasis that this factor played a unique role in the development of the Khorezmshah state.

Materials and Discussion

The regions and districts of Uzbekistan differ in their natural and climatic conditions. At the same time, in the process of ethnographic and historical development of each region, unique local traditions and values have been formed. At the stages of historical development, due to the natural and climatic conditions, each region has shaped its own architectural solution, living conditions, courtyards.

The Amu Darya River in the Central Asian region is one of the wettest and most tributary rivers in the world, and its history is as ancient as the Pamirs and Tayanshan Mountains. Were it not for the Amu Darya, neither the Khorezm oasis nor its civilization

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would exist. The Amu Darya River is also associated with the transformation of the oasis into a prosperous region through a unique artificial irrigation system, which is one of the distinctive features of the country and is the result of human intellect and labor.

If we look at the long history of Khorezm, from the beginning of the end of the Late Paleolithic (40-12 thousand years) and the beginning of the Mesolithic eras (12-7 thousand years), the Amu Darya River has shaped its bed from North to South Amu Darya Riverall the way from melting glaciers to the desert plain.

According to A.S.Kes, in the VI-V millennia BC, the Amu Darya River tributaries Davdon and flowed into the basin in the center of Karakum desert. The area around the sinkhole has bee rich in plants and yellow reeds, and the term "Yellow Lake" (Sariqamish in local language) appeared in the pronunciation of the local population, which gave the term a strong place in geography and historical literature. The water of the Akchadarya river, which starts to the East near the city of Turtkul, flows through a wide corridor in the plain towards the Aral Sea. By the Neolithic period, the Akchadarya, Sariqamish and Aral Sea basins were formed. Surrounded by the Kyzylkum desert in the South and North, the Ustyurt Plato in the Northwest, and the Aral Sea, the Khorezm oasis consists of sand and clay from the Amu Darya River. The river brings millions of tons of mud to the oasis every year. This has led to an increase in the number of settlements, the population being engaged in agriculture in the Khorezm oasis and the further development of the irrigation system. Akchasoy, Sariqamishboyi, Aralboyi basins were formed in the lower reaches of theAmu Darya River during the Preystocene and Holocene geological periods. In the first millennium BC, the Amu Darya River brought water to the Aral Sea in the present direction.

Social, economic and environmental factors influenced the characteristics of housing construction in the Khorezm oasis during the Bronze Age. Depending on the functions of the dwellings, the forms of economy, the lifestyle of the population (sedentary, semi-sedentary, nomadic) and the natural environment, the size of the dwellings was determined by the number of family members. Farmers and shepherds also used seasonal light-sheltered houses while grazing livestock in pastures, cultivating fields, harvesting crops, and preparing fodder stocks.

In the Khorezm oasis as a result of urbanization processes that began in the IV-II centuries BC, the lands irrigated by canals 40-50 km long were covered with fields, orchards and vineyards, and a wide agricultural-agrarian landscape was developed.

The emergence of animal husbandry and agriculture in the Bronze Age in the Southern Aral Sea region laid the foundation for the development of socio-economic relations and productive forces. As a result, in contrast to the natural environment, under the influence of anthropogenic factors, different landscapes have gradually developed. The landscape of housing, settlements, agriculture, manufacturing, irrigation and roads was well developed. At the same time, as a result of the intensification of human economic activity in the Aral Sea region, the destruction of the ecological system, desertification and salinization of lands began, and the first environmental problems arose. the ruins of ancient and medieval houses, the remainings of large and small towns and villages, irrigation canals, and traces of ancient cultivated fields covered with sand testify the extent of the damage to nature and the environment.

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According to experts, in Central Asia in the past, the maximum lifespan of irrigated lands not equipped with a drainage system lasted 80-100 years. The accumulation of salt in the soil prevented the lands from being used longer, but over time the soils naturally regenerated and regenerated. The drying up of the Aral Sea is also affected by some cyclical natural processes associated with global climate change on our planet. This hypothesis is supported by the asynchrony of sea level changes in the Caspian and Aral Sea, which means not only a change in the direction of movement of surface waters, but also a shift of groundwater to the Caspian or Aral Sea. Groundwater can change its direction towards the Aral Sea, and any anthropogenic interference may prevent its recovery.

The results of archeological research in the South Aral Sea region shows that ancient agriculture and early urban culture have developed, in the Northwest of the Khorezm oasis, the Karakum Desert, the Sariqamish Basin, the old Uzboy, Davdon, Darya rivers along with other urbanization zones The growth of urbanization processes, which began in the Middle Ages, more precisely in the Khorezmshah-Mamuniy period, the expansion of urban oases during the Khorezmshah-Anushtegins, shifted to Ustyurt, Mangishlak and "Shahristan Yuli".

The Arab traveler Istakhri said about Khorezm and Khorezmians at the beginning of the 10th century: "Khorezm is a city with a lot of crops, food and fruits, but no nuts; a lot of cotton and wool are produced here, and these things are transported to distant places. The distinguishing feature of the population is its wealth and aspiration to show courage".

Yaqut al-Hamawi, a famous Arab traveler who was in Khorezm on the eve of the Mongol invasion, wrote in his "Mu'jam al-buldon" (Dictionary of Countries): "I went there in 616 (1219-1220) and I have never seen such a crowded and prosperous country anywhere. The crops are well-cultivated, the villages are close to each other, there are many separate courtyards and gardens, and in the steppe there are fortifications. It is difficult to find a neglected, undeveloped place in the rustoks (farming districts) of the country. There are a lot of green trees, especially mulberry, because they (the population) need building timber, and mulberry leaves feed on silkworms".

Any form of nature use is a form of support for human life, during which not only a particular landscape type but also relevant work skills are formed, which in turn influences the culture of each ethnic group - lifestyle, family organization, division of labor responsibilities and defines many features of social relations. On this basis, the landscape type and location characteristics of the settlement are formed in the same way. Peoples who live long in certain natural conditions develop strategies for the use of nature.

In the desert districts of Uzbekistan architecture of public housing was shaped as to protect rooms from heat . To do this, local population built small houses surrounded from all sides. Khorezm village houses are an example of this. Khorezmian village houses consisted of two parts (internal and external). They were surrounded by thick clay walls. One aspect of particular importance is that plantations of local tree species - Ulmus pumila L. (Siberian elm) have been always planted to protect houses from solar radiation . This tree specie gave coolness during the summer. Summer rooms were constructed with high porches, facing more North and Northeast. Such porches were located on a considerable elevation compared to other rooms and were designed to soften and re-direct the wind blowing into the courtyard. One side of the summer room (or the porch) was open,

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whereas the winter rooms were located opposite and at much lower elevation compared to the summer rooms,.

The population of the Aral Sea region have inherited from their ancestors the culture of irrigated agriculture (irrigation systems, water lifting and distribution facilities, various methods of irrigating fields, melons, vineyards). The choice of such a culture depended on natural and climatic conditions. For example, Uzbeks grew cotton for a long time, had enough heat and moisture to do so, and gradually learned the best ways to grow this crop. Grain crops were common for the Karakalpaks.

The lifestyle of a number of Uzbek and Karakalpak tribes in the lower delta of the Amu Darya River in the 19th century sheds some light on the long history of the development of irrigated agriculture throughout the territory of the Khorezm oasis.

The dry and hot climate of the Khiva khanate, which has a history of three centuries, and its location in deserts and sands, has led to the important role of natural and geographical factors in the processes of urbanization on its territory. Indeed, in the development of the city, the location in the oases, access to water supply, protection from external threats have played an important role in ensuring life expectancy. In past centuries, it was these problems, particularly the problem of water shortage, that disrupted city life in Old Urgench and Katta, which had been the capital for many years, and caused them to become desolate.

Conclusion

At the beginning of the third millennium, the ecological crisis became one of the most acute problems of mankind. For more than a century, scientists around the world have been trying to identify ways to harmoniously develop the relationship between society and nature, but no unique solution has been found yet. Environmental pollution and the extinction of natural biogeocenoses are the result of neglect of conservation norms and irrational use of natural resources. Therefore, it is very important to make a historical analysis of the experience of nature use, to identify the conditions that affected the formation and development of the relationship between society and nature.

The ancient civilization of Uzbekistan, which is more than three thousand years old, is a combination of cultures of many regions. In particular, archeological research along the lower reaches of the Amu Darya River confirms the spread of the Tozabogyop, Amirabad, Suvyorgan cultures here since the Bronze Age.

The role of natural-geographical factors in the formation of ethnoculture was high. It embodies the values, traditions, customs and activities (nature use, agricultural production, housing construction, etc.) that arise as a result of the conscious activity of ethnoses with nature, formed in the process of complex interaction of the ethnos with the landscape in which they lived and provided a stable relationship of ethnoses with nature in certain geographical conditions.

In the history of the peoples of Central Asia, every city was developed on the basis of the influence of natural conditions, architecture, climate, economic and social life of the people. One can see the development of ecological-traditional culture in housing construction.

The local population of the Khorezm oasis has long had a unique approach to housing construction. Due to the unique structure of each place, first of all, the sunlight was meant

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to fall, while the next situation was to make the construction as the wind blows, the aspiration to the place was stronger.

One of the distinctive features of the lower reaches of the Amu Darya River region was that it became a prosperous region through a unique artificial irrigation system, which was the invention of human intellect and labor. According to Z.Buniyatov, irrigation has existed here since the middle of the second millennium BC, and its technique "reached its peak in the middle of the first millennium BC." This information was confirmed by the research of famous scholars such as Tolstov and Ya.Gulyamov, who became the classics of the historical literature of Khorezm. These scholars traced the steady development of the Khorezmian civilization until the late Middle Ages and studied it in many ways in connection with the Amu Darya River.

Materials on the nearly three thousand-year history of the territory of the lower reaches of the Amu Darya River, studied and analyzed by scientists of various fields, allow to synchronize and systematize the processes and events in nature and society. Likewise they show that in the Khorezm oasis for three thousand years society and nature have experienced three major socio-ecological crises. In the first two (mid-first millennium and thirteenth centuries), mainly natural factors (especially changes in the flow of the Amu Darya River) had a destructive effect on society, while in the third crisis (second half of the twentieth century) the destructive effect happened due to anthropogenic factors on the nature balance. The first crisis led to the economic (agrotechnical, economic recovery (search for new ways and opportunities to overcome the crisis, development of new lands, construction of new canals, improvement of old ones) and political rise of the state.

Khorezmshah-Anushtagins strengthened the borders of the state through the use of military force and diplomacy, gained new territories, a total of about 400 cities and regions. The unification of the peoples of this large geographical area into a single "empire" led to the unification of economic life, the expansion of cities, the development of handicrafts and foreign trade.

By the 13th century, the Khorezmshah state had a huge territory and potential, as well as internal and external conflicts, power struggles and other factors. But not only these factors but also natural factors played a role in the crisis of the empire. In particular, there was a relocation of the Amu Darya River to the left bank delta and flooding of vast areas. The destruction of the dam by the Mongols was a natural process (the river flow has been changing since the VIII century).

In the 13th century, due to the turn of the Amu-Darya channel from the Aral Sea to Sarykamysh, a whole system of depressions along the Eastern cliffs of Ustyurt was completely deprived of water. Inhabitants of the Aral Sea from the 16th century began to artificially flood these depressions and sow them exclusively with wheat.

After the socio-ecological crisis of the XIII century, the state of relative socio-ecological stability prevailed in Khorezm until the middle of the XX century. In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the expansion of irrigated lands, the use of water resources and the cultivation of monocultures, the erratic construction of irrigation facilities, and deforestation led to a crisis of socio-ecological processes.

In the second half of the twentieth century, natural changes took place in the Aral Sea region, the population increased, the lifestyle of the population living in this region changed radically, economic activity changed radically. As a result of the cutting of

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Haloxylon (saxaul tree) and the general deterioration of land resources, there were processes of desertification, salinization, rapid formation of loose sands, drying of the Aral Sea.

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