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SHORT HISTORICAL INFORMATION ABOUT KONGRAD REGION

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Abstract

Kungrad district is known as the oldest historical and cultural monuments in Karakalpakstan. Archaeological sites dating back to the Paleolithic, Neolithic, Bronze Age, and Early Iron Age have been discovered in Ustyurt. Since the 9th-10th centuries, this region has been an important branch of trade and cultural ties. The land of Kungrad became known as an important territory that connected Europe and Central Asia through historical trade routes. This article will tell you about these facts.

Keywords Ustyurt, Paleolithic, Neolithic, Bronze Age, trade and cultural ties.

INTRODUCTION

Kungrad district is the oldest inhabited area of Karakalpakstan. According to historians, the most ancient traces of historical and cultural monuments in Karakalpakstan were found in the territory of the Kungrad district, in particular, in Ustyurt. The settlement of the Paleolithic period, which dates back to 300-100 thousand years BC, is located in the southwest of the Barsakelmes salt lake near wells called Esen-1, Esen-2 [1, 8]. In the Neolithic period, that is, in the 5th-3rd millennia BC, the tools of people made of flint are often found in the Ustyurt steppe. People in the Neolithic period were mainly engaged in hunting [2].

From the Ustyurt space to the Bronze Age b.c. The monuments of the III-II millennia include the burial sites of Karakuduk. Early Iron Age BC. There are burial mounds, arrows of a copper-made arrow, and monuments of the Savromat-Sarmati tribes, located in the distance from the Sekseulsay, which dates back to the 7th-11th centuries BC, to the border of Kazakhstan.

Ancient Greek historian Strabo gives information about the existence of the Amu Darya (Ox) - Uzboy - Caspian (Girkan) - Caucasus - Black Sea waterway [3]. This testifies to the fact that in the pre-revolutionary period, the Amu Darya flowed along the southeastern foothills of Ustyurt to the Yellow Sea, and beyond that, through the Uzboy, to the Caspian. It was during these periods that life began in the cities of the present-day Kungrad district, such as Vazir (Dawkesken), Aybuyrkala (Jampykkala). Because trade is also developed along the waterway connecting India and the Caucasus countries.

Many monuments dating back to the 1st century and the 19th century are located in Ustyurt. Especially from the 9th-10th centuries, the territory of the current Kungrad district became a center of civilization, and today there are many historical and cultural monuments of that period. The reason for this is the change in the flow of the Amu Darya. That is, until the 9th century, the Amu

Darya flowed into the Aral Sea from the territory of the city of Kat (now Beruni), then it flowed into the Aral Sea along the eastern side of the Ustyurt Mountains between Mizdakhan and Gurganj [4, 445]. During the Mongol invasion, the Amu Darya road was turned to the Yellow River. At the same time, the Amu Darya flows along the southeastern foothills of Ustyurt, creating the basis for the prosperity of such cities as Vazir, Tirsek, Shemaha, and Adak.

In the Middle Ages and subsequent periods, peoples lived in the Ustyurt space and in the delta of the river, they built many cities, fortresses, caravan palaces, and dug wells during their time. For example, the cities of Daukesken (Vazir), Puljay (Jazkempir, Tengeshashkan), Burahan, Adakkala, Tuprokkala, Ketenlar, Jampikkala, Oybyuri in the Kungrad district were famous even in the Middle Ages, while caravan palaces such as Beleuli, Churik, Kosbulak, Ajigeldi along the old "Nogai Road" caravan route were considered the commercial artery connecting the peoples of Central Asia with the Volga region and the countries of Eastern Europe. Ambassadors, merchants and other passengers from Europe, from the Lower Volga to the indigenous peoples passed through the Kunrad to Old Urgench, Khiva, Bukhara, Samarkand and other major trading centers in Central Asia, where artisans lived. The peoples of Central Asia went on the Hajj journey through the second caravan route passing through Alankala, known as the "Mangishlak Tract" on the Ustyurt [5, 41].

In the past, the region, which was called Kungrad people, Kungrad Land, Kungrad Khanate and Kungrad Oblast, was understood as the northern part of the Khorezm state, the lower part of the Amu Darya River, the southern Aral Sea and the vast desert areas of the Ustyurt region.

The works of A. Kun, T.A. Zhdanko, K.L. Zadykhina, V.N. Yagodin, Kh. Esbergenov, G. Khojaniyazov, M. Torebekov, S. Saymanov, U. Embergenov, and Zh.

Shamuratov, as well as other scholars, provide valuable information about the cities and historical sites in the territories of Kungrad possessions [6].

Scientists have different opinions about the ancient place of Kungrad. Some say that Pulzhai was the ancient place of Kungrad, while other scholars call it Bukhara or Hakim.

Indeed, the Qöngirot tribes lived in the 13th century near Old Urgench [7, 120]. In 1625, the Aral Governorate (or Kungrad Oblast) was established in the lower reaches of the Amu Darya River. In the 18th century, the peoples around the Aral Sea region lived independently of the Khiva Khanate. Its capital, Kungrad, was equal to the medieval capital of Khorezm, Gurganj (Gone Urgench). The inhabitants of the Aral Sea region were called the Elders. The cities of Chimbay, Kungrad, and Khojeli, located near the Aral Sea, belonged to the Aral Sea region. The southern border of the province extended to Mailyshengal. In 1643, the islanders elected Abilgazi khan. Abulgazi moved the capital of Khorezm from the city of Wazir to Khiva [8, 9].

In the book "New History of Karakalpakstan": "In the 17th-18th centuries, in the north of Khorezm, in the lower part of the Amu Darya, the Aral (or Kungrad) region consisted of Uzbeks and Karakalpaks, the center of which was originally the city of Kungrad, then the city of Shakhtemir, located near Chimbay. This possession was an independent country from the Khiva Khanate. Its capital, Kungrad, was as important as Old Urgench in the Middle Ages at the end of the 18th century" [9, 118].

The age of the city of Kungrad has not been discussed in science.

According to S. Saymanov, a scholar who studied the history of the city of Kungrad, Kungrad developed rapidly in the 11th-13th centuries. Beginning in 1359, during the reign of the Kungrad

rulers, the city was rebuilt from the ruins. During the reign of Muhammad Nazar, the city expanded, and gates and caravan palaces were built. In the 18th century, Toremurat Bey made Kungrad his fortress in the struggle for his independence and freedom [10].

The Kungrats built fortresses and fortifications on the banks of the river. From the 14th century, the rule of Khorezm passed into the hands of the Kungrad Sufi rulers. In the 1770s, the Khiva Khanate was ruled by Muhammad Inaq of Kungrad, followed by his son Avaz Inaq (1790-1804). In the next period, Eltuzer (1804-1806) took over the khanate and founded the Kungrad dynasty in the Khiva Khanate. This dynasty lasted until 1920.

According to ethnographer Kh. Esbergenov, who studied the historical and cultural monuments of Kungrad, "Pulzhai and Kungrad were one city, and their people were one." If the area around Kungrad was watered, the population lived in Pulzha. If there were any difficulties in Pulzha, he returned to Kungrad. The city of Kungrad was the center of the settlements around it, a place where governors lived, caravan palaces, bazaars and wells, a fortress, and a main city with gates. Its population engaged in agriculture, animal husbandry, fishing, and hunting. In the middle of the 17th century, the son of Muhammad Nazarbi, the ruler of the fortress of Hakim Ata, Khojamurat was elected khan of the Kungrad dynasty. He moved the capital of his khanate from Khokim Ata to the city of Kungrad. Because most of the Kungrats lived in the vicinity of the city of Kungrad [1, 20].

The Kungrad district was located in the northwestern part of the republic, and in 1920-1924 it was created as a bekstvo within the Khorezm Republic, in 1924 it became a Kungrad volost, in 1925 it became a district within the Autonomous Republic of Karakalpakstan, and on July 3, 1927 it was created as a Kungrad district [11, 118]. In 1963, it was annexed to the Khojeli

district, and on February 22, 1964, it was reorganized.

The district accounts for 12 percent of the territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan and 46 percent of the Republic of Karakalpakstan. Kungrad district borders Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan, as well as Muynak, Shumanay, Bozatau and Kanlykul districts.

Nature. The surface of the earth consists mainly of the Ustyurt Plateau. The average height is 150-200 meters, the highest point is 290 meters (in the western part of the district, on the Karaburi ridge). In the central part of Barsakelmes, in the east, the Karaumbet salt marsh, in the south, the depression of Assekenau, in the border area with Turkmenistan, the northern part of the lakes Kaplankur and Sarykamis is located. The climate is sharply continental, dry. The summer is hot and the winter is cold. The soils of the Ustyurt Plateau are gray-brown, while the irrigated eastern part is meadow-gray and meadow. Saline soils and takyric soils are also found.

The population consists of Karakalpaks, Uzbeks and Kazakhs, as well as Koreans, Tatars and Russians.

The area of the district is 76 thousand square kilometers, in it there are 21 makhallas, 5 town-type settlements and 13 rural citizens' assemblies, 43 rural settlements. The growth point (driver) of the region is specialized in animal husbandry, petrochemical industry. As of January 1, 2024, the population of the district is 135.9 thousand people.

The western part of the region is occupied by the Ustyurt Plain, where the main minerals are located. There are large deposits of limestone, pores, gypsum, mercury, table salt, oil, gas condensates and other minerals. Gas fields have been discovered in the areas of Shaxpaxta, Kuvanish, Akshalak, Ushsay, Urge. The Urgench field was connected to the gas pipeline in 1995 and serves

the interests of the population. At the same time, there are Barsakelmes and Karaumbet salt deposits. The source of natural water is the Amu Darya. The main irrigation canals are the inter-district canals of Suenli and Ravshan.

The district is a large industrial area of the republic, where the "Kungrad soda plant" and the Ustyurt gas chemical complex operate.

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