

The Coverage of Central Asian History in The Works of Bulat Saliev

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Abstract

This article analyzes the scholarly legacy of Bulat Saliev and his works “History of Bukhara,” “History of Central Asia,” and “History of Uzbekistan.” The study examines his approach to interpreting the history of Central Asia through trade routes, political developments, and socio-economic factors. Special attention is given to the Mongol invasion and the Timurid period. The results demonstrate Saliev’s significant contribution to the development of a comprehensive approach in Central Asian historiography.

Keywords: Bulat Saliev, history of Central Asia, History of Bukhara, historiography, Jadid movement, trade routes, Khorezm, Mongol invasion, Timurids, historical analysis.

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1. Introduction

Central Asian historiography early twentieth century Jadid enlightenment and new scientific approaches influence significantly developed therein.

During this period local historical processes studying interest increased national history systematic and source-based presentation attempts intensified further.

In such scientific environment working scholars one Bulat Saliev was his Bukhara history Central Asia history and Uzbekistan history works regional historiography important place occupy holds significance.

Bulat Saliev scientific heritage Central Asian history from ancient period starting medieval times particularly Mongol invasion and Timurid period until complex historical processes context illuminating significant.

His works historical events political economic and social factors integration analyzed trade routes state governance and cultural development issues special attention given here.

This article Bulat Saliev historical views his scientific methodology and Bukhara history and Central Asia history works Central Asian historiography role analyzed is. Also scholar source approach historical processes interpretation method and his scientific legacy modern historiography significance presented is.

2. Source Analysis

In the study, Bulat Saliev’s works “History of Bukhara,” “History of Central Asia,” and “History of Uzbekistan” were analyzed as important sources in the formation of Central Asian historiography. In these works, the history of the region is presented in the interrelation of trade routes, political processes, and socio-economic factors.

The literature analysis shows that the author interprets, using the example of Khorezm and the Great Silk Road, the influence of trade capital on state development as a key factor. The Mongol invasion is explained by the collapse of political structures and economic decline. In addition, analyses of the Timurid period highlight the contradictions between socio-religious movements and centralized power.

B. Saliev's scientific views are methodologically close to the works of scholars such as Vasily Bartold and developed in connection with Soviet historiography. From 1927 onwards, his works were used as textbooks in the higher education system, which shows that his scientific views were widely recognized in the academic environment.

3. Results

The results of the study show that Bulat Saliev's works "History of Bukhara" and "History of Central Asia" are important scientific sources in Central Asian historiography. The scholar analyzed historical processes on the basis of socio-economic factors together with political events. The works consistently cover trade routes, the formation and development of states, as well as issues of the Mongol invasion and the Timurid period. In general, Saliev's scientific heritage is of significant importance in studying the history of the region through a complex approach.

4. Method

Professor Bulat Saliev scientific heritage not only Uzbekistan, but also Central Asia historiography development also important place holds. He Jadid historians among region history scientific basis researched leading scholars one considered is.

Scholar 1923-year published "History of Bukhara" work Bukhara Emirate and generally Central Asia medieval history studying important sources one as recognized is [1:103]. These works Central Asia history modern historiography approaches and scientific methods basis illuminated first local researches one considered is [2:3].

Scholar later work second part publish preparing starting while Central Asia national delimitation works carried out was. Therefore scholar this work "History of Central Asia" naming decide makes. Bulat Saliev's "History of Bukhara" work and "History of Central Asia" work Central Asia medieval history dedicated important researches one considered is.

Professor Bulat Saliev's "History of Bukhara" work Turkestan and Central Asia history ancient period from Mongol invasion until covering important historical sources one considered is. This work content aspect wide scope having Central Asia historical processes systematic manner illuminating serves.

First, in the work, Chinese, Greek, and Roman written sources about the region are analyzed [2; 3–5]. This approach demonstrates the importance of source-based principles in presenting the history of the region. In the following section of the work, the early medieval history of Turkestan is covered, particularly the pre-Islamic period and the activities of states that ruled this territory. In particular, information about the Kushan State and the Turkic Khaganate is presented with scientific analysis. Also, the work describes in detail the process of the conquest of Central Asia by the Arab Caliphate, as well as its political and social consequences. In the subsequent chapters, the formation and development of the Samanid State and the historical processes up to the establishment of the rule of the Karakhanid State are consistently analyzed.

Overall, the work "History of Bukhara" is distinguished by its scientific approach, method of source analysis, and systematic presentation of historical events. The work occupies an important place in Central Asian historiography and serves as a valuable scientific source for researchers.

In the work, the history of the region is analyzed on the basis of modern historiographical approaches. Published in 1926 by the State Publishing House of Uzbekistan, the work immediately attracted the attention of the scholarly community and leading historians of its time and was highly evaluated. For example, historian Aziz Ubaydulin stated about the work: "Indeed, this work opens a new era among our historical writings. Therefore, one must rejoice. To be precise, for us the aim is not the development of national culture alone, but to strive to contribute a gift to the culture of all humanity. Writing half a book from one book, or compiling information from many books and publishing a third one has no real value. Bulat Saliev's history is not such a work; it contains creative intellectual effort" [4:44–47].

Bulat Saliev's work "History of Central Asia" is divided into three main sections, each devoted to a separate period or theme in the history of Central Asia. The first section, titled "Trade Routes of Central Asia, the Role of Khorezm, and the Growth of Khorezm Trade Capital,"

discusses the trade routes that historically connected Central Asia with the rest of the world, in particular the Silk Road. In general, the Great Silk Road and the role of Central Asia in international trade relations have always been at the center of Bulat Saliev's scholarly attention [5].

Bulat Saliev emphasizes the importance of trade capital in the rise of any state in the Middle Ages. Relying specifically on this factor, he considers the role of local merchant investors as the main reason for the rise of the Khwarazmshah Empire. Khwarazm's location at a geographical crossroads connecting the Far East and the Mediterranean, as well as India and the northern steppes, provided it with significant financial opportunities. According to B. Saliev, wealthy Khwarazm merchants recognized that establishing a strong centralized state would ensure and further develop trade flows. For this reason, they supported the rising Anushteginid dynasty in Khwarazm instead of the weakening Seljuks [3:21].

It is known that Khwarazm has always been one of the central hubs of world trade throughout its history [6:54]. Bulat Saliev also discusses Khwarazm's development as a commercial and political center, emphasizing how the growth of trade capital in cities such as Merv and Urgench contributed to the region's prosperity.

The second section of the work, titled "Uyghuristan, the Mongols, Genghis Khan, and the Conquest of the Eastern and Western Lands," is devoted to the history of Uyghuristan (modern Xinjiang), the Mongol invasions, and in particular the rise of Genghis Khan and his conquests in Central Asia and beyond. Bulat Saliev notes that the Mongol invasions of Western Asia destroyed existing political structures in the region and led to the disruption of trade [3:56].

This idea demonstrates the profound impact of the Mongol invasions on the political and economic situation of the region. Before the Mongol conquests, Western Asia included the Khwarazmshah State, the Abbasid Caliphate, and a number of smaller sultanates and emirates. The Mongols destroyed or subordinated these states, leading to political fragmentation. The destruction of cities and mass killings of the population also resulted in the disruption of trade routes and economic decline. Saliev's analysis is important for assessing the impact of the Mongol invasions on the history of Western Asia.

This section of the work shows the extent to which the Mongol invasions affected the history of Uyghuristan

and Central Asia in general. According to Bulat Saliev, the Mongol invasions not only destroyed political systems but also caused serious damage to economic life. Although the Mongols are often remembered for their brutal conquests, Saliev's works also highlight the political and cultural changes that followed their rule. Special attention is given to the establishment of the Timurid Empire after the Mongol period, which forms the basis for the third section of the work.

B. Saliev's scientific heritage gives a special place to the figure of Timur. Although the scholar's views on Timur are discussed more extensively in his later work "History of Uzbekistan" [7:6–8], in this work they are presented in a more concise form. The third and final section of the work, titled "The Struggle of the Dervishes against Timur and the Timurids," focuses on socio-religious movements opposing Timur and his successors in the Timurid Empire. This part of the work examines the resistance of Sufi dervishes against Timur's centralization policy and aggressive military campaigns. The author attempts to analyze scientifically the contradictions between Timur's political ambitions and religious beliefs. Bulat Saliev presents the dervishes as key figures in the religious and social landscape of Central Asia [3:88]. This section clarifies the contradictions between the nomadic Turkic elite supporting Timur and other political forces opposing his policies.

Published in 1926, this work began to be used as a textbook in the history courses of the State University of Uzbekistan from 1927 onwards [6:21]. Based on this manual, Professor Bulat Saliev lectured on the history of Central Asia at this higher education institution until 1937, when he was repressed by the Soviet regime [8].

5. Conclusion

It is no secret that in the Soviet Union the socio-humanitarian sciences were shaped under the influence of communist ideology. The ideological concepts developed by the ruling Communist Party established the interpretation of historical processes through the paradigm of class struggle as a priority direction. As a result, in many cases, Marxist methodology became a mandatory requirement in the study of human history.

Such an approach led to an increase in one-sidedness in historical research and, in some cases, to the ideological interpretation of historical events. Therefore, in Soviet historiography there are various scholarly opinions

regarding the limited degree of objectivity and multidimensionality.

At the same time, it is not entirely justified to assess this process as an absolute and uninterrupted condition. In particular, starting from the NEP (New Economic Policy) period, a relatively freer academic environment and some opportunities for source-based research were created. Under these conditions, some historians also carried out relatively objective and source-based studies.

Among such studies are Bulat Saliev's "History of Bukhara" and "History of Central Asia," which occupy an important place in Uzbek historiography. These works, written within the scientific environment of their time, are distinguished by their attempt to present the history of the region on the basis of extensive sources. Although they were formed within the framework of Soviet historical thinking, they are regarded as important scientific sources that contributed to the systematic study of Central Asian history. Through his work, the scholar sought to clarify and preserve the historical heritage of the Uzbek people, while also confronting the political and cultural changes brought about by the strengthening of Soviet power. His students Rashid G'aniyev and Yahyo G'ulomov became prominent scholars in the field of the history of Uzbekistan [9:4]. Although his research was limited by the ideological pressures of his time, it remains an important source for understanding one of the most historically rich and geopolitically significant regions of the world.

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