

THE MAIN DIRECTIONS OF STUDYING OF BRONZE AGE MONUMENTS OF SOUTH UZBEKISTAN IN 90 YEARS OF XX - EARLY XXI CENTURIES

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Annotation: In this article, the materials of articles and scientific edition according to main directions and tendencies analyzed learning of Bronze Age memorials in Northern Bactria (Surkhan oasis) in the independence period.

Key words: Bronze and early Iron Age, Northern Bactria, Surkhan oasis, social-economical and cultural processes, early statehood, Sapallitepa, Jarkutan, Mullali, Bustan, Tillabulak.

As a result of the archeological researches carried out from 60s of XX century to the beginning of XXI century in Surkhan oasis which was one of the most important historical and cultural regions of Central Asia the north-western part of Bactria has introduced rich historical materials to the subject. They were widely used in the coverage of old social, economic and cultural

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processes, the first urban planning and statehood issues. The most important, the process of periodization and dating of farming culture in the territory of Uzbekistan has been clarified and founded the basis for the development of scientific research.

The study of ancient history of Uzbekistan, in particular first statehood, urban planning culture and ethno-genesis processes became an important task after gaining the independence of the Republic of Uzbekistan. This, in its turn put the responsibility of most important issues such as studying new source basis of the history of Uzbekistan on the experts.

The study of bronze and early Iron Age monuments in Surkhan oasis in the 90s of XX had been continued and early XXI century and the knowledge on ancient history had considerably expanded and used in various studies to analyze some of the data collected from the study of monuments in the area. [4, p. 162; 2, p 31-36; 22, p. 29; 19, p. 58; 1, p.30; 8, p. 46; 10, p. 31].

The study of various historical problems, including the study of material culture and architecture of Bronze Age and Early Iron Age, reflection of the problems of socio - economic relations, main scientific views and approaches on the emergence of farming culture in southern Uzbekistan, comparative analysis and generalization of economic and cultural relations are most important issues of the subject.

Moreover, has been studied by joint expeditions with foreign scientific institutions, including Uzbekistan - Germany (Sh.B. Shaydullaev, D. Huff, K. Kaniut), Uzbekistan - France (S.I. Mustafokulov, Kh. Bendezu - Sarmiento, U.Rakhmanov, M. Khasanov, J.Lyuile, M. Kervan, J. Suer, J. Lijer) and Uzbekistan - Czech Republic (K. Abdullaev, A. Shaydullaev, L. Stancho) carried out several archeological researches in the monuments of Surkhon oasis. As a result of these researches more than dozen monuments (Tillabulak, Arabulak, Gozqala, Burgut etc.) of bronze and early iron period in the front mountainous part of Sherobod oasis and around Denov unknown to the archeology were found and investigated [16, p. 44-50].

Many new scientific data were brought to the archeology of Uzbekistan as a result of the use of new techniques and technologies in the expedition process (S/14 hydrocarbon experiment, GIS technology, etc.).

It was considerably important to study such issues such as location, topography and planning, stratigraphy of the monuments that is the structure of the cultural layer, architecture methods of construction techniques, urban planning culture and types of source materials during this period.

By the beginning of two thousand years before the millennium the northern Bactrian territories were able to reclaim the settled farming oasis. In the last century researchers A.A. Askarov had separated the territory into three bronze period farming oases [5, p. 9-12], A.S. Sagdullaev [14, p. 31-33] and E.V. Rtveladze [9, p. 14] has separated it into three and at the end of XX century and at the beginning of XXI century researcher Sh.B. Shaydullaev having observed the extensive growth of farming oases during the last bronze and early Iron Ages as a result of intensive cultivation of fertile oases divided the territory of North Bactria of last bronze and early iron period into five farming oases such as Sherobod, Boysun, Surkhon, Kofirnokhon and Panj [18, p.9- 10].

The issue of origin of Sopollitepa architecture its plan contributed to various controversies among researchers. In the plan of quadrangular forts studied in Margiana and Bactria (Kelleli 3, 4, Sopolli) could be seen the same structure as the effect of Harappa culture architecture. The emergence of these fortresses in Margiana and Bactria during Bronze Age is due to the similarity of cultural commonality and socio - economic conditions [12, p.30].

The main results of the study of Jarkutan architecture is reflected in the special researches of T.Sh. Shirinov [21, p. 49]. It had analyzed the issues of architectural plan structure of the monument, construction materials, techniques and styles, the features of architectural complex of Jarkutan.

During 1993- 2003 years were conducted additional archeological researches in Jarkutan. As a result of excavations were gathered new scientific data on the history of Jarkutan architecture such as the apartments consisting of 1 - 2 - 3 rooms, 3 - 4 room houses, 6 - 8 room fortress home; big monumental buildings and defensive structures [12, p. 98-104].

During independence years, ceramic vessels found in monuments, bronze and iron knives and mules, bronze veils and arrowheads, metal pins

and nipples, slippers, fabric traces in ceramic bobbins indicate on high development of blacksmithing, ceramics and textile in Surkhan oasis.

K. Rakhimov who made excavations in Jarkutan in the last years gained new information related to equipment and kitchen utensils related to the fire at various stages of Sopolli culture. In particular, the researcher had emphasized that at the first stage of the culture craftsmen used three types of coffins, chambered half-underground; one chambered and two-pitch cluster built on the ground surface [10].

Besides that metal melting quarries and tigels found in the monuments of the Sopolli culture indicate that the metallic craftsmanship improved and began to develop in the Bronze Age. In the monuments of Sopollitepa and Jarkutan were used two types of circles, quadrangular metallic melting furnaces belonging to the Sopolli, Kuzali and Mulali stages of Sopolli culture.

The Bactrian archaeological complexes have been comprehensively analyzed by comparing archeological sources of Turkmenistan, Iran, South Afghanistan, Pakistan and India by reconsidering the chronology and periodization issues of the farming culture of Bronze Age [6] in the last 25 years. In particular, Uzbekistan - Germany archaeological expedition has been conducted experiments on radio dioxide (S/14) in order to clarify the chronology of Jarkutan monument. 18 of the analysis of the object were taken from the hill №6 where Jarkutan Fire chapel located, 4 of them from the №4 hill and 1 from Jarkutan "arc". The expedition discovered 5 construction eras on the №6 hill that suggests that life has continued in all stages of Jarkutan monument [20, p. 31-42]. 15 analyses taken from three construction eras of Jarkutan shows the 1950-1600 before millennium that is between 300-350 years.

American researcher F.Hibert has also conducted experiment on the S/14 analysis from the source samples of Jarkutan №6 hill by calibration method at the University of California in 1993. The results show the 1950-1650 years before millennium [24, p. 89-95]. It comes from that Jarkutan phase cultural layer could be dated from 1950 and 1600 years before millennium.

According to researcher A. Shaydullaev who is studying the ancient Bactria glyptic in recent years, the period of Jarkutan cultural layer is

confirmed by the samples of material samples of cultures spread among cultures. They belong to the early periods of Sopolli culture, namely Sopolli and Jarkutan phases [17, p. 39-45]. According to the chronology of the radiocarbon analysis of Sopolli culture, period of circulation of seals covers the period of XXII-XVII centuries before millennium. If it is compared based on the period it corresponds to the period of Akkad and Ur III dynasties of Mesopotamia, the Elamic culture of Western Iran, Gissar III of North-Eastern Iran, Namozgokh V-VI of Turkmenistan and the Harappa cultures of ancient India.

Due to the archaeological researches since 90s of XX century has been received not only material culture, but also new information on the history of religious beliefs and funerals. At the beginning of XX century burial and study of the first religious rites became an urgent task.

As a result of research conducted in the southern regions of Uzbekistan, the scope of knowledge about the worship on the sun, fire, animals, birds and plant starting from the Bronze Age has considerably increased.

It is controversial linking Zoroastrianism with the traditions of construction of the chapels and the worship on fire. Worship on fire existed in ancient times before emergence of Zoroastrianism. The sculpture of Fertility Goddess made from the stone belonging to X-VIII centuries before millennium found from Surkhan oasis Mirshadi farming district is controversial source to Zoroastrianism traditions. The findings of the researchers on the fact that Zoroastrianism did not have chapels and the sculptures of goddess and initially conducted their religious rites in an open air are the corresponding fact.

In the recent years, researcher D.Karimova has been engaged in studying burials and religious beliefs in North Bactria, analyzed the findings of researches conducted in the area till that time and compared them with Bronze Age cultures of North Bactria. According to the researcher, the traditions of burial ceremonies of Bronze Age farmer communities of Northern Bactria and changes occurred on their lands are characteristics of Uzbek people, and historical roots of burial customs of Uzbek people go back to Bronze Age [7, p. 5- 21].

It was also discovered by the researcher that process of formation of first Zoroastrian religion and divination of the four elements of its nature occurred in the late Bronze Age, in the example of Jarkutan chapel the first Zoroastrianism and historical roots of Uzbek statehood go back to the Bronze Age [7, p. 5- 21].

The archaeological data of Bronze Age were widely involved in the study of issues of production and social division of labor, crop cultivation, irrigation and construction issues. As a result, there was a chance to explore ancient socio-economic relationship and to conduct new research to address controversial issues.

The migratory processes played essential role in the process of formation of crop cultivation culture of Central Asia. The last Bronze Age was characterized by migration of steppe stock-breeder tribes and peasant groups from the south to the northern territories of Margiana and Bactria [14, p. 55].

In the early 90s of XX century A.A. Askarov and T.Sh. Shirinov summarized the available data in history, explained the emergence of new farming centers in southern Uzbekistan due to the migration, i.e. demographic and social reasons of the growth of population of Bronze Age in different parts of the East [4, p. 41- 42].

In the literatures published in the early XXI century E.V.Rtveladze, A.S. Sagdullaev, U.M. Mavlanov, Sh.B. Shaydullayev paid their attention to the influence of external factors on demographic, ecological, socio-economic and political reasons that cause migration of the population in the development of farming culture in Southern Uzbekistan. U.M. Mavlanov has focused on this issue and has made special analysis of migration of the population to new lands as a result of population growth as a demographic, ecological, socio-economic and political factors leading to migration; forced migrations due to the natural disasters, global cataclysms, radical change of climate; forced migrations caused with the occupation of the region by other population groups [8, p. 183].

After the independence of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the study of history of Uzbek statehood became one of the most actual issues. In recent

years, the main features of ancient history and the emergence of statehood issues have regularly been analyzed by the researchers [11; 3; 13].

Sh.Shaydullaev having analyzed the archeological data of the bronze and early Iron Age of Surkhon oasis considered the theoretical issues related to the emergence of the first states, the oldest city - state in the territory of Uzbekistan, administrative structure of Jarkutan city-state, trade and cultural relations [19, p. 24, 58].

Based on, Jarkutan, Kuchuktepa, Bandixon, Kiziltepa the archeological materials of A.S.Sagdullayev, the development of the first statehood and urban culture could be divided into three periods, the middle and the second half of II thousand years before the millennium, X-VIII and VII-VI centuries before millennium was mentioned as the important period of studying issues such as conditions and factors of state formation, the essence of organizational management activity in the transition to statehood, social positions, the features of transition to the professional governance farming societies, the first forms of statehood and forms of governance, administrative territorial system of the population, archeological cartography and historical geography [15, p. 80-84].

This list can be significantly expanded by using archaeological data, including significance of the study of archeological findings such as the development of ancient technology, creation and implementation of technological innovations, approximate amount of using fertile lands for farming purposes, the indicators of production of craftsmanship products for the trade. Archaeological materials are also important in the study of ancient economic and cultural relations issues.

Having analyzed the main directions of the study of Bronze Age monuments during independence years the following conclusions can be made:

1. Studying the sources of material culture has enabled to identify the peculiarities of craftsmanship development (home-made craftsmanship - collective craftsmanship and separation of craftsmanship from farming);
2. The problems of construction techniques and the methods, mutual relationship of material cultures, cultural traditions and development of

innovations of Bronze Age have been covered in detail based on the archaeological materials of Surkhan oasis;

3. The study of Bronze Age material evidences were the basis for the new approach of studying ancient economic relations and cultural relations issues;

4. In 90s of the last century, in the publications of the researchers the external relations of the of Bronze Age farmers in southern Uzbekistan have been linked to the directions of Belujistan, India, South Afghanistan, South Turkmenistan, Iran and front Asia based on the new archeological data;

5. The various information confirm that the ancient population Surkhan oasis encloses wide range of territory with economic and cultural ties thus indicates the existence of long-term trade relations;

6. In the literature of the XXI century the discovery of ceramic dishes and metalwork belonging to the Andronovo culture of Bronze Age monuments of Southern Uzbekistan were interpreted in connection with the migratory processes of livestock dwellers of the steppe. At the same time, finding of Sopolli culture items in southern Tajikistan, Zarafshan oasis, Fergana valley (Uzgan) enables to explore the directions of the migration of farmer tribes. Economic and cultural ties and the harmony of migration issues play important role for the researchers.

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