

Urban Planning And Urbanization Processes In The Khorezm Oasis

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Abstract: This article deals with the processes of urbanization of the cities of the Khorezm oasis, their construction and architectural methods. The article also provides an analysis of the literature on the subject.

Key words: Khorezm oasis, urbanization, housing, archeological research, A.Vamberi, military fortifications.

Introduction

Archeological excavations in the Souythern Aral Sea region of the Khorezm oasis show that in the past the processes of urban civilization developed on this land, there were many cities and castles. According to archeological and written sources, a total of 64 urban type archeological monuments have been recorded in the 4th century BC to the 14th century AD.

As a result of intensive urban planning and urbanization processes in the Khorezm oasis, which began in the 4th and 2nd centuries BC, irrigated lands with the help of 40-50 km of canals were covered with fields, orchards and vineyards, and a wide agricultural and agrarian landscape was developed.[1] Defensive structures, military fortifications and trade and craft centers will appear on the borders of Ustyurt Chinki, Unguzorti Karakum and Kyzylkum.

Main Part

As well as handicrafts (blacksmithing, ceramics) will be located around the cities, away from houses and fortresses and the industrial landscape will be developed.

Monuments of antiquity reflect the high level of urban planning, architecture and art culture. In the conditions of the centralized state

there is a large artificial irrigation system. With the emergence of handicraft and trade centers, the craft industry has developed rapidly. In ancient times, large cities developed on the left and right banks of the lower Amu Darya. These include Khiva, Qazaqliyat (Akchahonkala), Bozorkala, Khozoras, Zamakhshar and Katta Oybo'yirkala.

The process of urban civilization in the Khorezm oasis reformed the culture of urban planning in the early Middle Ages, during the stages of historical development the symbols of statehood became politically strong, influenced the content and subsequent directions of society. New information on the location of the first medieval cities of Khorezm and the Aral Sea oasis on the Great Silk Road, the direction of handicrafts in the cities, trade relations.

The first information about the early medieval cities of the Khorezm oasis is recorded in Persian and Arabic sources, in the works of Russian researchers who have been studying the territory of the Khiva Khanate from the 80s of the 19th century.[2] In 1863 the Hungarian orientalist A.Vamberi came to the Khiva Khanate, travelled along the Amu Darya and gave information about the geographical location, planning, high walls and towers of Gaurkala.[3]

The works of V.V. Grigorev, N.I. Veselovskiy, V.V. Barthold and V.G. Tizenhausen in addition to providing and studying medieval sources on the 10th and 15th centuries were the first attempts to critically study them.

Archeological study of medieval cities of Khorezm began in 1928-29. An expedition led by A.Y. Yakubovskiy excavated architectural monuments in present-day Old Urgench, the

capital of the Khorezm kings and in the early medieval city of Mizdakhan.[4]

According to archeological excavations in Khorezm in the 5th and 7th centuries the process of Khorezm's peasant farms becoming cadids accelerated.

Cities were the centre of feudal property, and the surrounding lands also belonged to the feudal lords.

Most cities of the Khorezm are located on large caravan routes, which pass from the south, Khorasan, Jurjan and Movaraunnahr through the central regions of the country on the right and left banks of the Amu Darya. Some of the cities are located on the outskirts of the country in an area where the agricultural population of the region and the nomads of the steps interact.

Khorezm urbanization processes can be divided into 3 regions:

1) Archeological excavations in the Central Amu Darya region show that the settlements that have existed in one place for many centuries are more settled;

2) Downstream of the Amu Darya –here urban-type settlements appeared much later, after the 7th-9th centuries and flourished in the early 12th-13th centuries;

3) The north-western and western borders of the country between the northern Davdon and the river, where some cities existed at different times, but flourished in the late 13th and 14th centuries, when they became part of the new territory.

At that time new urban-type trade and craft settlements appeared here or old settlements expanded.[5]

Although the study of the Khorezm oasis has collected interesting data on the problem of interaction between the city of Khorezm and its environs, this problem is multificated and has not yet been fully resolved.

S.P.Tolstov considered the emergence of medieval cities around the fortress of the feudal lords as one of the peculiar ways of their development.[6]

In the 3th century Khorezm was very economically active according to Arab sources. Khorezmian merchants as in ancient times, traded first with the nomads of the steps of present-day Turkmenistan and western Kazakhstan, secondly with the Volga Khazaria (later the Dashti Kipchak) and Bulgaria and finally with Slavic trade in Eastern Europe.

Istakhri said that trade expanded here as early as the 10th century: Khorezm is acity with a lot of productive food and fruits the only problem is that there is not hazel-nut, that there are a lot of cotton and wool are made here and these things are transported to faraway places. The distinguishing feature of the the population is its wealth and aspiration to show courage.

At the end of 10th century an unknown author of "Hudud al-Alam" wrote about the city of Kat: "The wealth of the city is great. From here pillow skin, kavima dress, head yarn fabric, felt ruxbin a kind of cheese is produced".

Written sources and archeological research allow to analyze the information about the structure of the cities of the Khorezmshah Anushtegin period. Sources contain information about arc-sitadel (kokhandiz) Shakhristan and robods (3 part triad) in the cities of Central Asia and Khorezm in the Islamic east.

According the concept of the emergence two development of Central Asian cities by famous historians such as B.B.Zhukovsky, V.V.Barthold, N.I.Veselovsky, A.Y.Yakubovsky, I.P.Petrushevsky medieval cities first rose around the castle(ark, kokhandiz), then it developed into a Shakhristan and then the suburbs developed into rabods. By the 11th century the image of the city's economic and social life had faded, and eventually the city was divided into three parts.[7]

10th and 11th centuries the cities of Khozoras, Dargan, Zamakhshar, Narynjan and Kat continued to develop as the largest trade centres of Khorezm and in the sources of this period they were repeatedly mentioned as the most important trade centres. The ruby which was in Khorezm in 1219-1221, mentions the

Yokut Hamawi Hazarasp as a strong fortress a beautiful city with many markets and rastas.

The emergence and development of trade centres in Khorezm was not left out of the political process. As a result in the new cities of the oasis, strong fortifications on the borders of the states were formed on the basis of the development of artificial irrigation systems around the forts and in the vicinity of the river oases, merging with the villages around the forts.

Due to the dry climate of the Khiva Khanate, which was surrounded by diurnal ridges, natural and geographical factors played an important role in the urbanization process in the region.

In the development of the city, their location in the oases, the protection of water supply from external threats has played an important role in ensuring life expectancy. Most of tourists in the Khiva Khanate noted that number of cities in the country was about 30, referring not only to the centers of the 20 principalities, but also to the settlements with large markets and fortresses, where economic life was booming.

Because in such areas, of course, the administrative person and his residence, the mosque, the conditions for the inhabitants of the area were schools, madrasas, shops and around them served as a center for the villages in the area.

In the early 19th century, cities such as Urgench, Khiva, Hazarasp, Tashkhovuz, Nukus, Konjorot and Khojaly were rebuilt and in the late 19th century. Petro Aleksandrovsk was rebuilt. Until the beginning of the twentieth century the cities of Khorezm retained their traditional appearance.

Conclusion

Today, the appearance of the ancient Khorezm oasis is changing radically. New buildings and houses are being built in harmony with historical and modern traditions. Huge creative work is being carried out to improve the living conditions of the population, to address

socio-economic issues in accordance with the highest requirements.

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