

THE HISTORY OF TURKIC NATIONS' FORMATION

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Abstract: In this article, the author, based on sources that have been little studied to date, sheds light on the history of the origin of the Turkic peoples, the processes of formation of the term Turk. An attempt has been made to reveal the initial formation process of the term Turk, the true foundations of the Turkish people. The information presented in the article serves as additional material to the works published in the scientific community so far.

Keywords: Ancient Turkestan, Himalayas, Tibet, Pamir, Tian Shan, Altai, Taklamakan, Ughurs, Tatans, Aymans, Jami ut-Tawarikh, Tungus, Scythians, Tujue, Tuke, Yuruks, Turkmens, Tahtacis, Abdals.

Today, more than 130 nationalities and ethnic groups are peacefully coexisting in our homeland. One of these nations is the Turkish diaspora. The history of this nation's arrival in our homeland's territory dates back to the distant past.

The history of the origin of the Turkic people, one of the peoples living in our country, can be traced back to ancient times. Various accounts have been provided about the origin of Turkic tribes. Below, we will focus on information about who the Turkic tribes were and how they were formed.

Although humans are biologically similar, they develop based on common social laws and divide into countless groups. As a result, diverse groups and communities of people exist on Earth. Ancient Turkestan was also a land of many tribes, each with a developmental path stretching back to the distant past. The primitive society our ancestors lived through spans approximately 800 thousand years.

During this period, significant natural and geographical changes occurred on the Earth's surface. Consequently, the changing geographical environment greatly influenced societal development. The Himalayas, Tibet, the Pamirs, and the Tian Shan mountains rose. Due to the onset of colder weather, large glaciers formed. The animal and plant world took on a different appearance. Heat-loving animals migrated southward or became extinct. They were replaced by cold-resistant animals. People began to live in caves.

Fire began to be used. When natural caves became too cramped, they started building shelters. Living in close proximity to each other led to kinship and clan formation. The hardships of survival forced tribal communities to unite with one another. Thus, large nomadic military-tribal alliances emerged.

There are different views on the origin of the Turkic tribes:

- The Chinese consider the Turks to be descendants of the Xiongnu. Indeed, there is reason to believe that the ancestors of the Turks were one of the tribes that entered the Hunnic alliance;
- Western historians assume that the Turks are related to the Scythians (Saka) and do not hesitate to say that they are part of the Scythian people;
- Some Western historians say that the ancestors of the Turks were the Xianbei people, who had lived to the east of the Mongols since ancient times. Supporters of this hypothesis call the Huns Mongols and the Xianbei Turks.

According to Chinese sources, the Xiongnu were defeated by the Chinese army in 92 AD. Subsequently, the Chinese allowed the Ashina tribe, which was part of the Hunnic system, to settle in the Altai region. They obligated the Ashina people to extract iron from the Altai Mountains as a form of tribute.

The Chinese referred to this tribe as "tukuyu." Later, the word "tukuyu" evolved into "turk yurt" (Turks). L. Gumilyov described the word "Turks" in his book "Ancient Turks" using the Russian words for "strong" and "robust." According to I. Bichurin, the Altai Mountains resemble a round iron helmet, which the Chinese called "tuke." This translates to "shlyom" in Russian, and "temir qalpoq" or "dubulg'a" (meaning "iron helmet" or "helm") in Uzbek.

Information about the Turkic peoples was first recorded in ancient Orkhon inscriptions. Orkhon is the name of a river in present-day Mongolia, and the inscriptions date back to the 8th century. However, linguists state that the Turkic language appeared earlier than the 8th century. It has been proven that the Turkic language, which currently has its own phonetic system, originated in Altai in the 1st century BC.

The ancestors of the Mongols - the Tungus - lived in Tibet. Later, they moved to the banks of the Amur River, towards northern China. The renowned Russian orientalist I. Bichurin suggested that the Turks, Mongols, and Tungus emerged from a common ancestor 2.5 thousand years before our era. It is known from history that the Tungus initiated the formation of two peoples - the Huns and the Tatar-Mongols.

The ancestors of the Turkic tribes were the peoples who lived west of Lake Baikal, along the Irtysh and Yenisei rivers, in the Altai region and Taklamakan desert, forming tribal unions before the Common Era. The Tungus, who lived between the Pacific Ocean and Lake Baikal, along the banks of the Amur, Argun, and Shilka rivers, gave rise to the Ilou, Wuhan Fuyu, Xianghu, Dingling, Kara-Khitai, Dinghu, Xunyu, Juan-juan, Kumoxi, Shivgi, Mohe, Sushen, Boisi, and other peoples.

In the 4th century, the Ughi tribes formed from the tribes living on the banks of the Amur. In the 7th century, the Ayman (clan) separated from the Ughi and was called Mohe. Mohe is a Chinese word meaning Mongol.

At the beginning of the 9th century, one of the Ayman tribes moved towards Southern Mongolia. The Ayman who went south were called Tatan in Chinese sources. In European sources, the word "tatan" was referred to as "totar." By the end of the 12th century, the Tatar-Mongols were formed as a result of the intensification of the process of various language-speaking peoples merging into one nation. Among those who joined these peoples were the Oirats, Merkits, Jalayirs, Tejuts, Bartuts, Naymans, Uriankhai, Durbens, Barins, Keraites, Onguts, Buryats, and Barlas.

In his work "Jami ut-tawarikh" (Compendium of Chronicles), Rashiduddin, discussing the tribes called "Mongols," clearly states that "the names of these peoples, now called Mongols, were not like this before," and he explains that among them, the Jalayir, Sunit, Tatar, Merkit, Kurlovit, Tulas, Tumat, Bulagachin, Keremuchin, Urasut, Tamghaliq, Torgut, Oirat, Bargut, Kori, Telingut, and other tribes are Turkic peoples.

Thus, Rashid al-Din's information reveals that all Turkic peoples who were part of Genghis Khan's political union at that time were called Mongols. The author's following thoughts provide even clearer evidence for this idea.

The scholar, discussing the Ergene-kun (Arkanakun) tribe, states that the word "Mongol" became the name of their clan, and now they are spreading this name to other peoples similar to the Mongols. This is because their mingling with other peoples coincided with the Mongol era, though in reality, these latter peoples are Turks.

The author notes that the Mongol tribe was actually very small, listing 18 tribes that originated from the true Mongols, including Nukus, Uryankat, Qong'iro, Ikras, Ulkunit, Kuralas, Eljigin, Kunkulayut, Urtaut, Kunqo'ton, Orulat, Kingut, Ushin, Sulduz, Eldurkin, Boyovut, and Kingut. However, even among these, there are peoples who are not of true Mongol origin. In the past, various tribes began to define their lineage and status by associating themselves with the Mongols, because Genghis and his clan were called Mongols. For this reason, the work notes that some tribes, despite initially not recognizing the Mongols, later began to proudly consider themselves Mongols.

Rashiduddin even believes that "in ancient times, the Mongols themselves were merely a part of the Turkic peoples living in the steppes."

The National Encyclopedia of the Republic of Uzbekistan provides the following information about the Turks. Anthropologically, the Turks belong to the Mediterranean group of the southern Europoid race. Ethnically, the Turks are composed of two main components: nomadic Turkic pastoral tribes (mainly Oghuz and Turkmen) that migrated from Central Asia and Iran to Asia Minor during the Seljuk and Mongol invasions in the 11th-13th centuries, and the local population of Asia Minor. Some Turkic groups (Uz and Pechenegs) migrated to Asia Minor through the Balkan Peninsula. The Turks intermingled with the indigenous population (Greeks, Armenians, Georgians, and others), assimilating part of them and adopting many features of their economy and culture. Arab, Kurdish, South Slavic, Romanian, Albanian, and other elements also contributed to their ethnogenesis. In the 14th-16th centuries, the Turks conquered the Balkan Peninsula, Cyprus, and other territories.

The Turkish people were formed around the 15th century. Among the Turks, there are semi-nomadic ethnographic groups: Yörüks, Turkmens, Tahtacı, Abdals, and others. These semi-nomadic groups are gradually settling and assimilating into the Turkish population. The majority of modern Turks (65%) are engaged in agriculture, while more than 35% work in the industrial sector.

Currently, over 70 thousand people belonging to the Turkish diaspora live in the territory of Uzbekistan.

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