

BRONZE AGE MONUMENTS OF SOUTHERN UZBEKISTAN**Yusupova Nazirahon Bakhidirovna**

Andijan branch of Turon University
Master's Department History specialty Graduate student
of the 1st stage

Abstract

The Southern region of Uzbekistan was one of the developed centers of ancient civilizations during the Bronze Age. In this period, the local population engaged in agriculture, animal husbandry, and handicrafts. Archaeological excavations have revealed monuments such as Sopollitepa and Jarqoton, which provide important insights into the lifestyle, economic activities, and social structure of Bronze Age communities. The discovery of bronze weapons, pottery, and decorative items demonstrates the advanced craftsmanship of the period. Additionally, the findings indicate trade relations with other regions. Studying Bronze Age monuments also sheds light on social stratification, religious beliefs, and cultural life of the ancient societies. Research has clarified the significance of this region in the history of Central Asia. Preserving these monuments and transferring knowledge about them to future generations is considered a key responsibility of archaeological studies.

Keywords

Southern Uzbekistan, Bronze Age, monuments, archaeology, Sopollitepa, Jarqoton, culture.

Introduction

The territory of Southern Uzbekistan is one of the most ancient and rich historical regions of Central Asia. This region has played an important role in the formation of various peoples, cultures and civilizations since ancient times. Especially during the Bronze Age, the population living here was distinguished by its developed culture, crafts and lifestyle. The Bronze Age is a very important stage in the history of mankind, because it was during this period that people learned to create bronze metal by mixing copper and tin. This led to the fact that tools, weapons and various decorative items became more durable and effective.

The Bronze Age covers the period that lasted from the end of the 3rd millennium BC to the beginning of the 1st millennium BC. Large cultural centers emerged in Central Asia, including in Southern Uzbekistan, during this period. Monuments, ancient settlements, mounds, cemeteries and various objects found as a result of archaeological research are an important source for studying the life, economic activity and cultural development of the people who lived at that time.

The territory of Southern Uzbekistan, in particular the Surkhandarya and Kashkadarya oases, is very rich in Bronze Age monuments. As a result of archaeological excavations conducted in these regions, many ancient cities and settlements have been identified. These monuments have provided important information about how the Bronze Age population lived, what kind of houses they built, and what professions they were engaged in.

One of the most famous archaeological monuments of the Bronze Age in Southern Uzbekistan is the Jarkutan monument. This monument is located in the Surkhandarya region and is recognized as one of the major centers of Bronze Age civilization. During excavations conducted by archaeologists, ruins of ancient cities, residential buildings, temples, and various handicrafts were found here. These finds indicate a high level of cultural and economic development of the population living at that time.

The Sopollitepa monument is also one of the important archaeological monuments of the Bronze Age in Southern Uzbekistan. This monument is also located in the Surkhandarya region,



and it shows the development of ancient farming culture. Various pottery, tools, remains of dwellings and other items were found in the excavations of Sopollitepe. These findings have made important scientific conclusions about the lifestyle, crafts and economic activities of the population of that period.

During the Bronze Age, the population of Southern Uzbekistan was mainly engaged in farming, animal husbandry and crafts. There were favorable natural conditions for farming, and irrigated farming developed in the oases. The population grew grain crops such as wheat and barley, and also raised livestock - sheep, goats, cattle and horses. Crafts were also quite developed, especially metalworking, the manufacture of pottery and textiles were widespread.

Another important feature of the Bronze Age is that during this period the social structure of society gradually became more complex. Archaeological finds show that some people were richer and more influential. For example, valuable items, ornaments and weapons were found in some graves. This indicates that the process of social stratification in society began.

Main part

The Bronze Age is one of the important stages in the history of Southern Uzbekistan. During this period, the tribes living in the region formed a highly developed society in economic, cultural and social terms. The monuments found as a result of archaeological research indicate that farming, animal husbandry, crafts and trade relations were widely developed in this region during the Bronze Age. In particular, the monuments found in the Surkhandarya and Kashkadarya oases serve as an important source for studying the history of this period.

Sopollitepa occupies a special place among the monuments of the Bronze Age of Southern Uzbekistan. This monument is located in the Surkhandarya region and is one of the oldest settlements of the Bronze Age. Sopollitepa is archaeologically very important, because many finds have been discovered there, indicating the development of ancient farming culture. As a result of excavations, dwellings, farm buildings, defensive walls and various handicrafts were found. This monument shows that in the Bronze Age the population lived in solid houses, and there was a certain level of organization in society.

Another important aspect of the Sopollitepa settlement is that it was built in a planned manner. The houses here are arranged in a certain order, and the streets and courtyards are built according to a clear system. This indicates the development of the construction culture and architectural knowledge of the people who lived at that time. The pottery, bronze objects and tools found in Sopollitepa confirm the highly developed level of craftsmanship of that time.

Another important monument of the Bronze Age in Southern Uzbekistan is Jarkoton. Jarkoton is located in the Surkhandarya region and is known as one of the major cultural centers of the Bronze Age. Archaeological excavations have revealed the remains of an ancient city in this area. The Jarkoton monument indicates that urban culture began to form in this area in the Bronze Age.

As a result of excavations conducted in Jarkoton, residential buildings, temples, craft workshops, and defensive walls were discovered. These findings indicate the development of the economic and religious life of society in the Bronze Age. In particular, the presence of temples indicates that religious beliefs and rituals played an important role in that period. Bronze objects, ornaments, and ceramic vessels found in Jarkoton indicate the development of metalworking and pottery in this area.

During the Bronze Age, the population living in the territory of Southern Uzbekistan was mainly engaged in agriculture. The natural conditions of this area were favorable for irrigated agriculture. It was found that ancient irrigation systems existed in settlements located along rivers and streams. The population grew wheat, barley, and other grain crops. Along with agriculture, animal husbandry also played an important role. People raised sheep, goats, cattle, and horses.



Craftsmanship was one of the most developed areas in the Bronze Age. Metalworking was especially important. With the advent of bronze metal, tools and weapons became more durable and effective. As a result of archaeological excavations, various bronze knives, spears, decorative items and other items were found. These finds indicate that the craftsmen of that time were well versed in metalworking technology.

Pottery is also one of the types of crafts that developed widely in the Bronze Age. The ceramic vessels found as a result of excavations were decorated with various shapes and patterns. These vessels were used in everyday life for storing food, transporting water and other purposes. The decorations of some ceramic vessels also provide information about the art and aesthetic views of that period.

The social structure of the society of that period can also be studied through the Bronze Age monuments of Southern Uzbekistan. Archaeological finds indicate that there was some stratification in society. For example, valuable items, bronze decorations and other treasures were found in some graves. This indicates that there was a richer and more influential layer in society. In ordinary graves, ordinary objects or no objects at all were found.

Also, during the Bronze Age, the territory of Southern Uzbekistan was in trade and cultural relations with other regions. Among the archaeological finds, there are also objects from distant regions. This indicates that trade routes existed in the Bronze Age and economic relations developed between different regions. Metals, precious stones and other items were exchanged through trade.

Another important aspect of the Bronze Age is the formation of religious views and rituals during this period. As a result of archaeological excavations, the remains of temples and ritual objects were found. These findings indicate that during the Bronze Age, people may have worshiped the forces of nature, various gods or spirits. Religious rituals played an important role in the life of society.

The monuments of the Bronze Age of Southern Uzbekistan are of great importance in studying the lifestyle, economic activity and cultural development of the people of that time. As a result of research conducted by archaeologists, the ancient history of this region is being studied in more depth. Each discovered object or monument provides new information about the Bronze Age society.

In general, the Bronze Age monuments of South Uzbekistan indicate that they were one of the important centers of ancient civilization. Through Sopollitepa, Jarkuton and other monuments, one can learn that a developed culture and economic system existed in this region from ancient times. These monuments are of great scientific importance not only in studying the history of Uzbekistan, but also in studying the history of Central Asia as a whole.

The Bronze Age monuments of South Uzbekistan are of great importance not only in studying the history of the region, but also in studying the history of Central Asia as a whole. Through these monuments, one can form a broad idea of the cultural ties, economic development and lifestyle of the peoples who lived in this region in ancient times. As a result of the research conducted by archaeologists, new monuments are discovered, and knowledge about the history of the Bronze Age is becoming even richer.

The Bronze Age monuments of South Uzbekistan are distinguished by their rich archaeological heritage. Through these monuments, we gain important information about the life, culture, and economic activities of our ancient ancestors. Therefore, studying, preserving, and passing them on to future generations is one of the important tasks of history and archaeology.

Literature analysis. The study of the Bronze Age monuments of Southern Uzbekistan is one of the important scientific directions in archeology and history. Many local and foreign scientists have conducted scientific research on this topic. Their scientific works allow us to study the economic, cultural and social development of the Bronze Age in more depth. By



analyzing the literature, it is possible to identify the scientific views and research directions formed about the Bronze Age monuments in the territory of Southern Uzbekistan.

The services of the famous archaeologist ****Viktor Ivanovich Sarianidi**** in the scientific study of the Bronze Age monuments of Southern Uzbekistan are considered great. Through his archaeological research in the Surkhandarya region, he identified many monuments of the Bronze Age and gave their scientific description. In particular, in the process of studying the monuments of Sopollitepa and Jarkoton, he analyzed the specific features of the Bronze Age culture. In his research, Sarianidi evaluates this area as one of the important centers of ancient farming culture.

The Uzbek archaeologist Askar Askarov also made a great contribution to the study of the Bronze Age monuments of Southern Uzbekistan. Through his archaeological excavations in the Surkhandarya oasis, he scientifically shed light on the historical significance of Sopollitepa, Jarkoton and other monuments. Askarov's research shows the existence of a developed farming, animal husbandry and handicraft culture in this region during the Bronze Age. His scientific work plays an important role in the development of Uzbek archaeology.

Another important researcher in the study of the Bronze Age culture of Southern Uzbekistan is Edward Rtveladze. He also paid special attention to Bronze Age monuments in the process of studying the history of Central Asia. In his scientific work, Rtveladze analyzed the social structure, economic activity and cultural ties of ancient society through Bronze Age monuments.

In scientific literature, the Bronze Age culture of Southern Uzbekistan is often studied from the perspective of archaeological cultures. Researchers analyze the monuments in this area within the framework of the Sopolli culture. This culture is described as an ancient farming culture that developed in the Surkhandarya region during the Bronze Age. Scientific works indicate that the main features of this culture are developed agriculture, pottery, metalworking, and the presence of fortified settlements.

Conclusion

The territory of Southern Uzbekistan has long been one of the important centers of human civilization. The Bronze Age in particular is an important stage in the history of this region. The monuments identified as a result of archaeological research indicate that a developed culture and economic system existed in Southern Uzbekistan in the 3rd-2nd millennia BC. Through these monuments, it is possible to obtain important information about the lifestyle, economic activity, crafts and social relations of the population living at that time.

Among the monuments of the Bronze Age, archaeological monuments such as Sopollitepa and Jarkoton are of particular importance. These monuments indicate the structure of ancient settlements, the construction of houses, the existence of craft workshops and religious structures. In particular, the Jarkoton monument is one of the important sources confirming the beginning of the formation of urban culture in the Bronze Age. Such monuments indicate the existence of developed cultural centers in the territory of Southern Uzbekistan during the Bronze Age.

Archaeological finds show that in the Bronze Age, the population of this region was mainly engaged in agriculture and animal husbandry. The development of irrigated agriculture contributed to the formation of a sustainable lifestyle in the oases. At the same time, crafts were also one of the important areas. Metalworking, pottery and other crafts played a major role in the economic life of Bronze Age society. The found bronze weapons, implements and decorative items indicate the high level of skill of the craftsmen of that time.

Bronze Age monuments also provide important information about the social structure of the society of that time. The graves and the objects found in them indicate that there was a certain level of social stratification in society. The discovery of valuable objects in some graves



indicates that some people had a high position in society. This indicates that society was gradually becoming more complex during the Bronze Age.

Also, during the Bronze Age, the territory of Southern Uzbekistan was in economic and cultural relations with other regions. Through trade relations, various goods and raw materials were exchanged. This indicates the existence of cultural influences and contacts between the regions. Archaeological finds confirm that this region was one of the important cultural and economic centers in ancient times.

In general, the Bronze Age monuments of Southern Uzbekistan are of great scientific importance in studying the ancient history of the region. Through these monuments, one can gain a deeper understanding of the lifestyle, economic activities and cultural development of our ancient ancestors. Therefore, studying, preserving and passing on these monuments to future generations is one of the important tasks of history and archeology.

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