

THE IMPACT OF THE ZARAFSHAN RIVER IN THE FORMATION OF THE HISTORICAL GEOGRAPHY OF THE BUKHARA OASIS**Goziyev Mashrab Eshmakhammatovich**

Chirchik State Pedagogical University

Faculty of Humanities

Teacher of the Department of History.

goziyevmashrab1990@gmail.com

Annotation: From the earliest stages of human history, humanity has been living in the Bukhara oasis, as in various regions of the world. The geographical features and natural conditions of the oasis have not failed to influence the lifestyle, labor activity, material and spiritual and ethnic culture of primitive communities. The reason is that each region contributes to the development and strengthening of the lifestyle and economy of ancient ancestors. Therefore, when we find out any region, we can see that humanity obeyed the laws of nature in settling in this region, and the interrelationship between human and nature. One of such regions is the Bukhara oasis (Lower Zarafshan oasis). The Zarafshan River and its historical geography of the oasis are of great importance in the formation of the anthropogenic landscape here. We can learn this from the results of scientific research conducted at archaeological sites in the region.

Keywords: Bukhara oasis, Zarafshan river, The Amu Darya, historical geography, Pleistocene, Holocene, suvlots .

INTRODUCTION The Bukhara oasis, one of the biggest agricultural center of the Central Asia, has served as a trade, economic and cultural bridge connecting the countries of the Ancient East and Southwest Asia, rather than its geographical location. The Bukhara oasis has developed, enjoying the cultural and economic influence of Chinese civilization and the territories of the Ancient East. At the same time, over the centuries, the oasis has taken a special place in historical development, becoming one of the centers of high agricultural culture, production, crafts and trade. The Bukhara oasis is the birthplace of the modern Bukhara region and Navoi region, and people have lived here since the Stone Age . The main water sources of the oasis were the Zarafshan River, the Amu Darya (until the 3rd millennium BC), and the Kashka Darya water basins. However, unlike the Amu Darya and the Kashka Darya, the role of the Zarafshan River in the development of oasis experience and irrigated agriculture is extremely significant.

MAIN PART

The formation of the Zarafshan River dates back to the "Pleistocene" period in geological time-series of the Earth's history, and to the "Paleolithic" period in archaeological time-series. During this period, the Amu Darya, Syr Darya, and Zarafshan rivers arose in Central Asia. At one time, these rivers flowed into the Caspian Sea, and their territory stretched in the form of the Pamir-Alai in the south, the Tien Shan in the north, the Hindu Kush and Kopet mountain ranges in the west, connecting with the Elburz in the Caucasus and Karatay, reaching from the Tien Shan in the southwest to the Aral Sea in the northeast. The Zarafshan River begins at the junction of the Turkestan and Hissar ranges in the north and the Zarafshan ranges in the south, at an altitude of 3,154 meters, from the Zarafshan glacier¹ (the length of the glacier is 24.7 km, width is 1.7 km, and thickness is 200 m²), and extends to the Sandiqli sands of the Kyzylkum in the west (781 km). The territory of the Zarafshan valley gradually expands, and in the upper

¹ 2. Shul's V.L. Hydrography of Central Asia. – Tashkent, 1958. -P.59.

² Muhammadjonov A.R. History of irrigation of the Lower Zarafshan valley. – Tashkent, 1972. -B.22.



reaches of the river its width is 4-5 km., and the basin narrows from the place where the Kishutsay flows into the Zarafshan. Below it, the valley widens, and in the areas of the Bukhara oasis its width reaches 60-70 km³. The length of the Zarafshan valley in Uzbekistan is about 480 km, and it was along these territories that the Samarkand, Bukhara and Karakul oases were formed in historical times. V.L. Shul's works mention the Zarafshan River as an ancient tributary of the Amu Darya⁴. Indeed, during the Holocene, as a result of active neotectonic processes, the southern regions of the Turanian plate are growing faster. The Poykand-Karakul massif rises somewhat. The ancient flow of the Zarafshan rests in the Bukhara oasis and flows into the Kyzylkum along the Mokhandarya and Gujayli basins near present-day Yakkatut. Along these two ancient basins, it forms a chain of several lakes, including Chukurkul, Mokhankul, Urtakul, Chandirkul, Zamonbobo, Kichiktuzkon, Kattatuzkon, Lokhli, Ogachuyuyuk, Qandirli, Kayikli, Kurbanboy, Rahmatbobo, Kichiktuzkon, Kattatuzkon and Echikiron. Then, crossing the Urgench steppe for 150 km, it flows into the Amu Darya at the places of Aqrabad and Nargizkala.

The ancient beds of the Mokhandarya, which once connected Zarafshan with the Amu Darya, which later dried up due to lack of water, are now completely dry and almost invisible among the shallow, salty lakes surrounded by sedge, but they are very well preserved in the desert, especially under the dunes. In some places, its width reaches 30 meters, and its depth reaches 1.5-2 meters. One of the beds of the Mokhandarya near Nargizkal'a, located on the right bank of the Amu Darya, splits into four channels, forming a delta and flows into the Amu Darya through deep and wide ravines. The locals call the ravines "suvlots". The first of them is known as Okhursuvlot, the second is known as Jilgindisuvlot or Yulgunlisuvlot, the third is known as Shorsuvlot or Oikhonsuvlot, and the fourth is known as Suvlisuvlot or Digisuvlot. These water bodies are 75-125 meters wide and 15-20 meters deep. Another tributary of the Mokhandarya, located 18 km southeast of Nargizkala, near the Okrabod region, is divided into five tributaries: Shuryotak, Sariboy, Poyanda, Kumsuvlot and Jarsuvlot, which also flow into the Amu Darya⁵. In the 6th-5th millennium BC, as a result of the Zarafshan River flowing into the Amu Darya, the Zarafshan delta began to become a convenient area for people to live. As a result, the development of the territories by the population began. In the Holocene era, there were green steppes, many lakes and canals in the territory of the Bukhara oasis. There were a lot of birds and fish in the fauna. When irrigated agriculture had not yet appeared in the Zarafshan valley, all the water of the river flowed towards the Bukhara oasis. In the 6th-5th millennium BC. By the 3rd millennium BC, as a result of climate change in Central Asia and the development of new territories, desertification begins in the Bukhara oasis⁶. From this period, the importance of the Zarafshan River in the oasis increases more than ever. As a result of the development of the northeastern and central parts of the Bukhara oasis by the population, the Mohon Darya, Gurdush, Gujaili, Zamanbabo Lake, Chukurkul, Ortakol and other water bodies in the western part of Bukhara, which received water from Zarafshan, dry up. The water lakes in the regions turn into salt marshes. BC. By the 3rd millennium BC, as a result of climate change in Central Asia, desertification begins in the Bukhara oasis⁷. As a result, the water of the Zarafshan River does not reach the Amu Darya, and the value of the Zarafshan River for the Bukhara oasis

³ Ochilov A.T. Historical processes in Lower Zarafshan and the development of ancient anthropogenic landscapes (until antiquity). Abstract of the dissertation of the candidate of historical sciences (PhD). – Bukhara, 2022. – 50 p.

⁴ Shul's V.L. Hydrography of Central Asia. – Tashkent, 1958. -P.57.

Turaev H.H. History of Bukhara (textbook). – Bukhara: Durdona, 2020. -P.53-54.

⁶ Ochilov A.T. Bukhara archeology: a textbook. - Bukhara: Science and Education, 2022. - P.8-9.

⁷ Shishkin V.A. Varakhsha. -M.,1963. -P.8.



increases more than ever. Starting from the present city of Navoi, Zarafshan is surrounded by deserts almost on both sides. The southern parts of the Konimekh Desert were irrigated along the right bank of the river⁸, and this part of the river was named the Konimekh Stream by V.A. Shishkin⁹.

Along the left bank of the Zarafshan, it supplies water to the northern part of the Cholimalik region and flows into the Hazora dam¹⁰. After leaving the Hazora dam, it heads towards the lower part of its valley. Upon entering the lower part of the valley, the flow direction of the Zarafshan River turns southwest. In this direction, it forms the Bukhara oasis in a conical shape. When the Zarafshan River enters the Bukhara oasis, its oldest large natural tributary, the Vobkentdaryo, separates from the river. Information about the Vobkentdaryo is also found in Narshahi's work "History of Bukhara". In his work, Narshahi calls the Vobkentdaryo "Khifrat" and says, "All rivers were dug by the people, but the people did not work hard to dig the Khifrat River, the water itself dug it out." The Vobkentdaryo, in turn, splits into several tributaries and supplies water to an area of 40 thousand hectares¹¹, which now correspond to the Vobkent, Romitan and Jondor districts of the Bukhara region. 10 km downstream from the Vobkentdaryo, the Shohrud Canal begins, which supplies water to Bukhara and its environs. This place is called Duoba¹². We can see that in ancient times the delta of the Zarafshan River reached the Amu Darya in the lower part of the Zarafshan River, in the activity of its ancient tributary, Mokhandaryo. Mokhandaryo branches off from the right bank of the Karakul Darya to the northwest and supplies water to the oasis¹³. The southwestern part of the oasis was also considered a favorable area for population settlement due to the Zarafshan River.

CONCLUSION

The Bukhara oasis is bordered by deserts on 4 sides. The oasis borders the Ichkilikum desert around Kyzylkum in the north, the Cholimalik desert with unique plants in the east, the Kanobchol desert (now Samarkand region) in the south, and the Kyzylkum desert in the west. We can see that the Zarafshan River played an important role in the formation of the natural geography of the Bukhara oasis, in providing water to the irrigated agricultural lands that have been developed and developed over thousands of years, as evidenced by the fact that 35 main canals flow from the river in the oasis. Therefore, historians emphasize that it is "a gift of the Bukhara-Zarafshan river" and that the Bukhara oasis is called the "Lower Zarafshan oasis" in scientific literature. The Zarafshan River played an important role in the formation of the historical geography of the Bukhara oasis. The river was a key factor in the development of the oasis' irrigation systems, agriculture, population settlement, and urban culture. Historical and geographical studies show that the Zarafshan River is an important natural resource that determined the economic and cultural development of the oasis. Therefore, in-depth study of the importance of the Zarafshan River in studying the history of the Bukhara oasis is of great scientific importance.

REFERENCES

1. Muhammadjonov A.R. History of irrigation of the Lower Zarafshan valley. – Tashkent, 1972. -B.22.
2. Shul's V.L. Hydrography of Central Asia. – Tashkent, 1958. -P.59.

⁸ Sityakovskiy N. F. Notes on the Bukhara part of the Zeravshana valley. - ITORGO . Kn.1. vip. II. -Tashkent,1900. p. 129.

⁹ . Shishkin V.A. Varakhsha. -M.,1963. P.10.

¹⁰ Muhammadjonov A.R. History of irrigation of the Lower Zarafshan valley. - Tashkent,1972. -P.25

¹¹ Nurmatov K.N. Economic problems of the complex development of agricultural agriculture. -Tashkent,1961. -S.43

¹² . Muhammadjanov A.R. Irrigation history of the Lower Zarafshan Valley. - Tashkent, 1972. -B.26.

¹³ Drobov V.P. Reka Makhan-Darya.—ISAGO. T. XX. -Tashkent, 1932.-C.1-11.



3. Ochilov A.T. Historical processes in Lower Zarafshan and the development of ancient anthropogenic landscapes (until antiquity). Abstract of the dissertation of the candidate of historical sciences (PhD). – Bukhara, 2022. – 50 p.
4. Shul's V.L. Hydrography of Central Asia. – Tashkent, 1958. -P.57.
5. Turaev H.H. History of Bukhara (textbook). – Bukhara: Durdona, 2020. -P.53-54.
6. Ochilov A.T. Bukhara archeology: a textbook. - Bukhara: Science and Education, 2022. - P.8-9.
7. Shishkin V.A. Varakhsha. -M.,1963. -P.8.
8. Sitiyakovsky N. F. Notes on the Bukhara part of the Zeravshana valley. - ITORGO . Kn.1. vip. II. -Tashkent,1900. p. 129.
9. Shishkin V.A. Varakhsha. -M.,1963. P.10.
10. Muhammadjonov A.R. History of irrigation of the Lower Zarafshan valley. - Tashkent,1972. -P.25.
11. Nurmatov K.N. Economic problems of the complex development of agricultural agriculture. -Tashkent,1961. -S.43.
12. Muhammadjanov A.R. Irrigation history of the Lower Zarafshan Valley. - Tashkent, 1972. -B.26.
13. Drobov V.P. Reka Makhan-Darya.—ISAGO. T. XX. -Tashkent, 1932.-C.1-11.
14. Achilov Alisher. "The Role of Zamambaba Culture in the Social and Economic History of Bukhara Oasis During the Bronze Age." CENTRAL ASIAN JOURNAL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HISTORY 2.4 (2021): 42-47.
15. OCHILOV, Alisher. "JEWELRYC TRADITION IS A SOURCE OF STUDY OF BUKHARA HISTORY." Bayterek International Academic Research Journal 1.1: 105-116.
16. Ochilov, A. T. "DATING OF THE MODERN CULTURE: BASED ON ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOURCES." Theoretical & Applied Science 12 (2019): 589- 591.
17. Ochilov, Alisher To'lis O'gli. "THE PLACE OF THE ZERAFSHAN RIVER IN THE FORMATION OF THE BUKHARA OASIS AND SOME CONSIDERATIONS ON THE HISTORICAL GEOGRAPHY OF THE OASIS." Scientific progress 1.6 (2021): 933-938.
18. Ochilov A. The first archaeological studies conducted in the Bukhara oasis //SENTR NAUCHNIK PUBLIKASIY (buxdu. uz). – 2021. – T. 4. – No. 4.
19. Ochilov A. The role of the Sarmishsay gorge in the ancient anthropogenic landscape of the Bukhara oasis //CENTER OF SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS (buxdu. uz). – 2021. – T. 4. – No. 4.
20. Ochilov A. Coverage of the culture of the Bukhara oasis in the works of foreign tourists of the 19th century //CENTER OF SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS (buxdu. uz). – 2021. – T. 4. – No. 4.

