

URBAN PLANNING PROCESSES IN KHOREZM AND THEIR INDIVIDUAL FEATURES.

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Annotation: This article examines the formation of urban culture in the Khorezm oasis and its distinctive features based on materials obtained as a result of excavations at archaeological sites and historical information provided in written sources.

Keywords: Ancient Khorezm, Amu Darya, fortress, urban culture, productive forces, archaeological finds, cultural layer, urban structure, Guldursun, Akcha-tuman, Kuhna-Uaz, Tuprokkalya, Mesopotamia, V.M. Mosson, Ya. Gulomov, S.P. Tolstov.

Archaeological and topographic work in Khorezm has enriched existing ideas about the emergence of local cities with new information. Since it is necessary to write about the ancient urban centers of Khorezm, it is appropriate to briefly touch on this question here, summarizing the details of the ancient cities of Central Asia.¹ Research scholars distinguish the following distinctive features of Khorezm cities: the absence of clearly visible artisanal geniuses; the scarcity or absence of fortresses; the absence of suburban settlements; and the uniqueness of complex gatehouse structures. These ideas were based on the study of outlying towns that arose near military-administrative posts or state border fortresses, which were not yet real urban centers, but rather their first appearance. Therefore, for example, it is possible that the great artisanal geniuses of the large cities of Central Asia were not present in the cities of Khorezm. This handicraft production (mainly pottery) existed in their district, within a radius of 3-4 km, near water sources (for example, in the area of Zhanbaskalā). There is every reason to believe that if the large ancient cities of Khorezm were known, it would be possible to talk about some of their important features without even mentioning them. Even during the small excavations in Khazorasp, the remains of a pottery workshop dating back to the 4th century BC were found within the city walls.² Although the size and conditions of this workshop are unknown, it is still too early to say whether or not there were artisanal geniuses in the ancient cities of Khorezm. But it can be stated with full confidence that there were settlements around the city. As Y.G. Gulomov noted at the very beginning, a distinctive feature of the fortresses in this place throughout the history of Khorezm was the presence of open settlements near them.³ Such settlements were noted near Guldursun, Akcha-tuman, Kuhna-Uaz, Tuprokkala, etc. In addition, as a result of archaeological and topographic research, a flat system of ancient Khorezm

¹ Пугаченкова Г.А. Пути развития архитектуры Южного Туркменистана поры рабовладения и феодализма. с.58.

² Воробьева М.Г., Лапиро-Скобло М.С., Неразик Е.Е. Раскопки Хазараспа в 1958-61 гг. //МХЭ., Вып.6. -М., 1963. с.168-171.

³ Гуломов Я.Ф. Қадимий Хоразмнинг суғорилиш тарихи.— Т.: ЎзССР ФА нашриёти, 1959. 83, 85, 88, 91-92, 93-95 бетлар.

agricultural sites, stretched along the canals, is clearly visible. Within each site, one larger center and several smaller centers were distinguished. In terms of structure, this system can be compared with the oases of Mesopotamia and ancient Bactria, but, as V.M. Masson wrote, if rural settlements in Bactria resemble a small town with a fortress wall, towers, and a fortress⁴, In each oasis in Khorezm, fortified, compact towns or urban-type settlements stood out sharply among unfortified, small rural settlements. Thus, already at this time, differences in rural settlement in different regions of Central Asia began to be noticeable, and in the Middle Ages this difference became even more pronounced.

The population, related to the peoples of the Syr Darya, may have played a major role in the formation of cities in the Amu Darya delta. The same Syr Darya connections are evident in the culture of the population between the Northern Davdon and Daryolik tributaries. In the area between these tributaries, the population of Oguz-Kipchak origin, who came from the Syr Darya regions, also formed a large part⁵. The urban settlements that emerged here in the Middle Ages have their own unique characteristics.

As early as the 4th-3rd centuries BC, there were settlements along the country's main trade routes. Excavations in Sadvar, especially in Jagirbent, have yielded interesting information about the history of these cities. At the base of the jagirbent was a small fortified structure with two rows of walls, a firing range, and open-type towers⁶. This structure is very similar in style to the fortresses of Qalaliky II, Kichik Kirgiz, Burlikala, and others, which were located on the outskirts of the country and were also located on similar hills. The ancient fortress of Shahsanam, which was much larger in area, is also similar in style. Another type of city of this period was the fortresses built on a plain, having a rectangular shape.

One of the largest of these fortresses was the Khazorasp fortress (10.2 ha). Thus, even at this time, unique, fully planned, defensive construction methods are clearly visible. This is also characteristic of the later Kushan period of the country's history, which, apparently, indicates that the state played a major role in urban construction.

It should be noted that although the oldest layer discovered in all the multi-layered cities of Khorezm is still considered to be the Kang (Kangyu) layer (IV-III centuries BC), it is still unknown where the capital of the country was during this period. No archaic layer has been found there yet, and, therefore, settlements of that period (VI-V centuries BC) are known only on the outskirts of the country. Whether this geographical location of the oldest settlements of Khorezm is accidental or not will be shown by subsequent studies of multi-layered urban settlements. However, conducting these studies is associated with great difficulties, especially since the high location of groundwater has so far led to the failure of attempts to reach the lower layers. Although the study of the Khorezm oasis has yielded interesting information on the problem of the relationship between the city of Khorezm and its rural surroundings, this problem is multifaceted and has not yet been fully resolved. These materials, more than anything else, show that S.P. Tolstov was undoubtedly right when he considered that the emergence of medieval cities around feudal strongholds was one of the characteristic paths of their development⁷. It should also be noted (as O.G. Bolshakov rightly noted) that S.P. Tolstoy greatly

⁴ Массон В.М. Проблема древнего города и археологические памятники Северной Бактрии. - Древняя Бактрия. -Л., 1974, с.9.

⁵ Неразик Е.Е. Сельское жилище в Хорезме (I-XIV вв.). с.202-203.

⁶ Неразик Е.Е. К проблеме развития городов Хорезма. с.221.

⁷ Толстов С.П. По следам древнехорезмийской цивилизации. с.240-241.

exaggerated the scale of this event. In addition, as in more ancient periods of Khorezm history, cities were founded near the state's border fortresses (for example, Puljoy and Git in written sources). The development due to the growth of old urban centers was even more significant. However, since it is still not known what kind of cities these old centers were, for example, ancient Sadvar and Jagirbent, Khiva, Mizdakhkan and others, O.G. Bolshakov: "As in all of Central Asia, the development of cities in Khorezm in the 7th-12th centuries was not due to the emergence of new cities, but rather due to the existence of old ones."⁸, - In our opinion, the opinion expressed is not entirely correct.

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⁸ In that place. –S. 176.