

THE SPREAD OF COTTON FIBER TO EUROPE

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Annotation: In the article, the beginning of weaving cloth (gazlama) from cotton fiber was in ancient India, it spread to Indo-China through India, Alexander the Great brought cotton fiber to Europe first, such thread gauzes reached the Roman Empire in large quantities, fabrics woven from thread products are a symbol of the Roman Empire. the information that it is stated.

Key words: Cotton, spinning, civilization, textile, cotton fiber, empire.

INTRODUCTION

The science of world history provides a full and detailed vision, knowledge and understanding of the development of mankind, and plays an important role in the development of young people to become well-rounded individuals.

In the history of mankind, the idea that the first homeland of productive agriculture, urban culture and writing, in short, civilization, was the Middle East, and that from there the cultural achievements of mankind spread throughout the Old World, both West and East, was put forward. Following such ideas, "Indian archaeologists Daya Sahni and Rakhal Banerjee discovered on the banks of the Indus River the remains of an ancient civilization that existed as early as the time of the Sumerians in Mesopotamia and the first pharaohs in Egypt. Scientists saw a civilization with developed crafts, magnificent cities and a unique culture. Initially, archaeologists discovered the largest urban centers of this civilization - Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro. This civilization was called the Harappa civilization, based on the name of the first city discovered" [1, p. 174].

As a result of the study of this civilization, the oldest evidence of the use of cotton fabric and products made from it was found during the excavation of the city of Mohenjo-Daro, which has a history of five thousand years in the north-west of ancient India.

As we mentioned above, one of the oldest countries in which cotton fabric (fabric) began to be woven was India. Archaeological excavations have shown that cotton fiber was widely used here 3000 years before our era. The use of cotton fiber spread through India to Indo-China. Historical data indicate that cotton cultivation existed in Iran and Arabia in the 6th century BC, and in Egypt in the 7th century. There is sufficient information that cotton was cultivated in Central Asia 2200-2400 years ago and that the fiber was widely used at the beginning of our era. Cotton cultivation in Europe developed relatively later. It is known that it was cultivated in Greece in the 1st-2nd century AD, and in the Balkan Peninsula in the 7th century.

In hot India, people liked light, moisture-wicking clothing made of cotton. The earliest written sources tell about the widespread use of weaving machines and yarn in the religious hymns of the Zoroastrians, the Rigveda, created in the 15th century BC, and in the Sacred Laws of Manu, written 700 years later. Only representatives of the religious class, namely the Brahmins, could wear cotton clothing. The rest of the population wore clothes made of ramie and jute fibers. "The founder of Buddhism is associated with the name of the prince Siddhartha Gautama, who received the nickname Buddha (Enlightened One). According to legend, Siddhartha Gautama lived a carefree, comfortable life in the palace of his ruling father until the age of 20. He renounced the comfortable life in the palace and set off on a journey around the world in search of the meaning of life. The thought of the suffering and death of living beings led him to

asceticism. After a long wandering in the world, a revelation came to him under a majestic fig tree in Magadha, and he attained divine truth" [2, P. 25], the chief god of Hinduism, Brahma, is depicted in statues as a four-faced, majestic Brahma, who created gods, time, planets, seas, mountains, plants, and people, holding in his eight hands the Vedas, a staff, a cup filled with Ganges water, a ladle, a coral, a bow, and a white lotus.

Indian cotton was famous for its elegance and the beauty of its flowers. They were called wind cotton. In the 5th-4th centuries BC, the Greek philosophers Herodotus and Theophrastus described cotton fields as follows: "The tree from which the Indians make clothes has leaves similar to those of mulberry, but the tree itself is like a wild rose. They are planted in flat areas, so that when viewed directly, it resembles a vineyard" [3, P. 16]. According to the above opinion, although the homeland of cotton is called India, if we look at the history of our country, we will witness that the Fergana Valley was the place where textile products were produced in ancient times. According to archaeologists, "...in ancient times, the Fergana Valley was considered one of the largest centers of textile production in Central Asia, and its history dates back to the 3rd millennium BC. It is known that cotton raw materials were widely used in the production of textile products in the Fergana Valley until recently. The discovery of the Munchoktepa cemetery and the presence of cotton products and seeds in it can serve as an example of this" [4, P. 156-157]. Alexander the Great was the first to bring cotton fiber to Europe. After that, the cotton trade began. Along with the valuable raw material, the ancient Indian name for cotton - karpas - also entered the caravan routes. "During the reign of Alexander the Great, he sent Heraclitus, son of Argeius, as the chief of the shipbuilders, to cut down the forests in the Hyrcanian Mountains and build long ships, both undecked and decked, in the Greek style" [5, p. 92]. Sails were made of Indian cotton yarn for the ships, which were later used to make curtains and bedspreads.

Later, according to historians of the 1st and 2nd centuries BC, "wide, thin, floral cotton yarns, as well as cotton skeins for pillows and mattresses, were brought from India by water and sent overland to the western countries."

Such cotton yarns reached the Roman Empire in large quantities. "From 54 to 68 AD, the 17-year-old Nero became the ruler of the Roman state. To gain prestige, he organized huge games and spectacles, and publicly distributed alms and gifts. These activities drained the treasury considerably. It is said that Roman women loved fine linen, although it was very expensive. The Roman emperor Nero paid 4 million sesterces for the multi-colored, floral and plain linen purchased for the dinner table. This was equal to the value of the property of four members of the Senate" [6, pp. 386-387]. Cotton fabrics were also widely used symbolically in the Roman Empire. "The clothes people wore indicated their position in society, according to which boys wore a pink-lined "togu" until they were 14 years old. When they turned 14, they were considered adults and began to wear a white togu. Senators also wore a silk togu. Roman women wore dresses of different colors, and they covered their heads and shoulders with scarves" [2, P. 48].

When the empire of Alexander the Great fell into crisis, trade began to decline. The Mediterranean countries again began to use fabrics woven from flax in Babylon and Egypt.

The Chinese, neighbors of India, cultivated cotton as an ornamental plant until our era. In the well-groomed mandarin groves and in the imperial gardens, where flowers and trees of every kind flourished, the cotton flower was considered the most beautiful plant. Many silver bells were hung from its branches, and when it swayed in the breeze, it filled the garden with a pleasant tinkling sound.

The temperate climate of China did not allow the cultivation of tropical Indian varieties. The Chinese could use a more suitable variety. In the 4th century BC, the Chinese historian Liang

Shu wrote that in Turpan, “a plant resembling a fruit cocoon is widely grown. The cocoon has silk like flax fiber” [3, p. 17].

Cotton, which has such a long history, has reached the present day, "The area of cotton cultivation on earth..., more than 90 countries, that is, more than 32-33 million hectares, are cultivated with cotton, and more than 19-20 million tons of cotton fiber are produced from it every year. The largest cotton-producing countries in the world are China, the USA, India, Pakistan, Uzbekistan, Brazil, Turkey, Egypt, and Mexico, which account for more than 80% of the total cotton produced in the world. Of the countries included in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), cotton cultivation is widely developed in Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, and Azerbaijan, and their farming differs from each other depending on the natural soil and climatic conditions. The climate of Central Asia is quite dry, the amount of atmospheric precipitation is low, the air temperature is high in the spring and summer months, and crops are harvested only with artificial irrigation" [7, P.17]. In conclusion, today cotton, unlike other agricultural crops, provides three types of valuable products at once: raw material for textile products - fiber, oil for food, animal feed - bran and husk. Cotton is grown mainly for fiber.

Cotton fiber also differs from artificial fibers in that it is used to produce high-quality textile and technical products (articles) and belongs to the group of natural fibers that provide universal raw materials.

In the global textile fiber production, cotton accounts for more than 50-60 percent. The fiber is mainly used for spinning yarn, making textiles, clothing and hygroscopic cotton. It is widely used in aviation, automotive, electrical and other industries. Many products are made from the fiber, such as parachutes, strong ropes, ropes, hoses, belts, film and writing paper.

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