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Political and Economic Relations of the Karakalpaks with the Central Asian Khanates and Russia in the 18th and Early 19th Centuries

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Abstract: The article explores that historically the Karakalpaks lived along the Urals, then on the Volga, around the Aral Sea and in the foothills of the lower reaches of the Syr Darya River, and that their migration was largely determined by external factors. Finally, in the early 19th century, they began to settle in the lower reaches of the Amu Darya, in the south and southwest of the Aral Sea. The Karakalpaks were attacked by the Kazakhs and Turkmens, as a result of which they became subjects of the Khiva Khanate. Through their hard work, they conquered the vast deserts and salt marshes of the lower reaches of the Amu Darya River. When the Karakalpaks began to settle, agriculture became an important part of their lives. However, cattle breeding remained one of the leading industries of the Karakalpaks' life. In the mid-19th century, the Karakalpaks were under the rule of the Khiva Khanate, living on both banks of the Amu Darya and in the areas where it flows into the Aral Sea. Their number at that time did not exceed approximately 100.000 people. The lands granted to the Karakalpaks were considered the property of the khanate, and they paid taxes for these lands and fulfilled various obligations.

The article also scientifically analyzes the significance and essence of the political and economic ties of the Karakalpaks with the Central Asian khanates and Russia in the 18th – early 19th centuries.

Key words: Karakalpaks, Central Asian khanates, Russia, 18th century, 19th century, Amu Darya basin, Aral, Kazakhs, Turkmens, Khiva Khanate, Lower Amu Darya, desert, salt marshes, settled way of life, agriculture, cattle breeding, taxes, political and economic relations.

Introduction:

It is known that independence has created very broad and great opportunities and conditions for in-depth study and restoration of the great history of our people.

In particular, the study and scientific research of the political and economic relations of the Karakalpaks with the Central Asian khanates and Russia at the turn of the 18th-19th centuries is among the pressing issues.

The Karakalpaks, like other peoples of Central Asia, are an ancient people with a centuries-old history. Archaeological artifacts, mounds, mosques and madrasas, remains of water structures, and, finally, manuscripts containing more than a thousand years of our history created by the intelligence of our ancestors are evidence of this. Each of them preserves historical events, traditions, examples of heroism, and the breath of struggles that took place in the lives of our ancestors. Therefore, each of us must know, understand, and deeply study everything that concerns the lives of our ancestors. In this regard, “Political and economic relations of the Karakalpaks with the Central Asian khanates and Russia in the 18th and early 19th centuries” is of urgent importance in its essence.

The main goal of the topic is to fully study our ancient land, our ancient and rich history, and to study its unread pages based on the requirements of the present day.

Methods and level of research on the topic:

In solving the tasks set for the research and finding solutions to them, the article primarily used historicism and chronological methods. Also, based on the principles of objectivity and science, the political and economic relations of the Karakalpaks with the Central Asian khanates and Russia in the 18th and early 19th centuries were studied from a scientific point of view.

In writing this article, the works and articles of B. Akhmedov[1] and academician S. Kamalov[2] were used. The second part of B. Akhmedov's "Lessons from History" manual, entitled "When leafing through ancient manuscripts," analyzes rare and still unstudied manuscripts, which are considered one of the important sources in the study of history in general, including "Tarihiy Abulkhairkhaniy", "Abulgazikhan" and his book "Shajarayi Turk", which is an important source for us.

S.K. Kamalov's work covers the relations of the Karakalpaks with the peoples of Central Asia and Russia. Along with this, the works and articles of P.A. Ivanov[3], T.A. Zhsanka[4], B.V. Andrianov[5], A. Karimov[6] and others are used. The influence of the era is noticeable in these works. The works and articles of K. Mametov[7], A. Pirnazarov[8] were also used.

Research results:

The Karakalpaks lived in the lower reaches of the Syrdarya from the end of the 17th century to the middle of the 18th century. They lived next to the Kazakh Khanate of the Small Juz. However, they were economically and politically independent. The Kazakhs occupied a very large area of the steppe and led a nomadic life, engaged in cattle breeding. The Karakalpaks had good experience in using natural resources in the territory they occupied. Conditions were created for the complex development of the economy in the Karakalpaks. Along with farming and cattle breeding, they were also engaged in fishing. The Karakalpaks have long been familiar with irrigation and water structures. They built dams and directed the waters of the Kuvandarya and Yangidarya, tributaries of the Syrdarya, to their fields. Extensive information about this can be obtained from the written information of D. Gladyshev, who was sent by the Russians in 1740 as an ambassador to the Kazakhs, the Small Juz Khan Abulkhairkhan, who were then living near the Karakalpaks. He writes that “large-scale irrigation works were carried out to expand the nearby areas”.

The lands cultivated by the Karakalpaks included the lands from the middle and lower reaches of the Syrdarya to the Kuvandarya and Yangidarya. The Karakalpaks lived on both sides of the Syrdarya, Adamati and Kuvandarya. They mainly sowed wheat, barley, rice and other grain crops in agriculture. First, they used it for their own needs, and the excess they sold to the Kazakhs or exchanged with them for livestock. They used oxen to plow the land, and in terms of livestock they mainly raised cattle. In addition, they had sheep, goats, camels, and horses. They had very few horses. Large cattle did not need to be fed in the summer. In addition, camels and sheep were fed only in the winter. The hay produced by farming was stored to feed the livestock in the winter. That is why farming and animal husbandry were closely related in the Karakalpaks. Fishing was mainly practiced by those living on the banks of the Syrdarya River and on its islands. They exchanged the fish they caught for wheat for farmers[9].

The Karakalpaks led a semi-nomadic life. They had forts intended for wintering, that is, for spending the winter. The fort was surrounded by a wall. In early spring, they moved to places designated for summering. Of course, they spent the summer near their fields. In the fall, they harvested the harvest and returned to their winter mounds. According to some information, in the 30s of the 18th century, crafts were also developed among the Karakalpaks. They smelted lead and made arrows. In addition, hunting played a big role in their lives. They hunted wolves, foxes, badgers, hares and other animals and birds. Sometimes they even hunted large animals such as tigers and wild boars. Of course, they used their skins for their own needs. The Karakalpaks also developed a trade sector. Trade was carried out between them and the Kazakhs in kind. The Kazakhs exchanged their livestock for wheat with the Karakalpaks. In addition, the Karakalpaks

acted as intermediaries in trade between the Bukhara people and the Kazakh steppes. Thus, they conducted very significant trade with the Aral Uzbeks, Bukhara and Khiva merchants. Karakalpak merchants also visited the Russian cities of Ufa, Kazan, and Orenburg. In 1822, a caravan of a thousand camels went to Russia from the Karakalpaks[10]. In the 18th century, the division into clans and tribes was still firmly preserved among the Karakalpaks. The entire population was divided into two parts, the fourteen Aris clans and the Kun'gorat clans. The fourteen Aris clans were further divided into smaller clans, which were the Khitoy, Kipchak, Keneges, and Mangit clans. The Kun'gorat clan was united from the large Shulluk and Jaungir clans. These clans were of course ruled by clan chiefs, beys and warlords. Muslim clerics, sheikhs, were also nobles. In the 18th century, Russian sources listed the upper class of Karakalpaks as hajis and sheikhs. In the 18th century, Murad sheikh gained great prestige among the Karakalpaks. His son, Khilbet sheikh, was among the Karakalpak envoys to the Russian Empress Elizabeth Petrovna in 1743.[11] The Karakalpaks were previously independent of the Kazakh khans. According to written sources, they were ruled by Kazakh sultans from the Genghis clan. During the reign of Khan Tauke over the Kazakhs, one of his sons was the khan of the Karakalpaks from 1680 to 1718. In 1722, Eshim Muhammad Khan became the ruler of the Karakalpaks[12]. During his reign, political ties with Tsarist Russia were established.

The Karakalpaks were then under the rule of the Kazakh Khan of the Small Juz, Abulkhair Khan. He established his rule over the Karakalpaks with the help of their ruling class, namely the beys and wealthy religious leaders. The Karakalpaks had to pay an annual tax to the Kazakhs. They paid the tax in wheat and livestock. In addition, the Karakalpaks had to provide the Kazakhs with cavalry for their raids on the border regions of the Russian state and the neighboring khanates of Bukhara and Kokand. At the same time, the Karakalpaks had to collect tribute for the Kazakh khan from the caravans passing through their territory. With the permission of Tauke Khan, a caravan route ran from the Ullutog area, where the Karakalpaks lived, to Tashkent, Kazan, Moscow, China and other regions.

Part of the money received from the customs duties was kept by their beys, and the rest went to the Kazakh khans and feudal lords. In the first quarter of the 18th century, a movement began to unite the entire Karakalpak people. Close ties were established with the Karakalpaks of Syrdarya, the Karakalpaks living in the Zarafshan valley and in Khorezm. All these groups began to unite behind the Karakalpaks of Turkestan. At that time, the Karakalpaks of Syrdarya were called Turkestan. The Karakalpaks still call their homeland Turkestan. According to P.P. Ivanov, that period of unification of the Karakalpaks played a role. They lived in the old fortress of Sighnoq. This fortress protected them from the attacks of nomads. Later, Yangikent played a major role in their life. This fortress is located on the lower reaches of the Syrdarya, Ak-uzaklar. While living in that fortress, in 1743, the Karakalpak clan leaders appealed to the Russian state. In the first quarter of the 18th century, due to the development of trade in the Karakalpaks, contacts with Bukhara and Khiva intensified. In addition, close contacts were established with the Bashkirs[13].

Later, trade relations with Russia were established through the Bashkirs. Bashkir merchants came to the Karakalpaks, and Karakalpak merchants, in turn, went to the Bashkirs and developed trade. In 1721, the Karakalpaks sent their ambassadors to Kazan and Ufa several times. The reasons for the Karakalpaks' attempts to strengthen ties with Russia were, first of all, the development of trade and the establishment of economic ties in the Karakalpaks by that time, which created the need for Karakalpaks to strengthen economic and political ties with Russia. Secondly, the Karakalpaks, like the neighboring Kazakhs, lived under the threat of attacks by the Dzungars. That is why they sought protection from a state like Russia. By this time, Russia was also economically and culturally backward. In turn, the Russian state was interested in establishing close ties with the Karakalpaks. Because Peter I was waging a war against the Swedes at that time. Of course, a lot of money was needed to wage this war. Peter I intended to master East Turkestan and extract gold from there. Therefore, the Buchholz military expedition was assigned to check whether it was possible to take Yorkent and extract gold sand from the Syr Darya. In addition, the caravan routes to Central Asia passed through the territory of the Karakalpaks. Therefore, it was necessary to

ensure the safety of Russian caravans passing through Central Asia in the Kazakh steppes and along the Syr Darya. In 1722, the Karakalpak Khan Eshmuhammad sent a letter to Peter I. The letter was delivered to Petersburg by ambassadors led by Jonibek Batyr. The Karakalpak ambassador told Peter I that the Karakalpak Khan was ready to carry out any decree of the Russian emperor. In December 1721, the Ufa nobleman Dmitry Timofeevich Vershenin arrived among the Karakalpaks. He was supposed to negotiate on behalf of the Karakalpaks that they would serve the Russian state faithfully and return Russian prisoners. After Vershenin's conversation with Eshmuhammad Khan, the Russian prisoners were returned. Karakalpak ambassadors also left for Russia with Vershenin. The Karakalpaks' attempts to establish closer ties with the Russians in order to strengthen their ties were unsuccessful. At the end of the first quarter of the 18th century, the Karakalpaks were devastated by the invasion of the Dzungars[14].

The Dzungar invasion At the beginning of the 18th century, the border between the Kazakhs and the Dzungars ran from the Irtysh River through Balkhash to the southwest to the middle reaches of the Chu River. However, at the end of the second decade of the 18th century, the Dzungars refocused their efforts. This time, due to the disunity among the Kazakh zhuzes, they were unable to resist their onslaught. In 1723, the Kazakh khanates were invaded by the Dzungar army. The Kazakhs, who had no strength to resist the Dzungars, began to flee in three directions. The small dzungar fled west to Khiva, and the Yaik and Embi valleys to the north. The middle dzungar Central Asia.

Conclusions:

In conclusion, the Karakalpaks led a semi-sedentary life, combining irrigated agriculture with animal husbandry (especially cattle) and fishing. The majority of the Karakalpaks lived in the middle and lower reaches of the Syrdarya River (Turkestan, Zhankent, Chirikrabot) and some in the Aral Sea region (Kungirat, the city of Shohtemir) in the mid-16th-18th centuries. However, there is information that the Karakalpaks also lived along the Yaik and Emba rivers. In 1743, the Kazakh Khan Abulkhairkhan attacked the Karakalpaks, as a result of which the majority of the Syrdarya Karakalpaks moved from the Syrdarya River to its western tributary, the Janadarya, in the second half of the 17th century. At the end of the 18th century, the Khans of Khiva actively tried to subjugate the Karakalpaks, and as a result, they were subdued in 1811. The Karakalpaks rebelled against the Khans of Khiva several times (1827, 1855-56, 1858-59). In 1873, as a result of the invasion of Tsarist Russia, the Karakalpaks on the right bank of the Amu Darya were annexed to Russia. The Amu Darya department was formed here, which was included in the Syrdarya region of the Turkestan Governorate-General. The Karakalpaks living on the left bank remained under the Khiva Khanate. After the establishment of Soviet power in Central Asia, the Karakalpaks of the left bank and the right bank formed the Karakalpakstan Autonomous Region. In the 19th and early 20th centuries, the remnants of the clan-tribal system and patriarchal-tribal relations were preserved in the economic, social and family life of the Karakalpaks.

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