



FROM THE HISTORY OF ANCIENT CITIES OF THE FERGANA VALLEY (IN THE EXAMPLE OF MINGTEPA-ERSHI)

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Article history:	Abstract:
Received: 2 th April 2021 Accepted: 20 th April 2021 Published: 9 th May 2021	This article analyzes the study of data on the cultural history of Mingtepa-Ershi, an ancient major stage of urbanization in the Fergana Valley, by archaeologists. The article also states that the ruins of Mingtepa-Ershi are located on the Great Silk Road and was one of the largest cities in the history of 2,500 years, which made a worthy contribution to the development of world civilization.
Keywords: Mingtepa-Ershi, Central Asian civilization, Fergana valley, Pamir-Fergana expedition, Chust culture, Buddha, Afrosiab, Jarqo'ton, Akhsikat, Munchoktepa, Dalvarzintepa, Academy of Material Culture, urbanization	

In the historiography of the twentieth century, the main factors and stages of development of the process of emergence and formation of cities in the Fergana Valley have not been sufficiently studied. The main reasons for this process are that in many Soviet archeological works (mainly in the works of "central" scholars and some local researchers) the Fergana Valley is described as a periphery, bordering on Central Asian civilizations, and the history of Fergana cities is largely denied. In fact, another scientist from the "center," Yu.A. Zadneprovsky (Leningrad) promoted the idea that urbanization in the valley began in the late Bronze-Early Iron Age (early I millennium BC) in the 70s of last century and always defended this idea.

Since the beginning of the urbanization process in the valley and the gradual development of cities has not become a special generalization, the study of these problems, as well as the use of archeological materials as a historical source, analysis and generalization from a historical point of view is one of the current issues. One such problem is the issue of the Mingtepa archeological monument, which has played a unique and appropriate role in Central Asian archeology with its potential. Its place in economic, cultural and geopolitical life has not been studied from a historiographical point of view. There are almost no written sources. Thus, archeological data are important in the study of the history of the formation and development of the city of Mingtepa-Ershi, including the Fergana Valley. Although archeological visits to Mingtepa during the Soviet and post-independence years and the results of the search may have sounded a bit far-fetched, the goal was to raise groundwater in the Shahristan area, which had been irrigated and cultivated for many years. Although there are some difficulties in drawing scientific conclusions proving that the capital of the country, but well-known archeologists, professors M.E. Masson, A.N. Bernshtam, Yu.A. Zadneprovsky, N.G. Gorbunova and our compatriot, Doctor of Historical Sciences, Professor B.H. Careful archeological research by dedicated scholars such as Matboboev is bearing fruit.

In the monument 1946 (A.N. Bernshtam), 1947 (A.N. Bernshtam), 1950 (A.N. Bernshtam), 1973 (Yu.A. Zadneprovskiy), 1986-1987 (B.X. Matboboev), 2001 (B.Kh. Matboboev).

In 1939, during the construction of the Greater Fergana Canal, Professor M.E. A team led by Masson collects the first archeological data. Then, in 1946, members of the Pamir-Fergana complex archeological search team led by Professor AN Bernshtam conducted research in Mingtepa. They carried out excavations at several sites of the monument and inspected a single tower of the most important defensive wall. The members of the expedition and its leader, Professor A. N. Bernshtam had already made the scientific hypothesis that the dimensions of this monument, given that the defensive wall was extremely strong, should have a special significance in the ancient history of the Fergana Valley. It is known that this assumption was proved as a result of subsequent archeological excavations. Which, Professor A.N. Bernshtam came to this conclusion during a study of Fergana archeological materials and Chinese written sources. The reason is that ancient Chinese written sources contained information about the state of Dovan (Davan) and its capital Ershi. It focused on the materials collected in the fortified city of Ershi, focusing on the "Outer Wall" and the "Inner City". The size of the area of the strong Defense System and other information in the written sources could only be found in Mingtepa in the Fergana Valley.

A. N. Bernshtam insists that Ershi, the capital of the ancient Dovan state, is the ruins of Mingtepa. He also said that large-scale archeological excavations will be carried out in the future.

In 1973, Professor Yu.A. Zadneprovsky, an archaeologist from St. Petersburg, organized a special detachment for Mingtepa, which did a lot of work and came to important conclusions. That is, Mingtepa defines the monument as a monument typical of the III century BC and BC. After that, in connection with the structure of the regional

archeological map, several archaeologists (G. Dadaboeva, B. Abdulgozieva, B. Matboboev) visited Mingtepa, where they were mainly engaged in collecting information about the general condition of the monument.

Taking into account the above, the Institute of Archeology of the Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan in 1986 sent another archeological expedition to Mingtepa. Expedition leader B. According to Matboboev's plan, firstly, to determine the construction periods of the city and the changes associated with them, and secondly, to study the city defense wall, its structure and construction periods, the existing structures of these defensive walls in the Fergana Valley) thirdly, to restore the economic life, crafts, irrigated agriculture, animal husbandry of the Mingtepa people, and finally, fourthly, to show the city's place in the history and culture of the Fergana Valley and Central Asia in ancient times.

It is known that the city is rectangular in shape from above, and the defensive walls surrounding it, the 52 towers erected along the wall parameter, are well preserved to this day. According to the estimates obtained, the entrance gates to the city should have been 4. Now 3 of them have been found, of which those on the east, west, and south walls have been identified. The North Gate is unknown at this time. There were two paths through the east gate: one along the water to the north and one to the east. Part of the eastern road was found in excavation 5: the width is 140-170 cm. On this street 2-4 horsemen or "Kokand cart" walked freely. The road is paved with fist-sized stones. This point can also be seen from the west. It is clear that the road led to the arch in ancient times. Therefore, the scientists conducted excavations in two places: the central hill, which was supposed to be the Ark, and the 13th part of the defensive wall (observation tower) on the west side.

According to research, archaeologist Yu.A. As Zadneprovsky wrote in 1973, this monument left a rich impression on the expedition participants as the largest and most potential ancient structure in terms of area in the whole valley. , that is, the validity of his early scientific conclusions that the written capital is the ruins of the capital of a state called "Davan" has been confirmed. In other words, the 40-hectare inner fortress of the ancient, archaic city, known as Mingtepa, and the defensive walls that encircled more than 300 hectares once protected the city from enemy attack. The walls are 6-8 meters higher than the currently developed lands, and some are 10 meters higher. Among them are observation towers.

Ershi (Mingtepa) is located closer to Axis after Yuchen (Uzgen-Shurabashot) on the way from China via Ergashtom. In addition, archeologically large ancient cities were recorded in the east of the valley (Mingtepa-Ershi, Shurabashot, Korgoshintepa, Quva (Khumini), Eylaton, etc.). Archaeological evidence suggests that the first signs of urbanization can be seen in the valley's oldest agricultural monuments. Today, more than 80 monuments of ancient agricultural culture have been identified in the valley. They are located mainly in the eastern regions of the valley. In addition, there are many archeological monuments with a large area and thick cultural layers in this area. The main reasons for this are soil fertility, temperate climate and adequate water resources. Thus, the most suitable area for farming for our ancient ancestors was the basin of the valley - Karadarya and its tributaries (Kurshab and Yassi), which stretched to the source of the Syrdarya. True, agricultural monuments can be found elsewhere in the valley. However, it is almost non-existent on the northern and western sides of the valley. This is due to the fact that, geographically, in the present-day Kokand and Margilan regions there are no monuments of ancient agricultural Chust culture. It is said that this area was archeologically developed in the VI-IV centuries BC.

This means that Mingtepa and Andijan will appear in the area where the first cities Dalvarzin, Ashqaltepa, Eylaton were formed. According to archeological data, in the IX-VIII centuries BC in the Karadarya basin, where these cities are located, a certain urbanization environment was formed. B.X. Matboboev calls the region the "East Fergana Urbanization Zone." Hence, the eastern regions of the valley were favored by the ancient inhabitants for assimilation and farming. Therefore, most of the first identified urban areas are associated with the upper and middle reaches of the Karadarya. Remains of large cities dating from the last quarter of the second millennium BC to the Middle Ages have been identified in the area.

In recent years, albeit gradually, the scale of archaeological finds on ancient urban culture has increased. In particular, since 2000, the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan acad. Ya. The joint work in the Old City of Andijan with the initiative and support of the Bobur International Foundation of the Gulyamov Institute of Archaeological Research is yielding better results than expected. During these years, the oldest strata in the Old City were identified, and on the west side of the medieval Arkichi on an area of 15-20 hectares, the oldest building remains of the city of Andijan from 2600-2400 years were recorded at a thickness of 100-150 cm. As a result, the characteristics of the emergence and development stages of urbanization processes in a given city were analyzed. Archaeological excavations show that Andijan is one of the cities that has made a worthy contribution to the development of world civilization during its 2,500-year history.

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