



Prospects for Improving Research in the Field of Military History in Uzbekistan

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Abstract

This article is devoted to reforms and their significance in the development of military history, modern approaches to the in-depth study of the national military heritage and international experience. The article develops proposals and recommendations for the development of research in the direction of military history. The significance of this article lies in the systematization of scientific research in the field of military history in Uzbekistan, the objective study of historical and military heritage, and the determination of prospects for improving the scientific and methodological framework of this field based on modern approaches.

Keywords: military history, military heritage, military art, tactics, strategy, artifacts, military education, historiography.

1. Introduction

In the system of large-scale reforms being implemented in New Uzbekistan, science-oriented reforms are of particular importance, and in this regard, special attention is paid to the accelerated development of economic sectors and the social sphere, the wide use of scientific and innovative potential with the full mobilization of scientific, intellectual, and financial resources, the determination of priority directions for the continuous reform of science in the future, the training of highly qualified personnel with modern knowledge and independent thinking, and raising the modernization of scientific infrastructure to a qualitatively new level [1].

In this regard, in recent years, a number of practical works have been carried out to develop military education and science, in particular, to further develop and raise research in the field of military history to a new level.

On a global scale, the volume of research in the military sphere is quite high, and in this regard, special attention is paid to creating the necessary conditions for a comprehensive study of their lifestyle and the introduction of modern technology and technological culture. In this regard, the in-depth study of the daily lifestyle of the military is one of the important aspects

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of historical research, and today the study of the field based on open materials is quite developed in world practice [2].

The main goal of the scientific study of military history in Uzbekistan is to objectively study the historical roots of military traditions, the experience of state defense, the development of military art and troops formed on the territory of the country. This process serves to re-analyze historical events and phenomena based on scientific sources, identify their causes and consequences, and reveal the unique characteristics of national military experience [3].

An important aspect of researching military history is a deep understanding of the essence of the national military heritage by evaluating the military experience and strategic thinking of our ancestors based on modern scientific criteria. In particular, the comprehensive study of the history of the era of Amir Temur and the Timurids, ancient and medieval statehood, national liberation movements, and the formation and development of the modern Armed Forces of Uzbekistan is of great scientific and practical importance for today's military education and training [4].

Research in this direction, along with the formation of historical memory, patriotism, respect for the military profession, and loyalty to national values in the younger generation, also serves to improve the scientific and methodological foundations of modern military education. From this perspective, a deep and systematic study of military history is of great importance not only for understanding the past but also for drawing relevant conclusions from historical experience and scientifically substantiating promising directions for ensuring the country's defense potential and military security [5].

2. Research Method

In determining the prospects for improving research in the field of military history in Uzbekistan, this study relied on the principles of historicism, objectivity, systematicity, objectivity, and scientific rigor. Historical-chronological, periodization, comparative-historical, and retrospective analysis methods were used to study military-historical processes in close connection with a specific period and socio-political conditions. Additionally, the theoretical and practical foundations of the research were formed through a critical analysis of archival documents, legislative and regulatory acts, scientific literature, dissertations, and other sources related to the military history of Uzbekistan.

In the course of the study, based on a systematic and comprehensive approach, priority was given to studying military history not only as the history of military events and battles, but also as a multifaceted process related to statehood, national security, military education, the development of troops, military art, and national military heritage. Based on a comparative analysis, the similarities and differences between national military-historical research and the experience of foreign scientific schools were studied, and the possibilities of using modern digital technologies, an interdisciplinary approach, and new scientific methods were evaluated. Based on these methodological approaches, the current state of research in the field of military history, problems, and promising directions for their improvement have been scientifically substantiated.

As the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Supreme Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces Shavkat Mirziyoyev, noted, ... "our glorious history, rich scientific and cultural

heritage, and the lives and activities of our valiant ancestors are a true school of example for us" [1].

Today, amidst the intensifying confrontation in the global information space and the struggle for the minds and hearts of people, especially the younger generation, the role and significance of military-patriotic education are increasing, and the need to study military history and the heroism of our great ancestors is growing.

In recent years, a number of legal documents aimed at the in-depth study of military science, including military history, have been improved.

On September 11, 2023, by Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan The Strategy "Uzbekistan – 2030" adopted on the basis of Decree No. UP-158, defines the tasks of "increasing the combat spirit and potential of the troops, developing their combat readiness and skill based on studying modern battles and military conflicts, as well as the advanced experience of foreign armies" which also demonstrates the importance of priority reforms in the field [2].

At the same time, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Based on the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On measures to develop military science in the system of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Uzbekistan" dated December 1, 2022, tasks have been defined for conducting fundamental and applied research on the rich military heritage of our great ancestors, their leadership and command skills, the study and popularization of the history of national military art as a whole, the systematic analysis of threats and challenges to international, regional, and national security in the military sphere, the development of military art by studying the characteristics of modern armed conflicts, and the study of the psychological environment in military communities.

3. Result an Discussion

The research results demonstrated the need to develop scientific research in the field of military history in Uzbekistan based on modern methodological approaches, the effective use of existing scientific potential, and the in-depth and objective study of the national military-historical heritage. Based on the analysis, the following important aspects were identified:

first, although the scope and content of scientific research in the field of military history in Uzbekistan are expanding, it is necessary to systematize existing research based on a unified scientific and methodological approach, ensure their mutual scientific integration, and form new research directions [6].

secondly, the comprehensive use of archival documents, written and material sources, archaeological finds, historical memories, and modern digital databases in the in-depth study of military-historical processes is an important condition for strengthening the scientific objectivity and source-study foundations of research.

thirdly, the re-research of Uzbekistan's rich military-historical heritage based on modern scientific approaches will allow for a deeper disclosure of the historical roots of national statehood, military art, the development of troops, and military traditions [7].

fourth, the study of military history in close connection with history, jurisprudence, political science, archaeology, sociology, pedagogy, and other related disciplines strengthens the interdisciplinary approach and expands the possibilities for a comprehensive analysis of the essence and content of military-historical processes [8].

fifth, the digitalization of scientific research in the field of military history, the creation of electronic scientific databases, the study of international scientific experience, and the broad involvement of young researchers in this field are promising directions for forming a modern school of military history in Uzbekistan and further increasing its scientific potential.

The primary significance of the aforementioned documents is primarily linked to the strengthening of military-patriotic education among youth; in this regard, the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Measures to Increase the Efficiency of Work on the Study of Military History" was adopted on November 17, 2021, in which the glory of achievements in the military sphere during the period of the emergence and development of our national statehood is strengthened in the minds of contemporaries based on historical evidence and conveyed to the widest possible audience, especially the younger generation; the spirit of national values, belonging to the nation's civilization, love and loyalty to the Motherland, and a sense of justice are comprehensively strengthened in their worldview and hearts; and the study of the secrets of the rich martial arts inherited from our great commanders is carried out to prepare popular science, fiction, and educational-methodological literature in this regard, including through the use of multimedia capabilities. [9].

In this regard, measures are being implemented in a number of important areas, in particular, the organization and implementation of work to collect historical documents and descriptions of events of military-historical significance that took place in the ancient past, the Middle Ages, and recent history on the territory of Uzbekistan, as well as beyond its borders, through the efforts of specially created search groups and expeditions, as well as the study of the activities of military commanders, leaders, tribal and people's leaders, and leaders who lived in this territory and fought heroically against invaders for the freedom and independence of the nation [10].

At the same time, in accordance with the established procedure, it is planned to carry out research and survey work in museums, libraries, and archives of our country, including similar institutions in foreign countries, to systematize information collected with the involvement of renowned scientists, historians, archaeologists, and specialists, as well as to compile a map of military-historical events in the history of Uzbekistan, reflecting in text and graphic descriptions the strategies and combat methods used by participants and leaders of military campaigns and the struggle for national liberation [11].

It is advisable to further popularize reforms in the field of military history; based on the map of military-historical events that took place in our country, it is necessary to organize the study of military-historical cultural heritage sites in the regions with the involvement of state and non-governmental organizations and volunteers, and to organize excursions for foreign guests, the local population, especially schoolchildren and students, it is necessary to gradually carry out work to assist in the creation of projects for monuments and museum complexes depicting historical events [12].

In order to deeply study the national military heritage in Uzbekistan, a number of measures are being implemented, and in this regard, by consistently studying the experience of foreign countries, existing international organizations and further deepening reforms based on modern approaches, it is possible to instill the rich heritage of our ancestors in the minds of today's generations, thereby improving the military-patriotic education of the general public, especially young people.

Today, a number of international organizations and associations exist worldwide in the field of studying military heritage and military history; specifically, the International Commission on Military History is part of the International Committee of Historical Sciences, a non-governmental and non-profit international organization whose primary goal is to promote and coordinate research and inquiry in the field of military history in a broad sense, in the spirit of international friendship, and to create conditions for scholars to get to know each other better, cooperate, and exchange experience on the results [13].

The organization promotes military historical research, publications, and education internationally, and covers the history of wars, armed forces, diplomatic aspects of military conflicts, causes and consequences of wars, defense economics,

coordinates research in the fields of civil-military relations, military technologies, military leadership, and armed forces demography. The organization is based on governing bodies, national commissions, and specialized committees. Each national commission is self-governing and also leads military-historical activities in its country. In some countries, national commissions are under the jurisdiction of the Ministries of Defense, while in others, they are under the jurisdiction of private organizations of scientists. In both cases, the priority task of the national commissions is to develop cooperation between civilians and the military [14].

Among the regular activities of this organization are such important issues as annual international congresses and their documents, the publication of the journal "International Military History and Historiography" the publication of the "International Review of Military History" the awarding of a special prize for doctoral dissertations in the field of military history, and the publication of the "Information Bulletin" twice a year. Today, national commissions from 41 countries on four continents are members of the organization's council. The document regulating the activities of an international organization is the Charter of the organization, consisting of 9 sections and 40 articles [15].

In order to expand international cooperation in the development of military history in our country, the active use of foreign experience and methods in the study of military history, as well as the establishment of cooperation with foreign military historians, the translation of their works, the solution of issues related to bringing sources and copies of literature on our military history stored in archives and libraries of foreign countries to Uzbekistan, and the integration of research in the field of military history into world science, it is advisable to create a national commission on military history in Uzbekistan and include it in the International Commission on Military History. At the same time, in accordance with Article 6 of Section 3 of the Organization's Charter, it is stipulated that only one national commission from each country may be admitted to the organization, and the following requirements must also be met. In this regard, it is necessary to have an executive office, a President and a Secretary General of the national commission, coordinate research on military history by civilian and military institutions (ministries, defense organizations, universities, research centers, archives, libraries, museums, etc.), pay membership fees to the international organization, and fulfill other requirements established by the Charter.

Based on the analysis of existing problems in the development of military history, scientific considerations for their elimination, and modern approaches to the further development of the study of national military heritage, the following proposals and recommendations are appropriate:

targeted training of personnel in the field of studying the Uzbek national military heritage, especially increasing the number of personnel with scientific potential and staffing higher

military educational institutions, especially the Institute of Military Heritage and Modern Research of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Uzbekistan, with such specialists. At the same time, it is necessary to prioritize personnel qualities such as analytical and critical thinking, working with archival documents and sources, and language proficiency;

strengthening international cooperation in the study and popularization of military history is a requirement of the times. At the same time, it is advisable to allocate a special quota from the “El-Yurt Umidi” Foundation for internships and professional development abroad for scholars conducting research in the field of military history, to invite foreign compatriots, to attract specialists of Uzbek origin with high foreign experience in the field to service positions in the Armed Forces and to create conditions, to conduct targeted research on participants and heroes of the Second World War and the Afghan War with the help of international committees and foundations, to include military heritage sites in the list of international intangible heritage in close cooperation with UNESCO, to include national military heritage traditions in the “Steppe Games” and to include military commanders and heroes in the “Memory history” list;

there is a need to integrate and simplify research in the field of military history. In this regard, it is necessary to establish the activities of open and closed scientific councils for the defense of scientific works in the field of military history, to widely involve leading scientists and professors who have access to classified documents, to purposefully prepare dissertations for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy and Doctor of Science, and to create a bank of dissertation topics on military heritage and military history based on an in-depth study of foreign experience;

It is necessary to compile a primary list of national commanders and heroes who left a deep mark on the military history of Uzbekistan and to assign the study of their activities and heritage to educational institutions. At the same time, it is advisable to continue the practice of compiling and constantly updating primary lists of commanders and heroes by chronological period from the earliest times to the present day, as well as assigning heroes to separate higher and higher military educational institutions;

it is necessary to intensify work on the implementation of scientific projects, especially increasing the quantity and quality of foreign and domestic grants. At the same time, the wide involvement of information technologies and digitalization in the field, in particular, the creation of the “Military Heritage” platform in order to actively promote work in the field of military heritage, the preparation, commercialization and popularization of electronic products of national military encyclopedias and dictionaries within the framework of projects will serve the development of the sphere.

4. Conclusion and Recommendation

One of the important prospects for the development of the scientific study of military history in Uzbekistan is the systematic search, study, digitization, and formation of a unified electronic database of historical sources. At the same time, the wide involvement of archival documents, rare manuscripts, military maps, material and cultural monuments, and other historical sources in scientific circulation strengthens the source-study foundations of research. In the future, conducting research on military history based on modern digital technologies and interdisciplinary approaches is also of great importance. In particular, strengthening the integration of history, archaeology, political science, military science, law,

and pedagogy, expanding international scientific cooperation, and introducing advanced foreign experience into national scientific practice will increase the scientific potential of research. Furthermore, the development of scientific schools in military history, the support of young researchers, and the strengthening of specialized scientific publications and research centers are among the priority tasks for the future. This approach expands opportunities for the in-depth study of the national military-historical heritage, its promotion in the international scientific arena, and the effective use of historical experience in modern military education and patriotic education. As a conclusion to the above, it should be noted that the in-depth study of the military national heritage is of great importance for all segments of the population, especially the youth, and serves to educate them in the spirit of military patriotism, pride in the rich military heritage of our ancestors, their skill and bravery, and devotion to the Motherland. In this regard, it is necessary to radically improve the scale and quality of fundamental research on the study of national military heritage, introduce digital technologies and modern methods in the field of military heritage, develop effective mechanisms for conveying national military heritage to the minds of young people, increase the responsibility of state and non-state educational institutions and other relevant specialists, actively involve personnel customers in the process of training highly qualified specialists in the field of military history, continue to assign the names of military commanders and heroes to scientific schools, including military educational institutions, military units that study the heritage of military commanders, and deeply study their activities.

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