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Political Processes in Fergana During the Invasion of the Arab Caliphate

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Abstract:

In the article, for the first time, the political processes in the Ferghana Valley during the Arab occupation were studied based on the analysis of historical sources and literature.

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INTRODUCTION (Vvedenie/Introduction). In 720, the Sugdians revolted. To help them, the Turkish khagan Kursul (?–738) sent an army. The allies inflicted serious damage on the Arabs. The efforts of the Viceroy of Khorasan to suppress the rebellion did not work. In such conditions, Sa'id al-Kharashi was appointed as the viceroy of Khurasan [11: 168]. He "made a splash" in suppressing the insurgency in Iraq. The new viceroy began to negotiate with the rebels. Some of the nobles of Sughd went to compromise. Among them was Gurak, king of Sughd. But another group of rebels did not want to surrender to the Arabs and wanted to go to another province that was not under the control of the invaders. Such a province was Ferghana.

The Sugdians sent a letter to Alutar, king of Ferghana, asking him to mediate in the negotiations with the Arabs and to give them shelter in one of the cities of the valley. Alutar promised to patronize the Sugdians. But Tabari reports that Alutar's mother opposed the introduction of the Sogdians into the valley [12:184-188].

After that, the Sugdians went to Ferghana. But Alutar sent his cousin Nilan (Balaz) as an ambassador to Sa'id al-Kharashi and secretly started negotiations with the Arabs. He informed the Sugdians that he would fulfill his obligation after 20-40 days, after they settle in one of the villages near Isfara. In fact, some of the Sugdians who arrived in Fergana were placed in the Isama cave near Isfara [13: 73-75].

While the negotiations were going on, the main part of the Sugdians temporarily stayed in the city of Khojand. At that time, the Arab army sent by Sa'id al-Kharashi arrived in the city. And Alutar could not help the Sugdians because he made a deal with Harashi.

LITERATURE ANALYSIS AND METHODOLOGY

(Literature and methodology/Methods)

It was not easy for the Arabs to destroy the defenders of Khojand and the Sugdians (spring or summer of 722) [11: 169-170]. The Khojads and the Sugdians fought bravely against them. They dug a trench near the gate of the city, covered it, and pretended to retreat, succeeded in trapping the Arabs in the trench. But additional military units arrived to the Arabs. The enemy launched a wall-piercing device - catapults. After that, the defenders of the city, who were in a difficult situation, had to negotiate with the Arabs. The Arabs demanded that the Sugdians return to Sughd, pay tribute, release prisoners and hand over their weapons. The Sogdians agreed to these harsh terms. But the Arabs accused one of the Sugdians of killing an Arab woman and began to massacre them under this pretext. Sughd warriors showed heroism even in the last moments of their lives. According to Tabari, the unarmed Sugdians fought against the enemy with sticks and clubs. Almost all the Sugdians were exterminated. Only 400 merchants bought their lives for precious goods. Ordinary khojandites also suffered: the head of the Arabs ordered the khojandites to wear a lead tag on their necks, and those who did not obey the order were executed [14: 25]. Devashtich led another group of revolting Sugdians. Under pressure from the Arabs, they moved from Panjikent to the upper reaches of the Zarafshan. According to the well-known historian scientist A.Yu.

Tabari tells about the conflict between Sa'id Harashi and the ruler of Ferghana during the Sugdian rebellion: "Yazid ibn 'Abdulmalik gave Movarounnahr and Bukhara up to Samarkand to Sa'id ibn 'Amr Jershi. Meanwhile, Sa'id walked towards Balkh. He crossed the Balkh river. He came to Bukhara and spent some time there. Then he came to Samarkand. After that, he went to the ruler of Ferghana. He intended to fight him. He stopped in front of the wall of his castle. The king of Fergana asked him for peace. Sa'id took 100,000 dirhams and 50 rupees from him and made peace. Then he turned back.

When evening fell, most of the Muslims went to bed. Unexpectedly, Khalij, the king of Ferghana, attacked the Muslims with 5000 thousand soldiers. He killed many people. After that, the Bahadirs of the Muslims mounted their horses and started an attack against them. There was a great battle. At the end of the battle, the soldiers of the opposing side were killed with the victory given by Haq ta'ala. Fergana Malik Khalij was killed with 3000 soldiers. The Arabs captured great booty" [15: IV: 347].

Ibn Asam describes this event as follows: "Sa'id ibn 'Amr al-Harashi came to Khurasan and made peace with those who broke the peace. Then he crossed the Balkh River and came to Bukhara, where he stayed for a while. Then he came to Samarkand and stayed there for some time. Here he received news that the king of Ferghana, Jilanj, had rebelled against the Arabs. Sa'id marched to Ferghana and stopped near a strong fortress there. Jilanj was hiding in that fort. Said besieged it. Then Jilanj asked him to make a peace, to obey him, to give him 100 thousand dirhams, 50 slaves and 50 female slaves,

and to give him his hand. Sa'id ibn 'Amr agreed to this. That night, when the Arabs were peacefully sleeping, Jilanj attacked them with 5,000 soldiers and killed a number of people. Then a fierce battle began between them. In the end, the Arabs gained the upper hand and defeated them, Jilang was killed in battle. The Arabs got a lot of booty. Said divided 1/5 of it (khums) and sent it to Yazid ibn 'Abdulmalik, and distributed the rest to the soldiers" [16: VIII: 232-233].

Balaam tells a similar story. But it does not mention the name of the ruler of Ferghana. Said Harashi receives 100,000 dinars, 50 slaves and 50 concubines as payment from the ruler of Ferghana. After that, he leaves for Samarkand [17: II: 268-269]. T. Kadirova based on Bal'amii writes that the ruler of Ferghana attacked the Arabs with an army of 50,000 Qarluqs and took back their spoils, [18: 77]. But this number of troops may be exaggerated. The reason is that such information is not found in Tabari and Ibn Asam.

In Tabari's work, he mentioned that Alutar was the ruler of Ferghana at the time of the Sugdian uprising [12: 187]. But it is a bit puzzling that a person named Jilanch is again called the ruler of Ferghana in Tabari himself. The reason is that there is no information about this in other sources. But Tabari mentions one of the leaders of the uprising named Jilanj, who was the nephew of Korzanch, the governor of Ishtikhan. Jilanj participated in battles with the Sogdians against the Arabs [12: 196]. Therefore, we can assume that the person mentioned as the ruler of Ferghana in Tabari and Ibn Asam is actually Jilanj, one of the leaders of the Sugdian rebellion, who took refuge in the valley after the rebels were defeated, and therefore Sa'id Harashi marched to Ferghana.

The viceroy of Iraq 'Umar ibn Khubaira orders the imprisonment of Sa'id al-Kharashi, saying that he made peace with Devashtic and reduced the influence of the Arabs in Mowarounnahr [19: 183]. Muslim ibn Abu Sa'id (723-724) was appointed viceroy of Khurasan in his place.

At the beginning of 723, Alutar, the ruler of Ferghana, leads the fight against the Arabs. For this reason, Umar ibn Khubaira orders Muslim ibn Sa'id to organize a military campaign against Farghana [20: 491]. The main goal was to capture the northern regions of the valley, which were considered an independent part. According to Ya'qubi, Muslim ibn Sa'id marched to Farghana, but failed to capture anything there. On his way back from Ferghana, he was pursued by Turks and Ferganians and attacked them and fought a fierce battle [21: II: 327].

According to Balazuri, Muslim ibn Sa'id came to Farghana and destroyed several cities [22: 426]. After receiving information through his intelligence that Turkash Khagan Suluk Khan (717-738) was coming to help the ruler of Ferghana, Muslim ibn Sa'id quickly retreated. Nevertheless, in the Subakh region of Fergana, the Khagan's troops hit the Arabs from the rear and captured large booty. The Arabs quickly leave the battlefield. According to Balazuri, they cover a distance of three days in one day [20: 491].

According to Tabari, Muslim ibn Sa'id fled from the Turks and crossed a river called Wadi al-Sabukh. Here his soldiers were attacked by the army of the Turkish khagan, who killed them and took away their horses. The Turkic Khan orders the Arabs to search for Gurak's unnamed brother, who has been a guide . Turkish soldiers find him in the advanced part of the Arabs and kill him [18:80]. But the main battle was still ahead. Muslim ibn Sa'id's military commanders are offered to prepare for the coming conflict at a day's distance from Sirdarya. The Arabs, who were preparing for the upcoming battle and approached Syrdarya, were met by the armies of Fergana, Shosh and Nasaf under the leadership of the Turk Khagan. Tabari describes it as "the whole world was filled with the glitter of swords", [12: 211].

The Arabs cross this bank of the river with difficulty and begin to retreat in disorder. The retreating Arabs are pursued by 20,000 Turkish and Sugdian soldiers led by one of the Khagan's sons. In order to ensure the withdrawal of the Arabs from the valley, Muslim ibn Sa'id ordered the head of the rear guard (guard force) to stop and hold back the pursuers. Despite this, the Turks continue to pursue. All the horses of the Arabs are dead [20: 491], and they themselves are suffering from thirst and hunger and they barely reach Khojand [12: 212]. Tabari describes the condition of the Arabs when they arrived in Khojand as "it was scary to look at the pale faces of the Muslims." The allies chased the Arabs to Samarkand [12: 212]. After the account of these events, information about Alutar is not found in historical sources. There is no exact information about the date of Alutar's death and the transfer of power in Ferghana to Arslan Tarkhan. Some researchers suggest that this event happened in 726, others in 739. It is also possible that there was another ruler between Alutar's death and Arslan Tarkhan's accession to the throne.

Even during the reign of Khorasan viceroy Ashras (727–729), Ferghanas always supported the forces against the Arabs. In 728, they enter an unsuccessful battle against the Arabs with the Turkish khagan and the Shushans near Bukhara [18: 84]. But the sources do not provide information about who led the Argonians in this conflict. At the same time, in 112/730-31, Ashras marched to Fergana, where he clashed with the Turks. The Turks surrounded and destroyed the Muslims [23: 342].

After the appointment of Nasr ibn Sayyar as viceroy of Khurasan, his first task was to re-subjugate the de facto independent territories of Mowarunnahr. Because in Fergana, which was the eastern border of the caliphate, the position of Islam was not strong, unlike other regions of Mowarunnahr. The analysis of historical sources shows that the rulers of Fergana did not accept Islam from the period when the Arabs entered Fergana until the end of the 8th century [10: 7 ; 2:26] . _ The fact that the rulers of Fergana did not convert to Islam indicates that the influence of the Arabs was not high here. For this reason, Nasr ibn Sayyar, after consolidating his position in Khurasan, organizes a military campaign to the regions of Choch and Ferghana. According to Ibn al-Asir, Nasr ibn Sayyar attacked Ferganas and captured thousands of Ferganas [8: 198]. But this was not the main campaign of Nasr ibn Sayyar to Ferghana. Because Nasr was focusing on the forces gathered against the Arabs in Choch. Perhaps Nasr returned after organizing an invasion campaign to the border regions of Ferghana. The reason is that the sources do not mention that Nasr clashed with the ruler of Ferghana or his successor during his attack [8: 199].

Nasr's next campaign to Ferghana is of particular importance, in which the Arab troops reached the city of Quwa. The Arabs win several battles with Nilan (Balaz), the successor of the ruler of Ferghana. Ferghana people offer Nasr to make peace. In response, Nasr sends them a peace treaty. Sources such as "Tarihi Tabari" and "Al-Kamil fit-Tarikh" describe Nasr's march to Farghana in detail. For example, the people of Fargo, knowing in advance the arrival of Nasr, burned their horses and food. Nasr marched against the crown prince of Ferghana and besieged him in a fortress. The crown prince makes a surprise attack and captures the animals, leaving the Muslims unaware. Nasr then sent the sons of Tamim with a group of warriors under the leadership of Muhammad al-Musanna. The Ferghanas had taken the horses of the Muslims as prey. After recapturing some of their lost horses, the Muslims attacked and defeated the Persians. The Arabs execute a farmer who helped the successor of the ruler of Fergana [8: 199] . Together with the farmer's son, they take some people captive. Nasr orders the farmer's son to be executed as well. Later Sulayman b. He sends Sulu to the governor of Fergana to

make peace with a letter. The governor of Ferghana sent Suleiman to the place where the treasure was kept to see the treasures.

The governor of Ferghana said that he had received the letter of Nasr, sent through Suleiman, about the peace proposal, and sent his mother, who was his closest assistant, together with Suleiman. When Malika (woman) comes to Nasr, Nasr talks to her [8: 200] .

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

(Results and Discussion)

It is worth noting that historians do not mention Nilan as a new ruler, but simply as a crown prince. So, we can conclude that Fergana ruler Alutar died during this campaign of Nasr and Nilan did not have time to ascend the throne.

The above two marches are given in the sources as two stages of one march. In the first stage, Nasr took thousands of captives from the borders of Ferghana. In the second campaign, the Arabs invaded Ferghana and defeated its ruler. In order to increase the position of Arabs in the valley, 10,000 Arabs will be placed in the valley [3: 105] . In 740/741, Nasr marched again to Ferghana [8: 211] . But the details of this march are not recorded in historical sources.

After the campaigns of Nasr ibn Sayyar to Fergana, Nilan became weak and Arslan Tarkhan came to power [1: 490] . Information about Nilan is not found in historical sources after 739 years. It is from the year 739 that the first information about Arslan Tarkhan appears in Chinese sources [6: 86] . Chinese sources mention Arslan Tarkhan as "Asilan Dagan" [2: 25 ; 6: 86] .

The new ruler of Ferghana, Arslan Tarkhan, relies on the Tan Empire in his foreign policy. It is known that the Talas Valley, located north of Fergana, was the administrative center of the western regions of the Turkic Khanate, and the Turks used to cross the Chotkal Mountains from here and attack the valley. Arslan Tarkhan marched to Talos in 739 in order to ensure the security of his country [2: 26] . At the same time, China was also trying to subjugate this area. As a result, with the support of the Chinese garrison in Kashgar, Arslan Tarkhan defeats the governor of Talos , Tuahueysian . Chinese sources also confirm this story. " [Emperor] Xuanzong's (reigned 712–756, name Li Longzhi) cooperation [with Tang forces] to subjugate Tuahuixian in the 27th year of the Kaiyuan period [739] for doing this, the ruler (wang) of [Fergana] Arslan-Tarkhan was awarded the title of fenghua-wang ("ruler who strives for culture")" [6: 86] . During the reign of Arslan Tarkhan, in the 3rd year of the Tianbao era (744), the Chinese named this state [Fergana] Ningyuan - "distant silence" [6: 86] . The above-mentioned opinions from Chinese sources confirm that the ruler of Ferghana always sought to establish close relations with China and form an alliance with the Tang Empire in the fight against the Arabs. As proof of this, we can see that Arslan Tarkhan married the Chinese princess (Hei), his successor Zhongje sent his son Xueyu to China and asked the emperor to accept him into the palace service "to learn Chinese customs" [2: 25] .

In 749-750, the political situation became complicated due to the crisis of the Ummavis in Mowarounnahr. As a result, various popular uprisings took place. One such uprising was the uprising led by Sharik. This rebellion begins in Fergana in 131 AD 748/749 [4: 268] . Their main idea was to support the rise to power of Abu Talib's descendants. It is possible that during the reign of the Umayyads, the supporters of the descendants of Abu Talib, fleeing from their persecution, found political refuge in various outlying countries, including Ferghana. The partner appeals to the people with the above demand. As a result, a large army will gather around him [4: 268] . Abu Muslim sends an army under the leadership of Ziyad bin Salih against Sharik. When Ziad bin Salih reached the

shores of the Amudarya, Bukhorkhudat came to his aid. Together they defeat Sharik and execute him and many of his followers. Sharik's head is sent to Abu Muslim [4: 269].

By the middle of the 8th century, relations between Fergana Ikhshidi and the ruler of Shosh were broken [7: 21]. Fergana Ikhshidi asks the Chinese for help. In response, the Tang Empire sends a large army as aid. The Chinese army invaded Tashkent [7: 21] with the Ferghanas, looted the property of the Chochliks and took the local ruler as a prisoner and sent them to the Chinese capital Chan'an. The ruler of Choch was executed there. The prince of Tashkent asks the viceroy of Khurasan, Abu Muslim, for help against the allies. As a result, the "Battle of Talos", which lasted five days and is described in scientific literature as a major battle of the early Middle Ages, takes place. During the battle, the Qarluq Turks in the Tang army made a treachery and attacked the Chinese army together with the Arabs. The commander of the Tang forces, Gao Shanfa, was completely defeated. Most of the Chinese soldiers were killed and only a few survived. With the help of Li Xie, the commander of the right wing, Gao Shanfa himself managed to escape. The retreat was narrow and it was difficult to turn back. It seems that Ferghana's troops were located in the rear of the allied troops and therefore blocked the retreating Chinese soldiers. Li Xiye moved to the front line and ordered the Chinese soldiers who survived the battle to kill the Fergana soldiers. As a result, all Ferghana soldiers who were their allies were killed. Historical sources do not mention the information about who led the Ferganians in this battle. Taking into account that after 744 AD, Arslan Tarkhan married the Chinese princess (Hei) [6: 86], we can assume that Arslan Tarkhan commanded the Persians in the Battle of Talos.

It is not clear how many soldiers from both sides participated in the major five-day conflict on the banks of the Talos River in 751. But the number of Tan soldiers who took part in the battle is 70,000 [9: 26]. However, it can be assumed that the total number of the army is more than 100,000, taking into account the Ferghana army and the Qarluqs who took part in the Battle of Talos on the side of the Tan Empire. It is very close to the truth that the number of Arab soldiers is around 100,000. Because the Arabs could not gain a clear advantage during the battle, and the passing of the Qarluq Turks to the Arab side changed the balance of power. As a result, 50,000 Chinese soldiers were killed, 20,000 were captured [5: 172].

CONCLUSION (Zaklyuchenie/Conclusion). In conclusion, our ancestors fought against the Arab invaders for a long time in the 8th century. The destruction of Suyob, the capital of the Turkic Khanate in 748, and the defeat of Chinese troops in Talos in 751 led to a change in the political situation in favor of the Arabs. They also tried to strengthen their position in the Ferghana Valley. During the reign of Caliph Mansur, the ruler of Ferghana was forced to live in Kashgar and pay tribute to the Arabs. However, the people of Fergana refused to convert to Islam, the main demand of the Arabs for a long time. Nevertheless, the religion of Islam gradually spread here and Sharia laws were established.

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