



SPECIFIC ASPECT OF MANAGEMENT OF SAMARKAND BY THE SHEYBANIDS DYNASTY

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Akbar Zamonov

Phd, Associate Professor, Head Of “History” Department Of Kimyo International University In Tashkent, Uzbekistan

ABSTRACT

In this paper, the author attempted to analyse the issues related to the ownership and management of Samarkand and adjacent territories during the reign of the Sheybanids dynasty. In the research work, the specific aspects of the dynastic management in Samarkand were studied based on the local sources, written during the reign of the Sheybanids and Ashtarkhanids, diaries of the ambassadors and travellers, and modern historians.

According to the sources, during XVI century Samarkand was ruled by descendants of four sons of Abulkhayrkhan, an outstanding representative of the Sheybanids dynasty. These were the descendants of Shah Budag in 1500-1510, in 1512-1552 and 1556-1572 – descendants of Kuchkunchikhan, in 1552-1556 – descendants of Suyuchkhuj, and in 1578-1598 – the descendants of Khuja Muhammad Sultan, who had the opportunity of ruling Samarkand. From this point of view, the article analyses the administration of Samarkand region based on the specific features of this era by conditionally dividing it into three periods. Similarly to the period of reign of Timurids, during the first period – 1500-1541 the city was the centre of Maverannahr, the capital of the Sheybanids state; in the second period, 1541-1578, Samarkand was an independent khanate together with the territories around it; in the third period of 1578-1598 – it was a large region in the Bukhara khanate with no status of the political centre. This paper studies the history of administration of Samarkand by the Sheybanids dynasty by such division into periods and on the basis of the information in the sources and scientific literature.

KEYWORDS

Source, Sheybanids, dynasty, Samarkand, management, administration, property, reign, khan, throne, Sheybanikhan, Abdullakhan, sultan, prince, royal prince, capital city, zone, territory, region.



INTRODUCTION

SELECTION OF THE TOPIC AND PURPOSE OF STUDIES.

THE basis of the highly developed and reputable states in the territory of Central Asia was dependent on the cities in these states and their social-economic and cultural development. Samarkand is one the most ancient and young cities in this territory. From the old times, it was famous all over the world as a cradle of culture, a high-level example of city development of its time and a capital of a large state. Therefore, in Medieval sources, this city is defined as “the polish of the world”, “Dor ul-mahfuza” (city under the protection of God), “Dorussaltana”. The world historians are of the opinion that this city is of the same age as Babylon, Athens, Rome and others like.

During the reign of Amir Timur and his descendants, Samarkand grew into one of the greatest cities of the world. This was the reason why many studies have been performed in world and Uzbekistan on the history of the city in XIV-XV centuries. However, starting from the last quarter of XVI century, Samarkand lost its status of the administrative centre. In addition, although the Samarkand was ruled by one dynasty during this period, the issues of belonging and administration were to be associated with various conflicting events.

In addition, the history of the period of ruling Maverannahr by the Sheybanid dynasty after they took power after the Timurids, who had created a society with high culture, and who had been considered the rivals of the Timurids, was somewhat overlooked from the research point of view. Although, despite the sufficiency of historical sources about this period, the aspects of the political history of XVI century Samarkand, the specific approaches of the dynasty to the management of the city have not been studied to a sufficient level of clarification. Also,

Samarkand had the status of the last capital city of the state in Maverannahr during the reign of the Sheybanids dynasty. In this regard, it is relevant to study the political history of Samarkand and adjacent regions in this period.

It is a known fact that Samarkand reached its efflorescence as the capital city during the reign of Timurids, its status was raised higher than ever. Therefore, the last representatives of the Timurid dynasty in Maverannahr made efforts to get hold of Samarkand and centralize the country around it. In particular, after the reign of Abu Said (1451-1469), the grandson of Mironshah - the third son of Timur (1366-1408), Samarkand became the region, most fought for among the descendants of Abu Said. Muhammad Sheybanikhan, who took power over in Dashti Kipchak, studied the situation and drew the right conclusive assessment, and managed to take the central city of Maverannahr over from the Timurids.

The methods, used in the research work

In preparing this paper, we used the scientific-research methods of historicity, systematization, comparative, statistical, problem-chronological and inter-discipline approaches and principles of objectiveness.

DISCUSSION

However, there are grounds to say that under the sponsorship of the Sheybanids the cultural life in n Central Asia also experienced a history of its development. The historians like Herman Vamberi, A.A.Semyonov, A.Y. Yakubovsky, L.N. Boldirev [21] wrote that the Sheybanids, who took over power from the Timurids, did not destroy the culture, but on the contrary they sponsored it. The sciences, culture, in particular the literature and architecture continued their process of development during the reign of



Sheybanikhan (1451-1510), Temur Sultan (died in 1514), Kuchkunchikhan (1452-1529), Ubaydullakhan (1487-1540), Abdulazizkhan (d. 1550), Abdullakhan (1534-1598). By giving the following information, the writer, Khasankhuja Nisary (1516-1597), who lived during the period of the Sheybanids, also confirms this: "Samarkand is one of the big cities of Maverannahr. ... Many scholars and wise people lived in this city. Samarkand is now a place of knowledge (by saying "now" the author meant the time, when the work "Muzakkiri ahbab" was written - the 60-ies of the XVI century. – A.Z.). Scholars of this land often carry out research in real sciences. There are a lot of big gardens and green spaces in the city" [9, p. 82].

MAIN PART

Conquer of Samarkand by Muhammad Sheybanikhan

The occupation of Maverannahr, in particular, Samarkand by Muhammad Sheybanikhan is noted with its certain specific aspect, which can be called a military-political process free from invasion and robbery. For before they came out to the political stage, Muhammad Sheybany and his brother Mahmud Sultan were in Maverannahr, where they studied, were at the service of the Timurids, and developed affection to Samarkand and Bukhara. After returning the power of his grandfather in Dashti Qipchak, he assessed the possibilities of the Timurids and went on to Maverannahr with a military campaign. While seizing the territories, his main focus was Samarkand. Sheybanikhan had to capture Samarkand twice. When he first occupied Samarkand without a battle, Sheybanikhan did not allow his troops to destroy and rob the city. Because, Sheybanikhan came to Maverannahr not for the purpose of looting, or getting wealth, he came to Samarkand for the purposes of staying there and founding a new state (as Bobur did by going to India). In his work "Musakhkhir Al-Bilad", the author Muhammad ibn Arab Qataghan

writes the following about this: "Muhammad Sheybanikhan did not trust too much to the Uzbek sultans of Dashti Kipchak, that they would keep to the discipline and restrain their greed. ... The soldiers of Uzbakiya (by whom the author meant the inhabitants of the Dashti Kipchak - A.Z.) were not quite well in discipline, had no intention to obey the rules of subordination, differed from the well-bred soldiers of the Chigatay troops from Maverannahr, who were trained to abstain from robbing the conquered enemy like animals. Therefore, Sheybanikhan refused to let the Uzbek army into the city. Sheybanikhan appointed Jonvafobiy, considered to be one his trusted emirs the city administrator of Samarkand. And Amir Jonvafo ... entered the city, closed the gates, and did not let any of the soldiers of the co-victors inside the city without the permission of the Khan and the city administrator" [16, p. 71-72]. In his work "Baburnama" Zahiriddin Muhammad Bobur (1483-1530), who was an enemy to Sheybanikhan in its time [22, p. 77] and in the poem "Sheybaniname" of the court poet of the Sheybanids – Muhammad Solih [13, p. 52], confirm that Jonvafobiy was appointed the city administrator and the Sheybanid sultans like Hamza Sultan and Mahdi Sultan were left outside Samarkand together with the main troops of the Sheybanid sultans.

Muhammad Sheybany retained the property and life of the innocent inhabitants of Samarkand, he got listed the property of upper class people, and the officials, who had served at higher positions in the society and state and earned wealth, as well as some religious scholars, and distributed it to his military commanders. As a result of this, high-ranking representatives of the city and religious scholars made a plan to take Samarkand and give it back to the Timurids and to drive Sheybanikhan away from the city. They sent a letter to Zahiriddin Muhammad Babur – the Ruler of Fergana and called him for conquering Samarkand. After arriving in Samarkand with his



troops, they went out to meet Babur and opened the city gates for him. About 500 soldiers, whom Sheybanikhan had left for protection of the city, were all killed [22, p. 78]. Sheybanikhan had to retreat to Bukhara. In a short time, all provinces of Samarkand, and towns of Qarshi and Guzar recognized Babur's ruling. But the food reserves in the city were exhausted and people were suffering from starvation. Once this became to the knowledge of Sheybanikhan, he moved to Samarkand again with his large army. In 1501, Sheybanikhan defeated Babur at the battle of Saripul village at the Zerafshan River. This was the second occupation of Samarkand by Sheybanikhan. Zerafshan and Qashkadarya oases were taken under the jurisdiction of Sheybanikhan again. Sheybanikhan handed over the administration of Dor-ul Mahfuza – Samarkand to his uncle Ahmad Sultan [10, p. 57].

Sheybanikhan's military campaign to Central Asia, especially, the mutual feud of the Uzbek sultans for the crown in the Zerafshan Valley resulted in destruction of cropped fields and gardens, aggravated by the increase of taxes levied from the population to compensate for military costs, which indubitably caused a certain degree of damage to the economy of the country and the irrigated agriculture, which was the basis of this economy.

As we said above, Muhammad Sheybanikhan intended to unite Maverannahr and establish a centralized state around Samarkand, restore the status of the Amir Timur's Empire. In his book "Mehmonnomai Bukhara" (Guest Book of Bukhara), the author Fazlullah ibn Ruzbekhkhani writes that during those times the country lost its peace and tranquillity, and the situation of the people was aggravated by the abundance of taxes, and part of the population of Samarkand area left their property, land and had to leave for other locations [7, p. 151-152]. As a result, vast territories of land were left un-cropped and

untouched, which sharply reduced the amount funds to be yielded to the state treasury from the land taxes. In order to remedy the situation, and regulate the land-irrigation and taxation issues, Sheybanikhan gathered the scholars of law at the place of Qanigil near Samarkand and held a special council. The council discussed the issues of the using the lands of the owners, who had abandoned their lands due to the unbearable burden of taxes and the oppression of local officials, and a decision was taken to transfer these lands and water resources to the jurisdiction of the shah (king), and give them back to the landowners when they returned, as well as pay certain rental free from the State treasury for the use of these lands and water resources by the state [7, p. 153].

There was no bridge over the strategically important Zerafshan River, which was in the centre of Maverannahr. Therefore the relations between Samarkand and surrounding areas were destroyed and difficult. Taking this into account, in 1502, Muhammad Sheybanikhan built a water separation bridge over the Zerafshan River, at the spot where it is divided into the Akdarya and Karadarya rivers. Kamoliddin Binaiy, a historian in the XVI century, wrote that in 908 Hijri (1502 A.D.) on the way from Bukhara to Samarkand, before entering the city with his troops, Sheybanikhan stopped on the right bank of the Kukhak (Zerafshan) river. Obviously, the ancient bridge, built on the Zerafshan River near Choponota, must have been demolished and thus the crossing over the Zerafshan River was incredibly difficult. After this experience, Sheybanikhan issued a decree to his mehtari oly - one of the highest officials of the state - on construction of a new bridge. All his troops were mobilized for this construction. Personally watching this construction work, Sheybanikhan invited the engineers (designing architects) from Samarkand. It is obvious that the engineers must have determined the method to dam and divert the river, developed the design of the



structure to be built, and that the bridge was completed within one month after the dam had been built and the river diverted. [5, p. 11-12].

In addition to that, taking into account the negative impact of the extensive wars to the economy of Samarkand, Muhammad Sheybanikhan introduced certain procedures. According to historian Fazlullakh ibn Ruzbekhan, before that time, there were many robbers and abusers main routes around Samarkand, so it was impossible for people "to reach Aliabad town, which was only in four parsahs (measure of distance - 1 parsah = 6-7 km) from Samarkand along the Turkestan road "before his Majesty Khan established His State that was worth to last for centuries" [7, p. 79-80]. Sheybanikhan removed these looters and invaders from the state roads, thus ensuring the safety of the roads of the capital city.

The city under administration of the Crown Prince

Sheybanikhan treated Samarkand with special respect and affection, and announced it as the capital of his state. Khasankhuja Nisari gives evidence that Muhammad Sheybanikhan "had Khutba recited to his blessed name in Samarkand and ruled gladly on the throne of respect and happiness" [9, p. 20]. The results of the analysis of the sources, we can conclude that in the first decade of the XVI century, i.e., from 1501 to 1509, where he might have been on a military campaign, Muhammad Sheybanikhan always returned to Samarkand. According to the historian of the Sheybanids era, Muhammad ibn Arab Qataghan, Muhammad Sheybanikhan trusted the administration of this city, i.e. the capital of the state, to his beloved son and Crown Prince Timur Sultan [16, p. 127]. The authenticity of this information is also confirmed by the author Fazlullah ibn Ruzbekhan, who lived in that time. He describes the magnificent event of meeting the victorious Army's Commander Sheybanikhan by the

Crown Prince Mohammed Timur Sultan in the capital city [7, p. 60].

According to XVI century historian Hofiz Tanish Bukhary (1549-1637) that Muhammad Sheybanikhan appointed his son, Muhammad Timur Sultan as his successor heir and gave him the title of "Khan", entrusted him ruling of Samarkand, thereby raising his reputation to a very high level" [10, p. 57]. It should be noted that Sheybanikhan not only turned Samarkand into the capital city, but also into a city under the rule of the Crown Prince. They could keep the status of Samarkand as the city under the rule of the crown prince until the time, when Abdullakhan captured the city of Balkh (1574), and from this period this tradition changed by appointment of Abdulmumin (1567-1598), who was both a prince and the Crown Prince as governor of the Balkh province. At the time when Abdullakhan occupied Balkh, Samarkand was not yet subordinated to the Bukhara Khanate. Therefore, such change of this tradition should not lead to the conclusion that the city of Balkh was socially, politically and culturally superior to Samarkand.

Sheybanids "turned the beautiful city of Samarkand into a source of fair treatment and charitable and remarkable works" [2, p. 129]. Samarkand was the centre for the representatives of this new dynasty, where they administered their domestic and foreign policy. In the capital city, they ruled the government together with the military aristocracy of semi-nomadic Uzbeks, the representatives of the local ruling circles and nobles. During the relatively short reign of Muhammad Sheybanikhan, the city saw revival of some fields of culture and economy. Construction works in the capital city were the focus of special attention of the supreme ruler [3, p. 54-56]. After the tragic end of Muhammad Sheybanikhan in 1510 year, Zahiriddin Muhammad Babur took advantage of the confusion between the Sheybanids and conquered



Maveraunnahr with the support of the Iranian King Ismail Safavi. According to the author of the work "Tarixi Rashidi", the inhabitants of Samarkand were sick and tired of the long wars and were expecting Babur's coming. However, soon after that the local population were disappointed with the fact that Babur occupied Samarkand with the help of Iranian king, and he gave concessions to representatives of the Shiite madhab of Islam [14, p. 362]. After Bobur's short 8 months' reign, the Sheybanids intensified their military actions against him. The political position of the nephew of Muhammad Sheybanikhan - Ubaydulla Sultan, who demonstrated special efforts in this struggle, grew strong. Ubaydulla Sultan was the son of Mahmud Sultan, the Ruler of Bukhara province, given to him for governing by Mohammed Shaybaniykhani in 1512. He faced Babur in "a battle that took place near Bukhara. Ubaydullakhan won" [12, p. 1219]. In this way, Ubaydulla Sultan, who ruled Bukhara - one of the major regions of Maverannahr, after gaining the title of supreme ruler in 1533 year, ruled the state from Bukhara, although Samarkand was the official capital city, He cancelled some of the management traditions, introduced by Sheybanikhan. In particular, despite the fact that Samarkand had been given to the eldest son of Sheybanikhan – Temur Sultan (the city had also been given to Kuchkunchikhan, and they managed the city in a tandem), it gradually lost the status of the city administered by the Crown Prince.

Although the city was the property of some prince (shahzada), dorugas (mayors) were the officials, who played an important role in its administration. While reporting to the owner (Prince) of these properties, these officials, whose position was very important in XV-XVII centuries, organized the management work. In periods of frequent military clashes and mutual feud, these people, who were responsible for the administration of cities and provinces, can be compared with the military commandants, who are

fully responsible for the discipline in the town they are entrusted. The dorugas, who were entrusted the city administration, had numerous military forces at their disposal, which they used to run the state policy [3, p. 104].

Specific aspects and stages of Dynasty management in Samarkand

The Sheybanid rulers had their own enfeoffed assets, and according to their custom of Genghis Khanid or Uzbek tribes, the owners were obliged to obey a single person. This person was supposed to be an old, respected, brave and experienced person who was at the head of the family and household and the ranking chain. The family principle was the governing approach in public administration. The provinces and districts of Maverannahr were divided and given to the members of the Sheybanid family.

It should be noted that during the XVI century Samarkand was ruled by descendants of four sons of Abulkhayr, an outstanding representative of the Sheybanids dynasty. These were the descendants of Shah Budag (Sheybanikhan) in 1500-1510, and in 1512-1552 and 1556-1572 – descendants of Kuchkunchikhan, in 1552-1556 – descendants of Suyuchkhuja, in 1578-1598 – the descendants of Khuja Muhammad sultan (Abdullakhan descends from this sultan. Abulkhayrkhan – Khuja Muhammad sultan – Jonibek sultan – Iskandarkhan – Abdullakhan), who had the opportunity of ruling Samarkand. From this point of view, the article analyses the administration of Samarkand region based on the specific feature by conditionally dividing it into three periods. Similarly to the period of reign of Timurids, during the first period – 1500-1541 the city was the centre of Maverannahr, the capital of the Sheybanids state; in the second period, 1541-1578, Samarkand was an independent khanate together with the territories around it; in the



third period of 1578-1598 – it was a large region in the Bukhara khanate with no status of a political centre.

According to the traditions of the Sheybanids, only the supreme ruler had the authority to distribute the provinces to others. And in this distribution the interests of his closest people were the first priority for him [6, r. 104]. For the peace of the state, the stability and strength of the central government was dependent on the credibility and loyalty of the local governors. After Muhammad Sheybanikhan occupied of the territory of Maverannahr (by 1504), he distributed the provinces of the country to outstanding representatives of his dynasty. So, he gave Turkestan to Kuchkunchi Sultan (1512-1529, son of Abulkhayr – uncle of Sheybanikhan, born in 1452, his mother was Robiya Sultanbegim, of Timurid origin), gave Tashkent and Shakhrukhya to Kuchkunchi Sultan's brother Suyunchkhuj Sultan (died in 1525, another son of Sheybanikhan's uncle, Abulkhayrkhan, born in 1453, his mother was Robiya Sultanbegim, of Timurid origin), he gave Bukhara to his own brother Mahmud Sultan (1454-1505), Akhsi and Andijan - to Jonibek Sultan (died in 1529, Jonibek Sultan was the son Khujagum Sultan (Khuj Muhammad), who was a son of Sheybanikhan's cousin Abulkhayrkhan, and Sheybanikhan gave Samarkand to his cousins Ahmad Sultan (died in 1510), and Hisar and adjacent territories to Hamza Sultan (died in 1511) and his brother Mahdy Sultan (died in 1511), he then gave Termez to Said Mohammed Sultan (died in 1510), who was also a cousin of him) [10, p. 57].

THE INITIAL PERIOD OF MANAGEMENT OF THE CITY

In the early period (1500-1541), the main feature of the Samarkand administration was that as the capital city it was the coronation place. Here they used to hold Khutba reciting ceremonies in honour of the Khan and minted coins as currency of the state. In addition, according to the tradition, introduced during the reign of Amir Timur, the coronation ceremonies were held in

Samarkand. With this regard, the Sheybanids harmonized the coronation ceremony of Amir Timur with the traditions of Genghis Khan.

It is known that according to the Turkic and Genghis Khan traditions, the khans to be enthroned were raised in a white felted mat and carried to the throne. Although Amir Timur did not cancel the ceremony of carrying in a white felted mat to the throne, he introduced a new tradition. He built the Kuk Saray palace, built a throne in it, called it "the kuktols" (blue throne), so that in its importance it was not lower than the white felted mat and the throne of the Genghis Khan tradition, and he himself sat on this blue stone throne. The essence of this is that although this stone (throne) was not blue, Amir Timur introduced this tradition as a symbol of might and greatness for there was a divine hypothesis that it had been descended from the Heavens, and the blue colour was a symbol of greatness for Turkic tribes [18, p. 197]. And in the coronation ceremony, the Sheybanid Sultans in Samarkand harmonized the traditions of their both forefathers (Genghis Khan and Amir Timur), and the Khans to be enthroned were raised in the white felted mat and passed to the blue stone throne. Later, during the period when Maverannahr was united around Bukhara and the state was called the Bukhara Khanate, even during the reign of the Ashtarkhanid dynasty (1601-1756), the ceremonies of coronation of Khans were held in Samarkand [15, p. 212].

According to historian Hofiz Tanish Bukhary, large regions were given to the most discerning and entrepreneurial of the trusted Sheybanid Sultans, at the same time, who earned popularity in political processes. We can say that the transfer of administration of Samarkand to the Sultans was based on the same criteria. Thus, until 1511, Samarkand was under the rule of Temur Sultan, the eldest son of Muhammad Sheybanikhan (until it was occupied by



Babur) [10, p. 52]. The following two years after the death of Muhammad Sheybany in the battle near Merv in 1510, Sheybanids organized to recite Khutba sermons at every Friday namaz prayers to the names of Sheybanid supreme rulers. So, the Sheybanids managed to rule the country for a certain period. For example, initially, Suyunchkhoja ibn Abulkhayrkhan entered Samarkand in 1511, and arranged reciting Khutba sermons in honour of the Khan of khans (that is, Suyunchkhujakhan) of the Uzbek tribes and remained the "supreme Khan" until 1512. When the Sheybanids regained this region from Bobur, initially Ubaydullakh declared himself "the Supreme Khan". Then, according to the laws of "Yaso", he ceded the throne to the eldest in the dynasty [17, p. 144]. Thus being not in the throne, in reality, management of the state was in the hands of Jonibek Sultan and Ubaydulla Sultans. In particular, in 1512, the Sheybanid Sultans held a gathering and assigned the task of re-distribution of territories to Jonibek Sultan, who was an old military leader (although, on his age he was in third after Kuchunchi and Suyunchkhujakhan, he had a higher position from the military-political point of view). According to his distribution, the territory of Samarkand was given by the Kuchunchi Sultan (1452-1529) and Muhammad Timur (died in 1514), the eldest son of Sheybanikhan [16, p. 136]. Kuchunchikhan was declared the Supreme Ruler of Maverannahr. Zayniddin Vasifi (1486-1566), who personally witnessed these events, wrote: "The constant procedure and established programme of the Sheybanid Sultans was such that while their elderly brothers and relatives were alive, the younger ones would not step on the throne of the Kingdom and the Great Khan. Therefore, Ubaydullakh allowed his majesty Kuchunchikhan to the throne of the Khanate, and he himself left for Bukhara. [23, p.17]. It is probable that in the transfer of the supreme ruler's position to Kuchunchi, in addition to him being older than other Sheybanid Sultans

(Jonibek and Ubaydulla Sultans), the Sheybanid Sultans might have taken into consideration two other factors. First of all, the connection of Kuchunchikhan with the Ghenghiskhan dynasty rulers on his father's side was the first legitimate claim to throne, on the other hand, on his mother's side he had relations to the Timurids dynasty rulers of Maverannahr (he was son of the daughter of Ulugbek, Robiya Sultan Begim), so all this meant his full right to rule the country, claiming the throne. Secondly, Kuchunchikhan was an open-hearted person with lower level of aspiration and capability in ruling a country [16, p. 154]. In this respect, the fact that he could not interfere with the established ruling of Jonibek Sultan and Ubaydulla was an advantage to these Sultans.

After Kuchunchikhan's death in 1529, Abu Said Sultan (1530-1533), the eldest son of the current ruler – khan Ubaydullakhan ibn Mahmud Sultan (1487-1540), took the throne as the Ruler of Maverannahr. He lived in Samarkand and ruled the country from there. This Khan reigned in Samarkand for more than two years, and coins were minted with his name [16, p. 154]. After his death, the governor of Bukhara Ubaydullakhan came to Samarkand and, enthroned the eldest Prince of that time - Kuchunchikhan's second son, Abdullakhan (died in 1541) [16, p. 142].

While Kuchunchikhan lived in Samarkand, his children, grandchildren, i.e., sultans (the princes [shahzadas] were called "Sultans") lived both in Samarkand and its surrounding Areas. Historian Zayniddin Vosify, who lived in Maverannahr in the first half of the XVI century, in describing the events that occurred in the winter of 1512-1513, wrote that several sultans, in particular the Sheybanid prince Abu Said Sultan, spent the winter in the village of Konigil outside Samarkand [23, p. 29].

During the initial period of the management of the Sheybanids dynasty, Samarkand rose as a capital, and



a number of architectural structures were built there. Sheybanikhan started building a madrasah in Samarkand. But Sheybanikhan died in 1501 before this construction was completed. Later in 1541, Mehr Sultan Khanum (wife of Muhammad Timur Sultan, son of Sheybanikhan) finished it and built another madrasah in front of it. Sheybanids built a marble burial place (dahma, sufa) of Sheybanids between the two madrasahs. Mahmud Sultan (brother of Sheybanikhan), who died in 1504 was the first to be buried here. In 1509 they moved the corps of Sheybanikhan's mother from Bukhara and placed here. In 1510, the headless corps of Sheybanikhan, and in 1514, his son Muhammad Timur Sultan were buried here. At the initiative and patronage of Timur Sultan's widow Mehr Sultan Hanim, this mausoleum was modified to a separate family cemetery — high sufa (10-11 meters, which had 36 tombstones on it) [2, p. 180, 185]. This mausoleum contains remains of Muhammad Sheybanikhan, representatives of his family, and of Kuchkunchikhan and his descendants. This demonstrates that Muhammad Sheybanikhan treated Samarkand with special reverence, he had intentions to restore its grand position in the era of Amir Timur and turning it to the place where his descendants would live and rule the country from. In particular, in his poem "Sheybaniname" Muhammad Salih, the court poet of Sheybanikhan, also reflected the khan's special affection to Samarkand and described the process of creating his state from this territory as a separate topic [13, p. 108-113].

2.5 The independent Samarkand Khanate of Sheybanids

The second stage of ruling of Samarkand by Sheybanids (1541-1578) began after the death (in 1540) of Abdullakhan ibn Kuchkunchikhan (Abdullakhan I), who ruled for a short time. In other words, the country was under a diarchy situation with Abdulaziz (1541-1551), son of Ubaydullakhan, who established his ruling in Bukhara, and Abdulatif Sultan (1541-1550), brother of the deceased khan – Abdullakhan ibn Kucukunchikhan (1540-1541) ruled in Samarkand. The main reason for this was that the Governor of Samarkand refused to recognise the Supreme Power of Abdulaziz, who ascended to the throne in Bukhara. For Abdulatifkhan had Genghis Khan line origin from his father's side and Temurids blood from the mother's side (he was a grandson of Robiya Sultan, daughter of Ulugbek Mirzo), he thought he was the rightful ruler of Mevaraunnahr.

Thus, starting from the fifties of the XVI century, further political struggle resulted in independent ruling of the descendants of Kuchunchikhan in Samarkand (1541-1578), the descendants of Ubaydullakhan – in Bukhara (1541-1552), the descendants of Suyunchkhuja Sultan – in Tashkent (1540-1583), the descendants of Jonibek Sultan – in Karmana and Miyonkol (1512-1598). Subsequently, when Abdullakhan ibn Iskandarkhan seized Bukhara in 1557, the process of centralization of the state of the Sheybanids was resumed (see table below) [8, p. 39-40].

Centralization of the Bukhara khanate

(The Supreme Rulers are in bold)



Bukhara	Samarkand	Tashkent
Mahmud Sultan (1501-1505)	Kuchkunchikhan ibn Abulkhayrkhan (1501-1530; Supreme Ruler from 1512)	Suyunchkhuja ibn Abulkhayrkhan (1503-1525)
Ubaydullakhan ibn Mahmud Sultan (1505-1540; Supreme Ruler from 1533)	Abu Saidkhan ibn Kuchkunchikhan (1530-1533)	Keldi Muhammad ibn Suyunchkhuja (1525-1532)
Abdulazizkhan (1540-1550)	Abdulatifkhan ibn Kuchkunchikhan (1533-1552; from 1540 Supreme Ruler together with Abdulazizkhan in diarchy)	Navruz ibn Suyunchkhuja (1532-1556; Supreme Ruler in 1552)
Muhammadiyah ibn Suyunch Muhammad ibn Sheybanikhan (1550-1554)	Abdullakhan (I) ibn Kuchkunchikhan 1540 February-October)	Darvesh Sultan (1556-1579). Bobo Sultan (1556-1579-1583). Period of feud between brothers on ruling power.
Burkhan Sultan ibn Muhammad Rahim Sultan ibn Ubaydullakhan (1550-1557). Muhammadiyah and Burkhan Sultans were in diarchy ruling	Navruz Ahmandkhan ibn Suyunchkhuja (1552-1556)	
	Sulton Said Sultan ibn Abu Saidkhan (1557-1572)	
	Javonmardalikhan ibn Abu Saidkhan (1572-1578)	
Abdullakhan ibn Iskandarkhan (Bukhara khanate)		
Bukhara was subordinated in 1557, and given to his uncle Pirmuhammadkhan.	Samarkand was subordinated in 1578, and he appointed his brother Ibodulla sultan the governor.	Tashkent was subordinated in 1583, he appointed his brother Dustim sultan the governor.

Abdulatifkhan got on to rule in Samarkand completely independently. However, there were two more independent Sheybanid states in Maverannahr during that period – the Tashkent and Bukhara khanates. After Abdulatifkhan's death in 1550, the deceased khan's nephew Sultan Said Sultan – the eldest son of Abu Saidkhan took the throne. The khan of Tashkent

Navruz Ahmadkhan (khan of Tashkent in 1525-1556), who helped to strengthen Sultan Said Khan's authority, occupied Samarkand in 1552 and annexed it to his own lands; he treated the descendants of Kuchkunchikhan with mercy and kindness, and on the pretext of giving Bukhara to the governor of Samarkand - Sultan Said sultan to rule, he sent Sultan



Said to Bukhara, and sent his brother Javonmardali sultan to Andijan as the governor. According to the Ottoman Turkish Admiral Seydi Ali Rais, who was in Maverunnahr in 1555, Navruz Ahmed united Samarkand and Tashkent under one centre and fought for possession of Bukhara. The author wrote that the Turkish soldiers also participated in the battles between the ruler of Bukhara Burkhan Sultan (died in 1557, Ubaydullakhan's grandson) and Navruz Ahmed [19, p. 97].

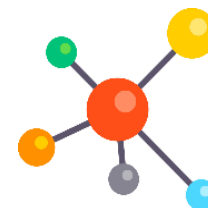
In this way, until death of Suyunchkhuja ibn Abulkhayrkan's descendants (i.e. sons of Navruz Ahmad) in 1555, Samarkand khanate remained subordinate to Tashkent. After Navruz Ahmadkhan died, the Samarkand throne was taken over by his son Bobo Sultan (for Bobo Sultan lived in Samarkand at that time). Shortly thereafter in 1557, using the help from Qashgar khan Rashidkhan, Sultan Said Sultan returned the land, which used to be the property of his father one time - Samarkand (in 1554, Navruz Ahmadkhan drove him away to Qashgar), and he reigned there until his death in 1572. After Sultan Said Sultan died, they recited Khutba sermon to the name of his brother Javonmardalikhan in Samarkand and Javonmardalikhan took the throne. In his struggle against the rulers of Tashkent – Darveshkhan and Bobo Sultans (sons of Navruz Ahmad), he relied on the support of the current ruler of Bukhara – Abdullahan (1557-1598).

Samarkand during the reign of Abdullahan

The third period of Samarkand administration (1578-1598) is associated with the activities of the khan of Bukhara – Abdullakhan. Due the attacks of the khan of Tashkent – Bobo Sultan to Samarkand in 1578, Abdullakhan decided to address the situation seriously. During Abdullakhan's military campaign to Samarkand, a union of descendants of two brothers as formed – of Kuchkunchikhan, who were rulers of Samarkand

(Javonmardalikhan and his children) and the descendants of Suyunchkhuja (Navruz Ahmad's children, in particular Bobo Sultan). According to the historian Sharafuddin Roqimy of the XVII century, Abdullakhan had to fight on two fronts to conquer Samarkand: while Javonmardalikhan organized defence of the city from inside, the second khan Bobo Sultan – the ruler of Tashkent and Turkistan opposed Abdullakhan outside the city. After a three months' siege and a serious battle against Bobo Sultan in the territory of Zamin, Abdullakhan defeated his rivals and occupied Samarkand [20, p. 110]. The ruler of Samarkand Javonmardalikhan and his sons were executed. Thus, from 1512 Samarkand, which had been under the rule of Kuchkunchikhan's descendants (with certain breaks), passed to Abulkhayrkan's another son Abdullakhan, a descendant of Khuja Muhammad Sultan. Abdullakhan appointed his brother Ibadulla Sultan (1535-1586) the administrator of the city, which was a high-ranking and strategic centre [10, p. 298-299]. Since Samarkand was one of the major cities in Maverunnahr, Abdullakhan handed over the administration of the city to his most trustworthy man, his brother. His son Abdumumin was 11 years old at this time, and did not yet have management experience.

Although Samarkand lost its status of the capital city during the reign of Abdullakhan, but it grew in prosperity. Abdullakhan entrusted repairs of a number of the greatest architectural monuments that required repairing, in particular Bibikhanim mosque, Amir Temur Public mosque to his most entrusted person Qulbobob Qukaldash [4, p. 188]. From the development of events in the book "Abdullanoma", one can see that Qulbobob supervised the repair-restoration activities in the city from 1578 to 1587, i.e., until the Herat military campaign [10, p. 316; 11, p. 256]. In addition, Qulbobob was the initiator of construction of the Abdullakhan chorsu (market place) in Samarkand in the same period [1, p. 224].



Ibodulla Sultan's ruling in Samarkand lasted till 1586. In that year, after the assassination of Ibodulla Sultan as a result of a plot in the court, his recently born son Yodgor sultan was officially approved as the governor of Samarkand, and administration of the Samarkand city and province was entrusted to Bolta Alibiy – one of the most reliable Beks of the late Sultan [11, r. 216]. He had taken over the ruling of the city as the Patron (Regent) of the young prince. But this governing did not last long. Prince Yodgor Sultan died unexpectedly at the age of 3-4 years [16, p. 212], Abdullakhan ordered Bolta Alibiy to continue ruling the city as the administrator. Later, at the military campaigns of the khan in Khurasan, Abdullakhan's nephews, Din Muhammad and Boqi Muhammed (they were sons of Abdullakhan's sister Zukhrabegim and Ashtarkhanid Jonibek Sultan) demonstrated their strong military skills. This increased their political prestige, and on the eve of the end of the Sheybanid dynasty, Boqi Muhammad (ruler of the Bukhara Khanate in 1601-1605 years) was appointed governor of Samarkand.

Thus, until the end of Abdullakhan's reign, Samarkand was a large property in the Bukhara Khanate. After the khan died near this Samarkand, coronation of his son Abdulmumin was held in this city [15, p. 205].

CONCLUSION

In conclusion we can say that although Muhammad Sheybanikhan, who subordinated Maverannahr and adjacent lands with the power of weapons in the beginning of the XVI century used to say that "the saddle of our horse is our capital", the city of Samarkand served as the main city of the new dynasty, who came to power.

After the occupation of the territory of Maverannahr, Muhammad Sheybanikhan paid a special attention to Samarkand and maintained its position as the capital. However, from the middle of the XVI century

Samarkand had to share its political position and rank it had during the reign of Amir Timur and Temurids with Bukhara. Nevertheless, it found itself as a fierce battlefield among the Sheybanids for ruling the city. One can see this during the successive reign of the descendants of the four sons of Abulkhayrkhan (Shah Budag, Kuchkunchikhan, Suyunchkhuja, Huja Muhammad Sultan). Samarkand completely lost its position as the capital of the state after it was occupied by Abdullakhan. For he united the three independent khanates: Samarkand, Bukhara and Tashkent khanates, which were under ruling of the representatives of the Sheybanid dynasty in Maverannahr into one state, and thereby increased the prestige of Bukhara, which he used as his capital city, as the administrative centre.

Nevertheless, during the Sheybanid dynasty, Samarkand retained its status as one of the centres of science and culture, which it was during the reign of the Timurids. Muhammad Sheybanikhan and his successors built a number of architectural buildings in the city and performed a number of reforms to restore the socio-economic life there. This means that Samarkand remained an important economic and cultural centre even in the XVI century, when it was under the Bukhara Khanate.

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