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# Construction in Samarkand During the Ashtarkhanid Dynasty

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#### **ABSTRACT**

This article highlights the representative of the dynasty, Imam Qulikhan, who formed the Registan square, which is considered the heart of the city of Samarkand, and the sheikhs and emirs of Samarkand who played an important role in his accession to the throne. In addition, information is provided about the weapons used during the dynasty.

Keywords: Samarkand, Registan square, Imamqulikhan, Abulqasim Sheikh, Polish scientists.

#### INTRODUCTION

Registan Square, which is considered the heart of Samarkand city, located at the intersection of the Great Silk Road, has been adding beauty to the city's beauty since its creation. Also, this complex has attracted the attention of not only beachgoers, but also foreign researchers with its bright colors and magnificence.

The use of IT technologies in the preservation and study of historical monuments in the complex is carried out in cooperation with Polish scientists [1,2,3,4]. It was mentioned in the previous article [5]. Below, we will talk about the activities of the representatives of the Ashtarkhanid dynasty, who ruled in Samarkand during the period when this area was formed.

## **METHOD**

The events of the period when Registan square was built, the years of Ashtarkhani ruler Imamqulikhan's rule, are covered in such manuscripts as "Bahr al-asrar fi manakib al-akhbar", "Silsilat as salatin", "Tarihi Sayyid Raqim", "Imamqulinoma". But these works have not been translated into Uzbek. Copies of their manuscripts were used to write the article. Also, in the analysis of these data, the principles of historical comparison, chronological

consistency, cause, process and result dependence, objectivity, historicity and systematicity of historical knowledge are used.

The formation of the Registan complex corresponds to the initial stage of the rule of the Ashtarkhanid dynasty. Well, the following question naturally arises: how did the Ashtarkhanids come to power? This question can be answered as follows.

The origin of the Ashtarkhanid dynasty. In the 13th-14th centuries, the Tokai Timurids ( the Ashtarkhanids or Janians) lived in the western part of their relative, the Shaybanites. They rarely lived as nomads and lived on the northeastern shores of the Caspian Sea. As the Altin Horde (Zhoji ulus) weakens, it is divided into a number of small governorates [6,7]. As a result of this division, Ashtarkhan khanate was formed in Volgaboyi lands in the 30s of the 15th century. "Astrakhan" is the Russian form of Ashtarkhan. "Ashtarkhan" is derived from the word "Haji Tarkhan". Tarkhan is considered one of the privileged titles in the life of Turkic-speaking peoples and existed since the time of the famous Khazar Khaganate [8].

In the middle of the 15th century, Abai's brother Uz Temur bin Tokai Temur, a descendant of Joji, established the

khanate power in Kazan and Crimea [9,10], while the descendants of Abai's relative Muhammad established their power in Astrakhan on the north-western coast of the Kasbi Sea [11]. Yor Muhammad Khan's grandfather Javak and father Mangishlag lived in Astrakhan, but they did not become the khans of Astrakhan. Their relatives, two brothers of Javak - Ahmed and Mahmud ruled Astrakhan [12,13]. In the work "Bahr al-asror" Tokai are called Timurites, in the work "Tarihi Muqimkhani" they are called Ashtarkhanis, and in some works they are also called Janis[14]. And we found it permissible to call them Ashtarkhanis.

The exact time of the arrival of the Ashtarkhanids in Movorounahr is still a matter of controversy. According to the work "Bahrul Asrar", Yor Muhammad's father Mangishloq, in "Imamkulinoma" Baghishlov [9] came to Movorounahr with his family in 1528 [10]. However, according to other sources, Yor Muhammad Khan and his family visited Movorounahr in 1556 [13] because the Russians conquered Astrakhan. Yor Muhammad Khan's children - Joni Muhammad, Abbas Sultan, Tursun Muhammad Sultan, Pir Muhammad Sultan and his wife came to Movarounahr[14].

Management of the Samarkand region by the Ashtarkhans. Iskandar Sultan Yor Muhammad, the father of Abdullah Khan II, the ruler of Bukhara at that time, welcomed Yor Muhammad and his family members and married his daughter Zuhrobegim to Johny Muhammad, the son of Yor Muhammad. Jonibek and Zuhrobegim have 3 sons. They are Din Muhammad, Baqi Muhammad, Wali Muhammad [14]. In turn, Abdulla Khan II entrusted Joni Muhammad with the authority to manage the territory of Samarkand. But after his death, his son Abdulmomin sent Muhammad to Balkh region[16].

#### **Description of research**

# $Imamquli's \ struggle \ to \ occupy \ the \ throne \ of \ Bukhara.$

What factors caused the transfer of power from Wali Muhammad Khan to Imam Quli Khan? It is mentioned in "Imamqulinama" that the emirs and the population turned away from him due to some bad actions of Wali Muhammad. As a result, the emirs of Bukhara put the governor of Samarkand, Imam Qulikhan, on the throne of Bukhara in 1611. Enraged by this, Vali Muhammad captured the fortress of Samarkand.

Vali Muhammad uses different tactics while capturing

Samarkand fortress. As in the Timurid dynasty, during the Ashtarkhanid dynasty, tabl (drums) and flutes were played and the flag was raised before the battle. It is said that among the weapons of war there were manjaniq[18], arroda [19], dig [20], tavar [21], zamburak [22], ladder and various weapons: tir, tofang [23] and 200 carts and they were used in this war. The leader of the soldiers was called a solor and had a helmet on their head. Vali Muhammad Khan divided his soldiers into groups while occupying the fort. One group strikes a gate with a hammer [24], another group fires bows, and another group of armored warriors are shown fighting on horseback with their blades unsheathed. But the occupation of the central part of the main fort was carried out by Wali Muhammad himself, and the city was occupied.

After Vali Muhammad occupied the fortress, Bukhara emirs and army chiefs came to Imamquli and asked him to become the king, and they consulted Vali Muhammad to capture the Samarkand fortress. Among the commanders, Nazarbi, Qulbondey, Shahmurad, Boyim Muhammad, Khojamberdi from the Katagan tribe, and Tangriberdi from the emirs came with 200 soldiers, supported him in the fight against Vali Muhammad, and expressed their obedience to Imam Qulikhan [24].

**Moral support**. Bagi Muhammad and Wali Muhammad cooperated with Abdurahim Khoja during their reign. In the battles with his nephews, Vali Muhammad received help from his Bukhara intercessors, while Imamquli relied on a number of famous Samarkand sheikhs. The most famous among them was Hashim Khoja Dahbidi [23]. Khoja Hashim Dahbidi, son of Muhammad Amin and grandson of Ahmed Kosani, was from Samarkand. When the relationship between Vali Muhammad and Imamquli and Nadr Muhammad worsened, Hashim Khoja joined Imamquli Khan[26,27]. In order to join forces with his brother Nadr Muhammad, Imamquli flees to the south, i.e. to Balkh. Hashim Khoja stayed in Samarkand. Here he opposes Baqi Biy Kalmaq, who was appointed as the governor of Samarkand, and does everything he can to help Imam Qulikhan take power. Later, Bagi Bey Kalmag [28]faced so much resistance from the people of Samarkand that he himself had to go to the side of Imam Quli Khan [29]. In a situation where a fight is inevitable, Imamquli says that he is worried about a fight. Khoja Hashim tells him not to worry and inspires him to victory [30]. So, in the battle between them, Imam Quli Khan got the upper hand and was able to sit on the throne.

Imam Quli Khan's consultation with government officials. When Imamkuli was the governor of Samarkand, he reopened the entrance to Gori Amir, which increased the loyalty of the population to him [30]. In addition, he was supported by religious scholars in Samarkand. He remembers all of his help during the 1611 coronation ceremony. This is the work of Imamkulinama: مشورت نمودن قهرمان سیهر انتقام و شهنشاه گردون غلام بارگان در باب فتخ قلعه سمرقند (content: detailed information is given in the chapter on the consultation of the ruler (Imamquli) with the Ayans to conquer the Samarkand fortress [29]. Among those who participated in this ceremony were Khoja Hashim Dahbedi, Hashim's brother Salih Khoja Dahbidi, Kubravi sheikh Yusuf Karaboghii [32], and Olim sheikhs, a student of Kasim sheikh from the Yasawiya sect. According to the work, Abul Qasim from the Khojagan sect sat on the right side of Imam Quli Khan, and the famous amir Hasan Khoja took a place on the left side. In addition, it was mentioned that the ruler appointed some persons for certain tasks in this meeting. For example, Hasan Khoja is appointed to the position of Nagib [31]. During the meeting, among the dignitaries, Abul Qasim from the Khojagan sect spoke and said that they recognize Imam Qulikhan as the ruler and are ready to serve him. He suggested to the ruler that before marching against Vali Muhammad, he should send three men to settle this battle peacefully, and give him whatever he wants to hand over the fortress of Samarkand to Vali Muhammad Khan. Then Imamquli decides to send Sheikh Abulgasim to make peace with Vali Muhammad Khan [32]. So, as a result of the battle between the two, Vali Muhammad Khan was defeated and Imam Quli Khan took the throne. Bahadir Yalangtosh was the governor of Samarkand at the time of his accession to the throne.

## **RESULTS**

By researching the information about the studied period presented in the primary sources, new information was revealed about the origin of the Ashtarkhanid dynasty, which ruled during the formation of the Registan complex, the events of the accession to the throne of the representative of this dynasty, Imam Qulikhan, and the methods and weapons used by Vali Muhammad Khan in his battle to capture the Samarkand fortress.

# CONCLUSION

In conclusion, it can be said that the Registan Square, located in the center of Samarkand city, was formed in the first half of the 17th century, during the reign of Imam Quli

Khan, a representative of the Ashtarkhanid dynasty, and got its present appearance.

Despite the fact that the events of Imamquli Khan's accession to the throne have been studied by several researchers, his detailed account has not yet been adequately covered. An attempt was made to solve this problem by researching the work of Imamqulinama, which was considered the primary source of that time.

Based on the results achieved, the contribution of sheikhs and a number of emirs from the Khojagon sect to the conquest of the throne of Bukhara by Imam Qulikha was incomparable. The work "Imamkulinoma" describes the fighting methods and weapons used during this dynasty. According to him, weapons such as rifles and cannons were used during battles in the Bukhara Khanate even in the 17th century. A comparison of these weapons with those used in European countries, especially in Poland, at the same time leads to interesting results.

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A weapon used to throw stones and fire in battle

A catapult-like weapon used for throwing stones

That is, an ax

cannon

rifle

Heavy stone weapon

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گزیده نقیب شه نامدار

حسن خواجه شد جلوه گر بر بر سیار

سيه سروران شه جم جناب

شدند اندر آن زمره چون افتاب

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Kazan.