



FACTORS AND FEATURES OF URBANIZATION PROCESSES IN CENTRAL ASIA: SCIENTIFIC ANALYZES

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ABSTRACT

This article analyzes the concept of urbanization, its manifestation in the 21st century, the specifics of the process of urbanization in Central Asia, and provides relevant information.

KEYWORDS

Urbanization, development, century, concept, city.

INTRODUCTION

The formation and development of cities is one of the main factors accelerating the development of society. The development of urbanization processes creates the basis for the formation of civilizations in different

regions. In this regard, the emergence of cities is one of the important achievements of the development of society.

Y.V.Kachanovsky touched upon the culture of cities and the main criteria of civilization, emphasizing the



presence of the following signs of it. Based on them, civilization means:

- the development of food production and a wide range of consumer goods in the economy, the emergence of a division of labor between town and country, the transformation of trade into a separate economy and the emergence of money;
- continuous decision-making on property stratification in the socio-political sphere, inheritance of property and land ownership, establishment of state and administrative order;
- the emergence of writing and art in the field of culture [1; P.249].

In the middle of the last century, the English scientist G. Child, in his special work on the history of cities, emphasized the influence of urbanization processes on the formation of civilization. The scientist also noted the following signs of civilization:

- the emergence of cities;
- construction of monumental social structures;
- the presence of a tax system and a customs system;
- development of trade;
- the presence of specialized skills;
- the emergence of writing and its widespread use;
- the beginning of the development of science;
- the existence of art;
- formation of privileged layers;
- the emergence of public administration.

The researcher put forward the idea that the above are the first signs of civilization, and the main ones are the first cities. In a monograph published in 1950, Child relied on the results of archaeological research in the regions of the Ancient East, noting that religious structures (pyramids) and graves were also important features of early civilizations [2; P.274]. His idea has

been recognized by many researchers dealing with this issue.

In the 50s of the 20th century, in scientific discussions about the first cities, K. Kluckholm, having formed the teachings of G. Child, suggested that it was necessary to shorten the list he proposed, and also leave three signs in it - monumental architecture, the first cities and writing [3; P.397; 4; P. 25].

In the 1960s, R. Adams explained the emergence of civilization and urban culture by the emergence of a class society and the division of labor, as well as the separation of crafts from agriculture in ancient societies [5; P. 18-20]. However, in the 1970s, K. Renfue and K. Flannery came to the conclusion that the first cities - a high socio-political organization of society - are a product of statehood [6; P. 41; 7; P. 400].

Researchers who studied the first cradle of urban culture - the Ancient East, noted that the social and economic factors that led to the formation of cities primarily depended on the unification of centralized economic and political power, social stratification and economic specialization. These three factors have increased the importance of cities as historical and cultural centers and stimulated their further development. The formation of a socially and economically complex society takes place in regions where these factors interact (the Middle East and the Middle East). Economic specialization, social stratification and centralization of power are based on the development of the production of additional products necessary for the survival of people employed in trade, handicraft production and management in cities and villages. The importance of cities in this place as centers with various functions is especially incomparable [8; P. 36-41].



In my opinion, at all stages of the history of the development of society, the city occupies a decisive socio-economic and political place. The need to determine the patterns of development of the urbanization process determines the complex characteristics of solving this issue.

If demographers mainly study the social situation in cities, the composition of the population and the level of growth, then geographers study the natural and geographical factors of urbanization processes, its development in space. Economists focus on the study of ways to centralize the spheres of production and services in cities, the system of constant relationships between the individual components of the urbanization process and the development of economic tasks. Architects and sociologists also deal with complex issues related to urban development. Historians, however, are trying to uncover the laws of urban development in all respects from a historical point of view.

It is known that the city is a complex system of multifunctional social development and communication. In the process of urban development, many tasks change, some tasks disappear, while some improve and become the focus in terms of the same task. The leading functions in this process are the preservation of such areas as the place of residence of the population, trade, crafts [9; P. 64-66].

I.M. Dyakonov noted that in the process of studying the importance of cities as centers, the basis of the study is socio-economic structures and their changes. Because the level of development of the process of urbanization varies depending on the transition from one socio-economic system to another socio-economic system [10; 18-21]. The researcher writes that in this context, of particular importance is the appeal to sources that reveal general and particular

aspects of the development of urban planning conditions, their specific structure and functions performed. These scientific views of I.M. Dyakonov.

One can agree with the idea that the emergence and functioning of cities is a phenomenon caused by socio-economic necessity. To restore the functions of cities, their significance as a center on a wide chronological scale, the results of archaeological research alone cannot be considered sufficient.

The city reflects various socio-historical aspects of the development of society - cultural, social, economic, political, demographic and other aspects. Therefore, when solving the problem of studying and analyzing the processes of urbanization, it is also worth using the results of basic sciences.

In the 70s of the 20th century V.M. Masson put forward his own views, having analyzed the approaches and conclusions of researchers regarding the course of urbanization processes. In his opinion, the maintenance and provision of the surrounding areas of the city, as well as the task of self-sufficiency, are the basis of the typology. In multitasking centers, one or two of them may be the main task. The scientist divides cities into the following groups: the center of the surrounding agricultural regions; center of trade and industry; military administrative center; cultural and ideological center [11; P. 5-7]. Each of these aspects is determined by a clear analysis of the existing occupations of the population in the city.

Analyzing scientific views on the factors that caused the emergence of cities, and the features of their development, we can conclude that, first of all, cities have never been formed in the regions on the basis of non-productive farms absorbing the population. Secondly, the first cities were formed in the developed regions of productive producing farms.

These historical rules have been generally accepted by researchers in the scientific literature.

According to archaeological data, by the beginning of the 3rd millennium BC, settled dwellings appeared in the south of Central Asia, whose population numbered 1000-2000 people [12; P. 9-92; 13; P. 95-100]. It is worth noting that in the society of farmers developed various types of production activities in connection with the economic relations of communities based on assimilated farms. During the Eneolithic era, the following cultural and technological innovations appeared in the south of Central Asia:

- the emergence of artificial irrigation - irrigation;
- new craft professions - the emergence of metallurgy and textiles;
- the use of ceramic furnaces for the manufacture of ceramic products;
- compliance with the architectural layout in the building, the appearance of multi-room buildings and defensive walls;
- early temples, the emergence of worship of the sun, earth, water, fertility [14; P. 26; 15; P. 26].

Built in the Eneolithic era, Namazgokhtepa and Altyn-tepa became major centers of crafts and trade, which were settlements in the form of cities in the Bronze Age [16; 119-121]. Thanks to archaeological research, it was noticed that Altintepe gradually turned from a small simple settlement into a large center. V.M. Masson noted the following factors that led to the emergence of cities in the South of Turkmenistan:

- various types of production activities;
- the growth of the rural population, demographic reasons;
- separation of craft from agriculture;
- the emergence of social stratification in society;

- the formation of a management system caused by the need to organize and implement agricultural work on a large scale;
- the emergence of vehicles, the development of foreign economic and cultural relations [16; P. 119-120].

According to V.M. Masson, the socio-economic character is reflected in the process of social stratification in cities, which are the main factors in the emergence of cities, resulting in the emergence of social classes [16; P. 121].

In our opinion, even if the available archaeological data is important in the study of social relations in the early cities of Central Asia, there are no written sources related to the history of the Bronze Age of the region. Therefore, the degree to which social stratification was developed in the early cities was not enlightened enough. In the scientific literature of the Soviet period, in the approach to the history of ancient cities, in accordance with the request of the ideology of that period, methods developed within the framework of the ideas of Marxism were used [17: P. 25-30; 18; P. 300; 19].

In the literature of recent years, in the historiography of the Soviet period, approaches and theories about the origin of statehood in Central Asia were reflected, and some methodological and theoretical issues related to the processes of urbanization were analyzed [20; P. 10-43; 21; P. 43-63].

Starting from the 60-70s of the XX century, the study of the features of the formation of cities in Central Asia became an urgent task, the problem of periodization of the formation and development of the first cities caused scientific disputes. Archaeological research conducted in the 80-90s in the Murghab oasis (Margiana), northern Afghanistan



and southern Uzbekistan (Bactria) was based on knowledge about the features of the formation of Bronze Age cities, the emergence of new scientific views and approaches. As before, during the formation of the first cities, the development of agriculture, the discovery of metallurgy, crafts and trade were considered important factors, but at the same time, as a result of studying such monuments as Zharkutan, Dashtli-3, the question of the emergence of cities in different areas in connection with migrations, that is, the resettlement of the population [22; 23].

In the Bronze Age, the construction of houses, palaces, temples, craft workshops and defensive walls in Margiana and Bactria was associated with the goal of realizing the vital interests of various social groups. In this regard, it is inappropriate to define the class essence of the city as the main indicator.

In different regions of Central Asia, cities are formed in different historical conditions. The characteristics of this process were somewhat different from each other. In this regard, it is possible to compare the features of urban settlements in Margiana, Bactria and the Ferghana Valley.

The emergence of agricultural culture in Fergana has been causing scientific controversy for many years. In the monuments of the Chust culture, extraneous houses in the form of semi-dugouts were found, along with buildings made of pakhsa and raw brick [24; P. 32-35; 25; 101-108]. At one time, Yu.A. Zadneprovsky wrote that the Bronze Age in the Ferghana Valley combined the features of the settlement of an overgrown population with the principles of genealogies, and representatives of a separate tribe lived in each ancient oasis-district [26; 25]. Socio-economic opportunities for urban development were limited in regions based on the kindred traditions of

the population (principles of "blood relationship"), since the first cities were formed in the regions where the first territorial neighborhood community first arose.

Considering this issue at the beginning of the 21st century, I. Yoldoshev reported that in the Ferghana Valley, as a result of a gradual increase in the number of agricultural population, "the territories of its settlement were divided and a mixed settlement of the population was formed, that is, territorial-neighboring communities" [27; P. 16]. As a result of this process, thanks to various socio-economic relations, an urban culture developed in the valley. One can fully agree with this conclusion.

So, in different regions of Central Asia, the first process of urbanization, like the regions of the Ancient East, developed on the basis of the principles of productive agricultural farms, mixed population settlement, new territorial relations (the formation of territorial united communities).

At the end of the 2000- the beginning of the 1000 BC., in the south of Turkmenistan there were settlements with high foundations built of raw bricks, and centers not surrounded by defensive walls, consisting of houses around them (Yaztepa, Aravalitepa). According to these signs, they repeat the building traditions of the Bronze Age (as is known, in such monuments as Dashtli-3, Zharkutan, there were no city defensive walls) [28; 30].

In the 8-7th centuries BC., a large centers were formed (Erkala, Altindilertepa, Kyzyltepa, Uzunkyr, Koktepa), surrounded by internal fortifications and defensive walls, fortified in the regions of Margiana, Bactria and Sogdia. According to the researchers, taking into account the excellent defense system of these cities, they served as administrative and military



centers, that is, in times of military threats, there were shelters for the surrounding agricultural population [29; P. 76-78].

One of the main tasks of the cities of the Bronze Age was the production and supply of handicrafts to the population. By the time of the first Iron Age, crafts were located in special settlements outside the administrative and military centers of production.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, it is noted that, as a result of a clear historical approach to the problem of ancient cities, the same thing is known, that due to different socio-economic conditions, the types of cities, their position and the functions they perform can also be different.

This position is also tied to the fulfillment of tasks arising from the specialization of cities in a particular area of production. In this regard, the importance of urban centers as the center of the surrounding agricultural regions is more and more observed.

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