

USTRUSHNA AT THE GREAT SILK ROAD

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D.S. Abduraimov

Researcher, Gulistan State University, Uzbekistan

ABSTRACT

The country of Ustrushna, originally mentioned as a political structure in the early medieval written sources, was formed in terms of geographical location between Fergana, Chach, Sughd, mainly in the left bank of the Syrdarya. The convenient natural location of Ustrushna, located on the international trade caravan routes, served as an important factor for the development of domestic and foreign trade here. The article analyzes the issue of ancient and medieval caravan routes, which are the branches of the northern branch of the Great Silk Road through the territory of Ustrushna. In the course of studying the problem, it was noted that trade routes in the territory of “ancient Ustrushna” began to form from the earliest times (IV-II centuries BC) and developed in later periods, and in subsequent periods the towns and villages of Ustrushna specialized in certain areas of international trade. shows.

KEYWORDS

“Ancient Ustrushna” area, areas on the left bank of the Middle Syrdarya, Khojand-Savat, “Zaamin - Supa davoni - Novqat (Bakhmal) - Qoraqishloq (Usmat) - Raboti Khoja – Samarkand”, “Zaamin - Ravot - Korpasay - Chubar davoni - Harakana – Samarkand”, “Zaamin - Ravot - Dizak (Jizzakh) - Iron Gate (Ilonotti) - Harakana – Samarkand”, “Zaamin - Ravot - Dizak - Baghdad (Forish) - Zarnuq - Nurata – Bukhara” routes.

INTRODUCTION

The science of history plays an important role in the development of the nation, especially the youth, as a

comprehensively developed person, giving a complete and detailed picture, knowledge and understanding of



human development. After all, the education of a perfect human being is a priority area of our state policy. Properly understood, deeply understood history will become a great spiritual force and a factor in creating a great future.

One of the greatest blessings of our independence to our people is that we have the opportunity to express an honest and objective opinion about our ancient and glorious history. For this reason, in recent years, extensive research has been conducted on the history of Uzbekistan. In particular, we have new information about the history of Samarkand, Bukhara, Khorezm, Surkhandarya and the Fergana Valley. However, we cannot say that we all know the history of Mirzachul region, which is rapidly finding its place in today's renewed Uzbekistan. In a sense, this is due to the misconception that Mirzachul was a desert in ancient and medieval times, and that these lands were developed only during the reign of the "Soviets". "Although Mirzachul region is relatively young as an administrative territory, this land has a history and culture of thousands of years"[1].

THE MAIN FINDINGS AND RESULTS

Mirzachul, the historical territory of Ustrushna, was located in ancient and medieval times on an important part of the Great Silk Road. Trade caravans from the Mediterranean, traveling through Bukhara and Samarkand to ancient China, certainly passed through this area. The trade routes to ancient Chach (Tashkent) also passed through Mirzachul. This means that the Mirzachul region in ancient and medieval times connected the ancient lands of our country - Sogd (Samarkand), Dovan (Fergana) and Chach (Tashkent)[2]. Therefore, without a thorough study of the history of Mirzachul, it is impossible to fully understand the history of ancient Sogdia, Fergana, Chach, which borders it. After all, they are connected to each other through Mirzachul. In our opinion, many

unresolved issues related to the history of the above regions can be solved only by studying the history of Mirzachul[3].

The country of Ustrushna, originally mentioned as a political structure in the early medieval written sources, was formed in terms of geographical location between Fergana, Chach, Sughd, mainly in the left bank of the Syrdarya. Its natural geographical conditions played an important role in the development of Ustrushna. Ustrushna region is one of the oldest oases in Central Asia, which is considered favorable for human habitation, economy and life. The oasis has a variety of climatic conditions. Here you can find hot, arid desert-steppe areas, temperate foothill pine forests, perennial glaciers on high mountain peaks, soils and reliefs of different composition of the Quaternary period. In the basins of rivers and streams, streams and springs, which originate in the mountains on the southern borders of Ustrushna and flow towards the valley, the population has long been settled, engaged in artificial irrigation-based agriculture[4].

The geographical and climatic conditions of the oasis were also extremely favorable for the establishment and development of the livestock sector. In the mountains and foothills, in the vast desert-steppe areas, cattle were grazed, and the herdsmen carried out their nomadic activities. They moved from one place to another for the season, depending on the supply of fodder and water resources, and spent the winter in the pastures around the mountain caves and ravines, where the weather is relatively warm and protected from strong winds.

In general, it can be said that in the cultural land under study, nature itself has created a number of conveniences for man. In particular, here in the most ancient times the first ancestors had the necessary conditions for hunting and harvesting, and in later



periods for farming, irrigated agriculture and animal husbandry.

In the territory of Ustrushna there were no large streams - rivers, dozens of large and small streams and springs flowing from its mountain and foothill areas to the boundaries of desert areas were sufficient for farming. It has long formed the basis of the main economic and cultural potential of the oasis, along with water sources, cities and settlements have emerged and developed.

The issue of determining the directions of ancient trade routes plays an important role in the study of historical topographic problems of the ancient period of Ustrushna. In the 80s and 90s of the twentieth century, the study of the ancient roads and their directions in the territory of "ancient Ustrushna" also played an important role in international conferences and seminars held on the basis of a special program of UNESCO on this issue. In recent years, as a result of the discovery of new monuments of the ancient period of the region and the accumulation of material resources, Yu.F. Buryakov, NN Negmatov, AA Gritsina, NT Rakhimov expressed a number of new views on this issue we can observe[5].

A.A. Gritsina based on the observation of the location of the "ancient Ustrushna" towns and settlements around the medieval caravan routes between Khojand and Basket, where the branches of the northern branch of the Great Silk Road passed, since ancient times, more precisely from the first antiquity (IV-BC II century), that is, until the march of Alexander the Great, the country began to form ancient roads[6]. N.N. Negmatov and N.T. Rakhimov also agreed with this opinion. er. avv. They admit that it was fully formed in the II century[7]. While studying the ancient trade routes in the region, Yu.F. Buryakov supports the views of researchers on this issue, that is, the period of origin, features and activities of ancient roads. Analyzing the

views of A.A. Gritsina, the researcher notes that the ancient roads passed along the northern slopes of the naturally convenient Turkestan ridge, slightly to the south, after the destruction of the rebel settlements by Alexander the Great. At the same time, Yu.F. Buryakov summarizes the above points and tries to show the impact of trade routes through the region on the general processes of political and economic life since ancient times [8].

Based on the analysis of the process of research in the field of roads in the area of "Ancient Ustrushna" (especially on the basis of the analysis of archeological research), we can express the following views:

The first ancient roads in the area existed in the form of roads of local significance long before Alexander the Great's march. er. avv. By the 2nd century, the Great Silk Road, which emerged as a result of the establishment of political and economic relations between China and Central Asia, was formed as a tributary of its northern branches.

The first trade routes on the Basket-Khojand route, where many monuments of the region's ancient period have been identified, were found to have passed through settlements destroyed by the uprisings against Alexander the Great.

After the Greek invasion, more precisely mil. er. av The post-III century period remains abstract, with the exception of Yu.F. Buryakov's theories that later the ancient roads moved slightly to the north. The main reason for this is that the material monuments that provide information about the first ancient period have not been preserved, and today the material monuments of this period have not been sufficiently studied.

Excluding a few large monuments (Nurtepa, Khojand, Mugtepa), the main part (Khontepa, Shirin,



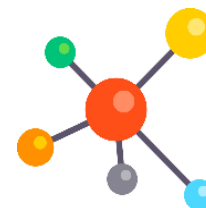
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Kallakhona, Uyas, Chigmoytepa, Mulchoktepa, Bakhmaltepa, Ghonchi) is one of the ancient monuments identified in the eastern part of Ustrushona (Khojand-Javat direction). We see that it functioned until the IV-III centuries. Of course, we hope that such problems, which have arisen in recent years due to the fact that most of these monuments have been identified and periodized only on the basis of review, or incomplete research, will be resolved as a result of future research. Today, researchers have also done some research on the study of caravan route directions from the last centuries BC to the early Middle Ages. In particular, caravans from the east to Zaamin

- Samarkand to Sughd, ie to the western regions Zaamin - Supa davoni - Novqat (Bakhmal) - Qoraqishloq (Usmat) - Raboti Khoja - Samarkand;
- Zaamin - Ravot - Korpasay - Chubar davoni - Harakana to Samarkand;
- Zaamin - Ravot - Dizak (Jizzakh) - Iron Gate (Ilonotti) - Harakana to Samarkand;
- Zaamin - Ravot - Dizak - Baghdad (Forish) - Zarnuq - Nurata - Bukhara [9].

Observations of the material culture of the ancient monuments of Ustrushona and its development testify to the fact that the multifaceted material culture of the peoples of "Ancient Ustrushna" developed in a specific direction, in close contact with neighboring areas.

It is important to determine the directions of the medieval Ustrushna trade routes. This is because in medieval written sources, topographic information was recorded mainly in the process of describing caravan routes. It should be noted that N. Negmatov also addresses this issue in his work, relying more on the distances between the rustok and the cities. But we can see that his ideas are often based on

assumptions that are not explained by material sources, in a generalized form.

The multi-year international research program "The Great Silk Road - the way of dialogue of peoples", initiated by UNESCO in the late 80s of the twentieth century, has had a significant impact on the study of trade routes in Central Asia, including Ustrushana. Articles by A.Askarov and Yu.F.Buryakov, written during this period, were based on archeological research to determine the location of the Great Silk Road, the network of Uzbekistan, which is part of Central Asia, including Ustrushna, cities and settlements along caravan routes [10]. However, during this period, in the articles of several researchers, the networks directly passing through the territory of Ustrushna became the subject of a separate study. In particular, the study of trade networks passing through the northern regions of the country by A.A. Gritsina, N.N. Negmatov and N.T. Rakhimov on the Ustrushona-Khojand route is an example of this [6].

The convenient natural location of Ustrushna, located on the international trade caravan routes, served as an important factor for the development of domestic and foreign trade here. The trade was carried out using money and barter. Domestic trade is often based mainly on links between sedentary farmers and nomadic pastoralists. The Ustrushans exported a variety of agricultural products: wet and dried fruits, grain, and livestock products, handicrafts, including farm and military weapons, jewelry, pottery and utensils, textiles, etc., to neighboring areas and at the same time to other countries[11]. In particular, iron weapons made from Ming rustok were very popular in countries as far away as Baghdad [12]. During this period we can see that some towns and villages of Ustrushona specialized in certain fields for trade. For example, in Jizzakh there were special production centers specializing in the production of woolen



fabrics, in Ming - weapons, around Bunjikent - jewelry. Trade was conducted mainly in the markets, the largest of which was the market in Marsmanda. According to written sources, there was a market here at the beginning of each month, which lasted for a day and had a trade of 100,000 dinars. In addition, written sources provide information about the market in Sabat.

CONCLUSION

Based on the above, we can conclude that during this period a unique material and spiritual local culture was formed in the Ustrushna region, which is located in a naturally favorable political and economic zone on international caravan routes, covering mainly mountainous, foothill and desert areas.

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