

Kerder and Kerderians

A part from the cities of Southern Kazakhstan and Syrdarya shore, known for their commitment to Islamic traditions, there were some other scientific, spiritual, and cultural centres, particularly settlements, which had been attributed to the territory of Khwarezm area in the past; they were populated by Kazakh tribes. Those settlements became Motherland to many scientists.

Islam came to Khwarezm in the beginning of the 8th century and made its contribution to local culture. At that time the state was ruled by Khwarezmian dynasty. For several centuries region was owned by three dynasties: at first by the dynasty of famous Makhmud Gaznavi (970-1030), later power was assumed by Altynshashu (1017-1043), but the most famous dynasty was that of Anushtegin Gurshakh (1077-1220). Khwarezm had flourished in 10th -13th centuries. A famous mathematician, astronomer and geographer Abu Abdulla Mukhammed ibn Mussa al-Khorezmi (783-850), Abu Raykhan al-Biruni (973-1048), Abu Ali ibn Sina (980-103) became pride of Khwarezm as well as pride of the humankind.

In the district, in Gurganj (ancient Urgench), Khiva and other cities there were multiple mosques, madrasahs, caravans, cultural and Arts centers were opened there as well.

Abu Abdulla Mukhammed ibn Mussa al-Khorezmi lived in Khiva, later he moved to Baghdad seeking for knowledge. In world science he is known as the “father of algebra; starting from the 12th century, his works had been translated into Latin, that is why his name became famous in European world.

Data, concerning scientists from Keder, Baratakin, and other settlements of the Khwarezm can be found in the works of al-Mukaddasi, ibn Al-Asir, ibn Al-Zhauzi, Al-Tabari, Yakut Al-Khamaun, Al-Idrissi, An-Huayri and Al-Suyuti. Apparently, modern Kazakhs from Keder tribe are descendants of those Khwarezm sages, who made their contribution to science and culture of that ancient region.

In the twenties of the 13th century, world famous Khwarezm was defeated by Mongolian invaders, just like many other cities of Central Asia and modern Kazakhstan. The state of Khwarezm was destroyed, sultans were murdered, science and education were ruined. By fate's will from now on this region obeyed Golden Horde; a city in the lower reaches of Volga, Khadzhi Tarkhan (Astrakhan) – Saray Berke, became the Horde's capital.

Ancient Saray was founded by Batu in 1254, it turned into a significant commercial centre on the way from Asia to Europe. Starting from 1361, “Saray Berke” had been constantly invaded by successors of khan's throne. Finally the city was destroyed in 1395 by Tamerlane (1336-1405).

In the second half of the 14th century Khwarezm returned to life again, its science and education were revived.

Many scientists originated from Keder either in the beginning of the 14th and the second half of the 14th century. Mostly they were Islamic scientists.

Arabic culture, language and literature developed not only in Baghdad and Basra, Damascus and Cairo, but far from these centres as well – in Khwarezm and its vicinity Kerder.

Kazakh Soviet encyclopedia has following description of Kerder, “Tribe “Kishi zhuz” enters Zhetiru taypa. Historical literature has following information about Kerder emergence it was an independent Kerder state in the North of Khwarezm, originating from Hins-Kidarites. In the past Kerder state was strong. After the same of the state, in the 10th century Aral Sea was called Kerderian Sea.

One of this state’s monuments is Zhankent town; its remains have been found near Kazaly station. During the process of formation of Kazakh and Karakalpaks nations, a part of Kerder moved to Muyten tribe of Karakalpaks, while another parte entered Kazakh Maly zhuz. At the time of “Aktaban shubyryndy” Kerderians escaped from Aral shores to upper reaches of Kobda, left side of Yelek and to outskirts of Ural city”.

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