

“New biographical history”: historical personalities

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Historical biography, known since the ancient times, was inseparable component of the European historiography. In the Middle Ages by the dominance of the Catholic church the biography came down to the description of saints, however, it revived in the Renaissance epoch and reached the grand scale in the modern time becoming the most popular genre of historical writings.

Historical biography got the new impulse in XVIII century. Researchers call this time the century of the Enlightenment. Under this term the wide intellectual movement in the countries of Europe and North Africa was understood. Ideas of the Enlightenment found its expression in philosophy, historiography, literature and art. Successes in scientific knowledge shook the inherited from the Middle Ages feudal-theological views on nature, human and their place in the cosmic and social universe. In their place new world view was asserted, it met the requirements of time and achievements of new science. Scientists consider that historical biography is not only the biography of historical character, but represent the genre of the historical research: it is history itself shown through historical personality. But historical biography in the full sense of the word only depicts that life description can be considered where in the center of attention is the development of unique human personality, revelation of their inner world. In this regard, the genre certainty of so called social biographies, the authors of which the historical personality is of interest not by itself, but depending on their role in the historical events, is brought into a question.

Under the biography in the full sense of the word the research and description of the life of an outstanding personality can be regarded, that fully coincides with the established historical and biographical canon. By definition of S.L.Utchenko, the object of historical biography can be considered as follows: “In the history of mankind such personalities who once being appeared, pass through centuries, millennia, all accessible to our mental eyes change of epochs and generations. Such people are truly “eternal companions of humanity” [1]. Such charismatic and outstanding personality in History of Kazakhstan was Abylay khan.

In scientific literature three factors influencing the formation of personalities: heredity, environment and education can be outlined [2]. Hereto, in our opinion, it is important to add the specific-historical conditions which in the formation of personality play a decisive role. Thus, in the whole, the formation of personality is causative and naturally determinative. However, people are born in different social-economic and historical conditions. For instance, in the formation of Abylay khan’s personality the fact that he belonged to the tribe of Kazakh Chingisids, and correspondently since childhood he was instilled the qualities of future statesman.

Khan Abylay is the main, key figure in the Kazakh history of XVIII century, one of the major statesmen in Central Asia of New time. “The most powerful of the XVIII c.khans, as the academician V.V.Bartold stated, was the khan ... Abylay” [3]. Original and bright personality of Abylay, talent of the outstanding statesman and commander were formed at one of crucial and dramatic periods in the history of Kazakh people, associated with the struggle for freedom and independence.

Since the moment of the formation the history of the Kazakh khanate was the history of struggle for the defense of its territorial integrity and independence. But, along with it in the history of the Kazakh statehood there was no other period when at the same time in the political life of the country so many outstanding activists as

in the times of Abylay participated. The crucial nature of the epoch, real danger of the Jungar, later Qing enslavement, complicated nature of relations with Russia contributed to the emergence in the historical arena the whole series of outstanding activists, whose names were etched in people's memory in the form of heroic songs and fables, numerous tales and legends. During these stormy years such batyrs as Bogenbay, Kabanbay, Zhanibek, Malaysary, Otegen, Nauryzbay, Koygeldi, Eset, Kozhabergen, Sary, Bayan and others were famous by their exploits and had among people the most popularity; the big influence on the mentality of the steppe people had such poets-zhyrau as Bukhar Kalkamanuly, Umbetey Tleuuly, Aktamberdi Saryuly. Among famous activists of that epoch were the khans Abulkhayir, Abilmambet, sultans Barak, Batyr, Abulfeiz, Zholbarys, Sultanmambet, Yeraly.

In the Soviet time the Kazakh khans, sultans, biys and batyrs were considered reactionary activists, as they belonged to the ruling social class. Those researchers, who dared to note their progressive role in the history and gave them an objective evaluation were subject to repressions. The proof of it was the fate of M.Zhumabayev, E.Bekmakhanov and others. In the recent past the personality of Abylay khan and connected with that name for more than half-century period of the past of our people turned out if not the "white spot", but in any case badly described page in the history of Kazakhstan. Soviet historians, for the sake of ideological demands, gave to Abylay khan biased, tendentious evaluation. Interest to the personality of Abylay khan dramatically rose due to the attainment by Kazakhstan of independence and revival of its statehood. In connection with revival of statehood and independence of Kazakhstan, the elimination of "white spots" of the history became a primary task for scientists.

In the first decades of XVIII c. the Kazakh society experienced a sharp decline of the economic activity related to the crisis of the whole system of production based on the nomadic form of farming. Fall and decline of the city life in Turkestan

because of the Jungar invasion led to the complete breakdown of the economic system of the Kazakh society. Severe economic crisis was reflected in the political situation of the Kazakh khanate. That, in turn, led to the weakening of the central power, isolation of certain regions, complication of international situation in the country. In such difficult historical circumstances Abylay appeared on the arena of the political life of the country. On the experience of the events of 30-40s he was one more time convinced that only after combining Kazakhs of all three zhuzes into one strong state, it is possible to gain freedom and independence of his country. Since ancient times, Kazakhstan never ceased to be the arena of major historical events. Convenient geographical situation and vast natural wealth could not attract the attention of the rulers of neighboring states. They intensified their aggressive actions in Kazakhstan because of the weakening of the central power. It is possible to assess the prominent role of Abylay in the unification of the Kazakh people in the liberation of the territory of the country from foreign invaders, in the revival of its statehood.

Abylay became the khan being recognized by Russia and China. He led the struggle for the country liberation from Jungar and Qing conquerors. Owing to his tireless actions, the Kazakh khanate retained its independence and territorial integrity. It is not accident that his name during his lifetime became the battle cry on a par with legendary “alash”.

But, Abylay entered the history, primarily, as the wise statesmen unifying Kazakhs of all three zhuzes into a single state. Relying on the support of influential biys and batyrs, Abylay broke the resistance of the separatist-minded sultans and forebears. Abylay was strict and demanding, he set harsh but fair laws. The governing of the country he fulfilled through his representatives and created such structures of the state power as the officials of the taxes collection, foreign relations, war chiefs, personal guard and others. We can not as before ignore historical merits of Abylay-

khan only on the basis that he “was a representative of the reactionary social class”.

Today, paying tribute to such outstanding personalities as Abylay-khan, Bukharzhyrau, Bogenbay, Kabanbay and others, we extract lessons from the present, because the right interpretation of the past helps understand the nature of modern processes, makes think about our spirituality and morality, about our future.

Feats of arms won by Abylay, victories on the battle field, his efforts to strengthen the Kazakh statehood, active diplomatic and trade relations with Russia, China and other neighboring countries increased the international authority of the Kazakh khanate and the role of Abylay khan himself in the political life of people in Central Asia. Contemporaries, highly appreciating the activities of Abylay elected him as the khan, descendants with gratitude called him the Great one, and he fully deserves this title for everything he did for his people.

List of used literature and sources:

1. S.L.Utchenko. Tsytseron i ego vremya.M. 1973. P. 3.
2. E.A.Lobanova. Doshkoljnaya pedagogika: uchebno-metod.posobie. Balashov. 2005. P. 7.
3. V.V.Bartold. Sborn. Soch. V.5. M. 1968. P. 224.