

KAZAKH KHANATE IN THE LIGHT OF HISTORY

Government programs for the sake of preservation of Kazakh people's cultural heritage State system of Kazakh Khanate had gone through several stages. The first one was formation of Khanate as an independent state under Kerey, Zhanibek and Kassym khans. Later the period of decay ensued, which gave way to mighty rule of Khak-Nazar khan. Subsequent peaks of Kazakh khans' rule took place in 17th-18th centuries. Preservation of Kazakh people's cultural heritage has been made possible thanks to government programs "Madeni mura" and "People in the stream of history", initiated by the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev. It is a great help to objective study of the history and culture of Kazakh Khanate. Materials discovered by oriental archeographic expeditions in foreign archives, funds, libraries, and museums are unique; publication of new sources is of utmost importance to the world historical science. As a result of academic trips to foreign funds in Iran, India, China, Egypt, Turkey, Mongolia, Great Britain, France, Germany and Russia, Republican documentation center for research of historical materials has performed classification and systemic processing of the materials, digital copies, archival records, and visual sources; such books as "Joint catalogue of written, oral, and epigraphic sources and artifacts on Kazakhstan history", illustrated book-album "Millennial sources in history and culture of Kazakh nation", and "Kazakh khanate" (in Kazakh, Russian and English) have been prepared for publication. They have created a strong basis for work of a big research team on reconstruction of ancient and medieval history and culture of Kazakh Khanate. In Persian and Turkic sources of 15th-17th centuries Kazakh Khanate had been mentioned as "mamlakat-i kazakh", "ulus-i kazakh", i.e. "the state of Kazakhs". New monuments and artifacts demonstrate the role of Kazakhs in political history, give evidence of the fact that Kazakhs had written language, developed cities, and established diplomatic, trade and economic relations with other countries.

Pre-history of Kazakh Khanate

The rule of Abu'l-Khayr Khan Formation of Kazakh Khanate had been prepared by the preceding history of development of such states as Ak-Orda (White-Horde) and Mogulistan. Sources inform that in the middle of 15th century Abu'l-Khayr Khan had been ruling in Desht-i-Kypchak. His struggle with Juchids had not ceased during entire period of his rule, and his power had not extended over the whole territory of White-Horde. Feuds and continuous wars, as well as protest of masses, had been weakening his state. Kerey sultan, Zhanibek sultan, who were Urus khan descendants and political adversaries of Abu'l-Khayr Khan, in 1459-1960 decided to leave his state with a group of tribes, their supporters and set off to neighbouring country Mogulistan. At the time Yessen-Buga khan was a supreme ruler of Moguls; having welcomed Kerey, Zhanibek and other sultans, he allotted western part of Mogulistan, known as "Chu and Kozy-Bashi" to them. During the period of disturbances, which ensued Abu'l-Khayr Khan's death, the number of people, joining Kazakhs, had been constantly growing. Alongside with the size of

population, nomad areas, belonging to Kazakhs, had been growing. Up to 200000 people had gathered around Kerey and Zhanibek. Formation of Kazakh Khanate Internal political struggle which broke out in the territory of Kazakhstan after Abu'l-Khayr Khan's death became a closing stage in history of Kazakh state system formation. It was the period when Kazakh nationality shaped. Kazakh nation assumed its modern original name and under this name it came into contacts with neighboring countries and nations.

Kazakh Khanate in the period of its utmost might

Oriental sources inform that Burunduk succeeded to Kerey. Sources, depicting events in Desht-i-Kypchak, mention names of some Kazakh sultans, including Kassym sultan, the son of Zhanibek, Janysh sultan, his brother Tanysh and Akhmad sultan, the son of Janysh sultan. All of them headed separate Kazakh tribes, which formed uluses, and possessed their jurts, i.e. habitation territories, by right of appanage, granted by supreme khan. Kassym, leading Kazakh troops, distinguished himself in battles against Muhammad Shaybani-khan, who had been trying to conquer southern districts of Desht-i-Kypchak. According to information left by Muhammad Khaydar, the size of population subjected to Kassym reached almost one million people. His influence had been growing with each campaign; as a result his authority became so high that although he was not holding the title of khan, he was elected khan of all khans, while legitimate khan did not enjoy any popularity. Defeated Burunduk was banished from steppe and died in foreign land, in Samarkand. From early 80's of 15th century and subsequent years steppes of Desht-i-Kypchak became a target of struggle between Shaybanids and Kazakh sultans. In 1509 Muhammad Shaybani khan together with his army attacked Kassym's domains in Ulytau area and destroyed winter camps of Kazakhs, but next year Kassym sultan inflicted defeat upon Muhammad Shaybani in the foothills of Ulytau. In 1511 Kassym sultan became khan, having secured his undivided predominance over vast steppes of Kazakh Khanate. Discord between sultans ensued Kassym khan's death.

The time of feuds and strife

Mamash sultan succeeded to Kassym khan, but he died soon during one of the battles. After his death Takhir khan, son of Adik sultan ascended the throne of Kazakh Khanate. Kazakhs' might had been appreciably shaken under his rule. At the time (about 1526) a major part of Kirghizes joined Takhir. After Moguls' retreat Semirechye had been left under control of Kazakhs and Kirghizes. Nevertheless, their alliance had not lasted for long. People left Takhir, who died in the period between 1529 and 1533. The power was assumed by his brother Buydas

Renaissance and decay of Kazakh Khanate

The 16th century was an important stage of Kazakh Khanate establishment and development of warfare and diplomacy.

The middle of 16th century became a period of deep crisis and decline. Resumption of might in foreign policy took place in the second half of the 16th century, when Khak Nazar khan came to power. He had carried out a number of reforms, which had substantially strengthened the system of government and army. Until the last quarter of the 16th century close and diversified relations had been established between Kazakh Khanate and Shaybanids. Shaybanid Abdallah khan II considered Kazakhs as military and political power, which could be used for augmenting his power, especially in areas where his adversaries Shaybanids had settled. Abdallah khan had entered into “Juratory alliance” with Kazakh khan Khakk-Nazar, this union had obligated both parties to maintain peaceful relations with each other. Close relations of Kazakhs with Bukhar khan had existed until 1579.

Decline of Kazakh Khanate

In the first half of the 17th century there were several rival groups among Kazakh sultans, they were headed by sultan Ishim (officially succeeded to Taukel in 1598, ruled in Turkestan), sultans Tursun and Abulay. In 1613 Kazakh sultan Tursun was declared the ruler of Tashkent by Imamkuli khan. Later Tursun khan refused to recognize sovereignty of Ashtarkhanid Imankuli khan, he started minting his own currency and collecting duty and land tax in his favour. After these events and internecine war with Tursun sultan, Ishim khan together with Kazakh and Kirghiz uluses subjected to him was compelled to leave for Kyrgyzstan. Some sources, depicting events of 16th-17th centuries, mention allied relations between Kazakhs and Kirghizes. In 1621 one of the most major battles between Ashtarkhanid troops and allied forces of Kazakhs and Kirghizes took place. Allied relations of Kazakh khans with Chagataids of Yarkent Khanate are dated early 17th century. According to Mahmud ibn Uali, Ishim khan died in 1628. He was buried in city of Turkestan near Mausoleum of Khoja Ahmed Yasawi. Up to this date a legend which connects his name with creation of the Code known as “Yssim khannyn Yeski zholy”, has been preserved. In the middle of 30's of 17th century political situation in Southern and Western Siberia had changed. In 1635 a state of Kalmaks, which acquired the name Jungar Khanate, emerged on the shore of the Irtysh River. Struggle of Kazakhs with Kalmaks for dominance over nomad areas was fierce. Correlation of forces in those almost uninterrupted wars was not propitious for Kazakhs. Jungars' assaults posed a serious threat to Kazakhs, and this threat facilitated the process of Kazakhs' conciliation with Russia, and subsequent subjection of all three Kazakh zhuz (tribal division) to Russian Empire.

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