

Problems Of Cartography Of Ancient Ethno-Cultural Processes In Central Asia

Anatoliy Sagdullaev, Fayzulla Ochildiev, Akhmad Kholikulov, Alisher Shaydullaev, Jasur Togaev

Abstract: A fundamentally important feature of modern scientific progress is the strengthening of ties between different sciences, the emergence of new intermediate scientific disciplines, their mutual influence and enrichment. In this aspect, at the junction of the sections of archeology, source studies, ethnology, geography and cartography, it is relevant to study the problems of ethnic geography that are poorly studied in Central Asia and its important part - ethnic cartography. This article is dedicated to studying problems of cartography of ancient ethno-cultural processes in Central Asia. And also the research works of the scientists of the 20th century was analyzed in the article.

Keywords : Central Asia, cartography, ethno-genesis, geography, archeology, ethnic problems.

1. INTRODUCTION

EXTENSIVE archaeological researches in Central Asia have changed the perceptions of the historical geography of the region and opened up new insights on a variety of topical issues. Archeological materials are of great importance in determining the geographical location of the ancient population because of the limited information available in early written sources. For example, in the works of Greek-Roman historians (Hekatey, Herodotus, Ktesiy, Strabo, Kurtsiy Ruf, etc.), there was illustrated general information about the territorial location of the tribes of Central Asia, borders of historical regions. Only the countries and peoples of the region were considered in the ancient Persian inscriptions. So, only the names and the list of local countries were offered in Avesta. There was found no written sources on the Bronze Age and further ancient history.

2 THEORY

Historical geography of Central Asia researched by historians and archaeologists such as W.Tomaschek, W.Geiger, J.Marquart, J.Prasek, P.Bernard, H.-P.Frankfort, I.V. Pyankov, P.Gentelle, J.-C. Gardin, E.V.Rtveladze since XIX centuries (70th-80th years) [1]. The problem of historical cartography has always been related to the relationship between ethnicity and regions [2, P. 89-100]. It is natural that maps made from written sources, for the reasons mentioned above, are far from historical reality. Therefore, archaeological and written sources should be described as an integral unit in the cartography of the ancient settlement. Different indicators, both qualitative and quantitative, are studied in the cartography process, including theoretical and methodological guidelines developed in ethnography [3, P. 3-25]. This implies the use of interdisciplinary methods, rather than mechanically copying

the results of theoretical and applied studies of ethnologists to archeology. In particular, it is important to take into account the accumulated knowledge on paleo-geography and the development of anthropogenic landscape, source studies, historical and ethnic geography. The development and enrichment of interdisciplinary areas are of particular relevance. For example, ethnic geography and cartography developed at the intersection of large sections of geography – country study, population geography, historical geography and cartography [4].

3 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

According to the information in literatures, the objectives of the subject “ethno-geography”, which was formed on the basis of ethnographic and geographical science, are to study the geographical location of peoples (ethnic units), its features and territorial relations with other peoples, the settled and nomadic forms of territorial settlement, the degree of mastering territories, population density and other issues [5, P. 9]. In connection with these topics, it is important to identify such problems as archaeological science, human-environment interactions, paleo-geography and the development of anthropogenic landscape, the choice of weapons and labor by human beings, and the influence of natural and geographical conditions on the activity and lifestyle. Consideration should also be given to the notions of “economic-cultural types”, “historical-ethnographic” or “historical-cultural” regions.

From the earliest times, tribes are known to have different natural and geographical conditions. The natural environment is the basis for the development of community production, material and spiritual culture and has created different forms of business cultures (cultures of harvesters, fishermen, hunters, farmers and livestock breeders). The unity of economic and cultural types is determined by the same level of socio-economic development as being closely related to the natural and geographical environment [6].

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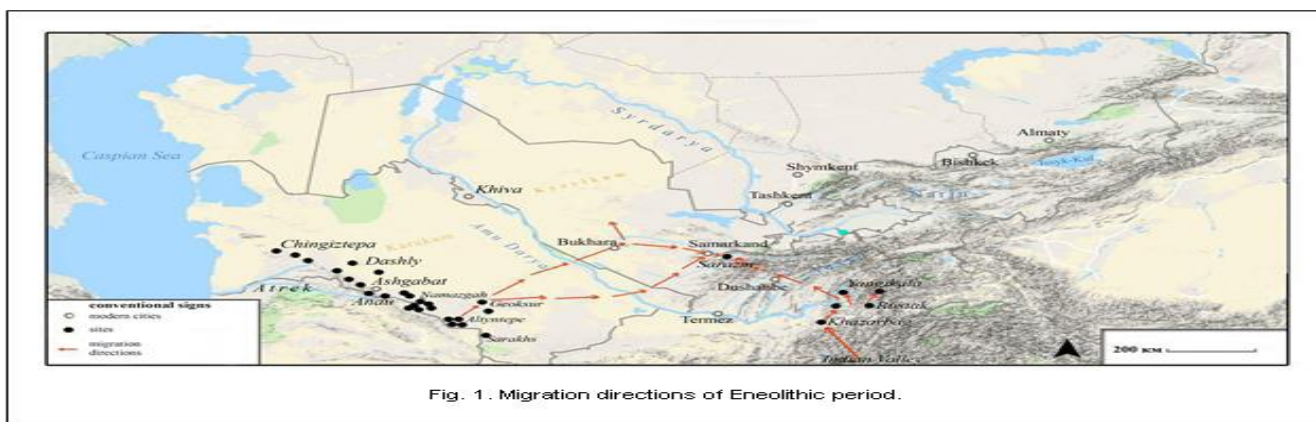


Fig. 1. Migration directions of Eneolithic period.

Historical and cultural regions are those areas where a certain cultural community had been formed as a result of the interrelationship of the historical fate of the population over a long historical period [7, P. 15-25]. Different forms of economy (farming and, conversely, livestock breeding or mining) might have been superior in historical and cultural regions, but the population had common features in terms of ethnic and cultural characteristics. In the archaeological study of the geographical location of the population, it is important to study such issues as settled, semi-nomadic and nomadic lifestyle, the extent of development of territories and the characteristics of the territorial location, the interaction of the population and geographical environment. One of the main tasks is to thoroughly study the sources for cartography; wide use of materials of different content; the choice of a cartographic rule that gives results that are close to historical reality. The beginning of archaeological researches is connected with the initial investigations and during this process, gathering information about the amount of ancient monuments (settlements, houses, fortresses, city ruins, etc.), the extent of development of oasis-regions, artificial irrigation lands, ancient cultivated fields and surrounding pastures used for livestock breeding. The boundaries of the geographical location of the various epochs were inconsistent. Therefore, mapping chronologically different historical stages is an important task. By comparing them, it is possible to obtain information about

the territorial boundaries of the oasis and historical regions by identifying the characteristics of the territories, density and dynamics of changes in the boundaries of populated areas.

4 DISCUSSION

The zoning issues of ancient monuments in the archeology of Central Asia have attracted the attention of researchers for many years [8]. The collected materials were used to register monuments, determine their geographical distribution, record their location along trade and cultural links, and study certain issues of historical geography. However, the role of archaeological cartography in the study of the problems of economic and cultural types, the formation of historical and cultural regions and the ethnic geography is very important. During the Paleolithic era, the process of human development of different parts of Central Asia was initiated. The tribes, engaged in developing farms during the Mesolithic period, were located in river oases and adjoining steppes, in mountain and foothill areas. During this period the coast of the eastern Caspian Sea was developed, hunters and harvesters appeared in the Ustyurt, Kara-Kum and Kyzyl-Kum deserts and their locations were spread in the highlands of Surkhandarya, Southern Tajikistan, Zarafshan and Tashkent, even in the highlands of the Pamir and Tien Shan [9, P. 59-75].

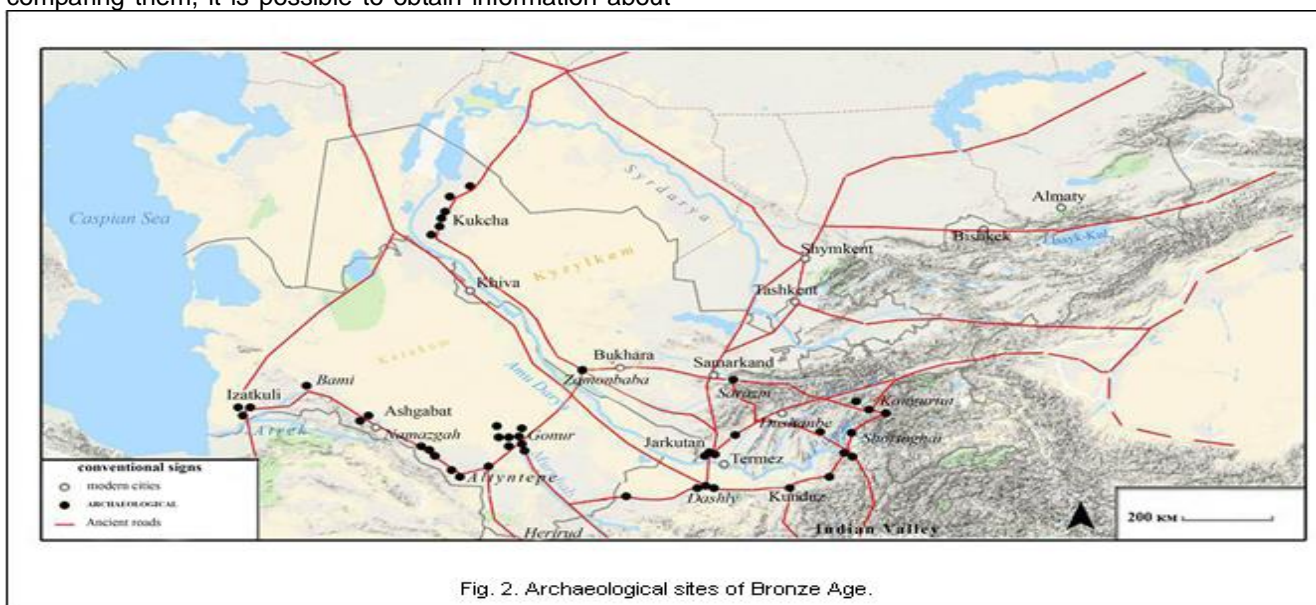


Fig. 2. Archaeological sites of Bronze Age.

The process of intensive development of the vast territories of Central Asia is determined by the need to satisfy the economic needs of people, capture rich areas of food and water resources, flora and fauna and the use of stone mines for the production of weapons. As the economic ties between the tribes expanded, communication routes developed and the process of developing new territories increased [10, P. 8-16]. The habitat of hunter-gatherer communities in a particular area, that is, the length of stay in one area, was connected with the amount of hunting animals around, the abundance of edible fruits and plants. For hunting purposes, communities of the Mesolithic era changed their habitats and migrated long distances, as well as returning to previously developed areas.

Seasonal migration was also characteristic of hunter and fishermen communities. This is due to the need to develop hunting, fisheries and harvesting and to meet the economic needs of tribal members in a growing population. The development of the types of economy and culture in the Mesolithic period was determined by the dominance of a particular economic form in the lives of the population (harvesting and hunting, fishing and hunting, or, in general, all these factors) in natural, dry and hot regions, but in relatively cool and humid regions. However, in this period all societies in Central Asia were socially and economically alike and evolving at a universal level.

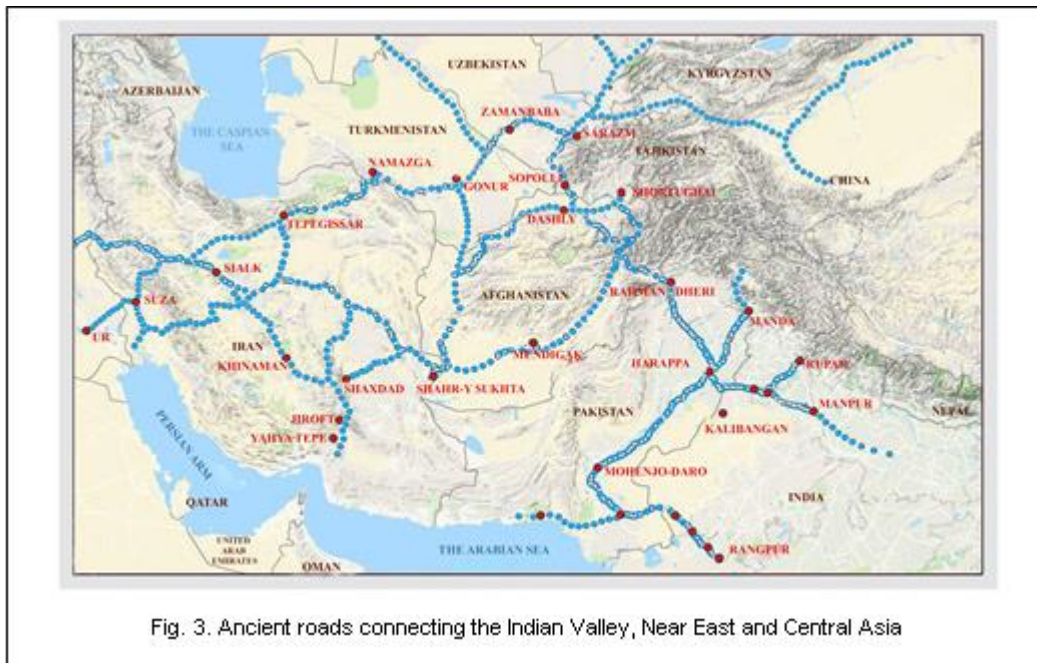


Fig. 3. Ancient roads connecting the Indian Valley, Near East and Central Asia

As a result of the “Neolithic Revolution” the transition from mastering economy to the types of production economy like agriculture and livestock breeding changed the appearance of economic and cultural types and laid the foundation for the establishment of historical and cultural provinces in the region. Populations living on the northern slopes of the Kopetdag Mountain in south-western Turkmenistan began farming and domestic livestock 8-7,000 years ago. In the early Neolithic age, settled locations and single-family dwelling houses (Joytun, Chaghalli, Chopontepa) appeared. Grain remnants (barley, wheat), stone sickles, knives and grinders indicate the discovery of farming [11]. In other parts of Central Asia, the cultures of Kaltaminor, Hissar, Ustyurt, Sazagon and Central Fergana were developed [12, P. 138-142]. They differ not only from the local culture, but also in the forms of management, housing construction, lifestyle and material culture. This is the evidence of the fact that the socio-economic and cultural development of the tribes in Central Asia during the Neolithic was uneven. Communities that do not know agriculture and busy with mainly hunting and fishing, were economically and culturally lagging behind. The uneven development of economic and cultural life that arose among the Neolithic tribes was intensified during the Eneolithic period. For this reason, the productive forces and productive relationships developed in different geographical provinces of the region.

With the development of metallurgy and the changing style of working tools, people discovered copper, tin and lead deposits. During the Bronze Age (the middle of the third millennium BC – 2nd millennium BC) the developed lands and habitats became more and more extensive. Growth in population, close concentration of tribes in the developed territories, constantly growing economic and craftsmanship needs resulted to the necessity of development of natural resources – poly-metal deposits, deserts, water sources and pastures. These factors contribute to the development of farming and urbanization processes and in the 2nd millennium BC, livestock breeding on pastures was separated and turned into special form of economy. Thus, there appeared migration routes to new territories crossing deserts and mountains along the rivers Syrdarya, Amudarya, Zarafshan, Murghab, Vakhsh, and Panj. Through these routes, internal and external migration was carried out, trade and cultural and economic relations were developed and ethno-cultural processes took place. In this sphere, the ethnic geography of the Bronze Age, most of it ethnicity, boundaries of population, migration and cartography of ethno-cultural processes serve as an actual theme. Among the issues discussed at the International Symposium on the History of Ethnic Problems in Central Asia in 1977, there were put forward the issues for the first time that the 2nd millennium BC had been important stage in the ethno-genesis of the

peoples of the region and that the foundations of modern peoples were laid at that time [13, P. 5]. The participants of the conference addressed the issues of the spread of Indo-Iranian tribes, linguistic, archeological and historical-cultural aspects of the "Arian problem" related to the migration of steppe livestock breeders of Andronovo culture to the Bronze Age. According to other alternative views, the Indo-Iranian homeland was located in Frontier Asia. In the historical science of the 20th century, most scholars mentioned the Aryans as Iranian-speaking tribes. At the beginning of the 21st century, in the discussion of the subject, the "Arian problem" was connected not only with the Iranian language theory from linguistic point of view but also according to new ideas, the representatives of the Andronovo culture became "proto Turkic" – based tribes (Greek term "protos" is translated as "first", "initial", that is to say, the proto Turkic language is commented as the first Turkic language). This discussion has somewhat dominated the discussion of language problems in connection with other issues of the Bronze Age ethnic history.

5 CONCLUSION

In the study of the ethno-genesis and history of the ancient peoples, the study of the formation of the types of economy and culture, the development of historical and cultural regions and the ethnic geography and cartography of Central Asia is of great importance. The diversity of ethnic and cultural processes in the region, as well as multi-level cultural integration, should be taken into consideration by mixing of indigenous and foreign, settled and nomadic tribes. It is well known that inefficient linear development is characteristic of communities that are separated from the outside world by their own limited living arrangements. Central Asia is located at the crossroads of cultural links and has become a place of interaction and a meeting place for different cultures. The new forms of culture that emerged in the ancient history of the region, that is, the process of renewal was marked by the interrelations of local traditions and traditions emerged at the result of migrations and their harmony the broader relationship. All these were the main factors of ethno-cultural development and served as its driving force.

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