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SOME COMMENTS ON THE HISTORY OF THE STUDY OF KHOREZM FORTIFICATION MONUMENTS

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Abstract: General Background: The study of fortification monuments provides critical insights into historical military architecture and urban planning. Khwarezm, a region rich in ancient fortifications, offers a unique case study due to its strategic significance and architectural diversity. **Specific Background:** Historical research on Khwarezmian fortifications has predominantly focused on their architectural features and historical context within Central Asia. Early studies emphasized the military and defensive roles of these structures, reflecting their importance in regional security and administration. **Knowledge Gap:** Despite extensive documentation, gaps remain in understanding the chronological development of these fortifications, their specific functions within the local socio-political landscape, and their interactions with neighboring cultures and technologies. **Aims:** This study aims to review and synthesize the historical research on Khwarezmian fortifications, highlighting advances and persistent gaps. It seeks to provide a comprehensive overview of the evolution of these structures and their broader historical implications. **Results:** The analysis reveals that while substantial progress has been made in identifying and categorizing Khwarezmian fortifications, there remains a lack of detailed chronological frameworks and a limited understanding of their socio-political roles over time. Recent findings suggest a more nuanced interaction between Khwarezmian fortifications and surrounding civilizations than previously understood. **Novelty:** This review introduces a critical re-evaluation of Khwarezmian fortification studies, integrating recent archaeological discoveries and historiographical advancements. It proposes a revised framework for understanding the evolution and significance of these structures within their historical context. **Implications:** The findings offer new perspectives on the historical development of fortification strategies in Central Asia, contributing to broader discussions on military architecture and urban planning in ancient civilizations. This synthesis has potential implications for future research directions and preservation efforts in the region.

Keywords: City-type fortified settlements, fortified temple structures, barracks for the fortified garrison, Devkesgan Govi, Akshakhankala, cities of different layouts, slanting buildings, dove-tailed constellations, polyorchetics.

Introduction

BC In the second half of the 3rd millennium - 2nd millennium, the results of archaeological research are of great importance in the study of the history of the settlements that served the population in the right and left regions of the Amudarya. In the article, on the eve of the Iron Age, the impact of the socio-economic and ethno-cultural relations of the population on the processes of antiquity in the right and left regions of Amudarya is considered.

Analysis of literature on the topic. Khorezm expedition workers S.P. Tolstov, A.V. Vinogradov, M.A. Itina's research analyzed the relationship between the basis of development of Neolithic clan communities in the economic sphere in the Bronze Age, its influence on the change of the landscape of ancient society, for example, S.P. Tolstov some archeological studies are reflected in his works. In the researches of S.P. Tolstov, the results achieved in the Neolithic period were

continued in a new form of development in the Bronze Age.

In the urban planning of ancient times, special attention was paid to the military defense and fortification of cities. Military architecture is considered an indicator of the political and economic development of each country. The improvement of city fortification has also gone through a long historical process. In order to protect the cities from external enemies, first of all, natural barriers - ravines, hills, mountains, river banks - were taken into account. But with the growth of cities, the need to artificially strengthen the city defense arose. As a result, artificial defense systems such as defensive walls, gates, turrets, shinaks, and trenches were created. Such defense systems were created in accordance with the geographical conditions of the region. This aspect led to the improvement of defense systems. The development of military weapons also had an impact on this. A number of skilled architects, experts in construction, defense works, and craftsmen were widely involved in the construction of the defense system of the cities.

Scientists who study ancient cities first of all pay attention to its defense system. A chapter of M.Mambetullaev's doctoral dissertation also analyzed the defense structures of Southern Khorezm [2]. According to the stratigraphic data and location features, the scientist makes a relative periodization of the defense structures of South Khorezm and makes their preliminary typological classification. As a result of the research, M. Mambetullaev concludes that in the IV-III centuries BC, a chain of fortifications appeared on the borders of South Khorezm, as in the north.

Although some aspects of the ancient Khorezm military architecture were covered in a number of works, it was not a subject of special research until the end of the 20th century. The defense systems of the ancient Khorezm fortresses were reflected in the researches of G. Khodzhaniyazov and K. Sobirov [3].

G. Khodzhaniyazov's monograph "Ancient Khorezm Fortification (6 BC - IV centuries AD)"[4] is devoted to the analysis of the defense fortifications and constructions of ancient Khorezm. It analyzes the stages of development of defense systems and the main elements of fortifications in the eight-century history of ancient Khorezm fortresses. The elements of the defense system were analyzed in comparison with the elements of the defense system of other countries. On this basis, the unique aspects of the ancient Khorezm fortification are shown.

G. Khodzhaniyazov distinguished the development of ancient Khorezm defense systems into 3 stages: 1. Archaic period, in which the end of the 7th century BC - VI-V centuries, 2. Kankhha period, in which the IV century BC - the beginning of the 1st century AD, 3 The Kushan period, which included the 1st-4th centuries AD. In the research work, he classified ancient Khorezm defensive structures typologically. He distinguished five types of them: 1. City-type fortified settlements, 2. Forts, 3. Fortified temple structures, 4. Fortified buildings or barracks for the garrison, 5. Devkesgan cave and the outer wall of Akshakhanqala. included in the category of walls. It is shown that the level of development of fortification and construction technology of ancient Khorezm does not lag behind the level of development of fortification and construction in other historical and cultural regions of Central Asia.

Q. Sobirov's work entitled "Defense structures of villages and towns of Khorezm" deals with the evolution of military fortifications in Central Asia from the Eneolithic period to the Kushon period. According to the development of defense structures and their functional function and role in ancient society, four main periods are distinguished: primitive, pre-urban, early urban, and urban military fortifications.

In ancient times, straw and raw bricks were used to build the defense system in Central Asia. The main building material was clay (soil). Bricks were poured from clay, straw was beaten, the

mixture was prepared in the brickyard, and plaster was made. The base of the wall is always made of well-baked clay. Its upper part is made of raw brick. Raw bricks are made in wooden molds. They are marked. The stamp is typed face down. Bricks of different brands were used to build one monument.

According to the researchers, this is a sign of different workshops and shows that many workshops and workers were involved in the construction of cities[5] Sobirov Q. Defensive structures of villages and cities of Khorezm. - Tashkent: Science, 2009. - 203 p.

The higher and wider the pakhsa base, the stronger the defense of the city. The main defensive elements of the cities were arches, walls, turrets, shinak, and gates. How skillfully they were built gave the city its beauty and ensured its strength. For this reason, each city is built in its own way. Defense systems are not built in the same style or mold. In ancient times, military architecture was used in every city. Based on the mission of the city, it was built accordingly. Central cities, towns and border towns, fortifications, garrisons, and long defensive walls can be shown.

Research Methods

Methodological foundations of the topic

- Objectivity
- Chronological consistency
- Comparison, discussion
- Generalization, conclusion
- Justification
- Achievements of archeology, ethnography, geography were used.

Analysis. The scientists who studied the development of the military architecture of ancient Khorezm analyzed it chronologically[6]:

1. Archaic period VI-V centuries BC.
2. Kanha era from IV century BC to I centuries AD.
3. Kushon era, I-IV centuries AD.

Results and Discussion

Archaic period is the period of fundamental political and economic changes for ancient Khorezm. It was during this period that the first cities were built and traditions of military architecture were formed. The first sample of military architecture of this period was studied through the Kozalikir monument located in the Sarikamish delta. It was built on a beautiful hill. Its dimensions were determined by this hill and its layout was not regular. The city occupies a large area. The defensive walls are one-story, and its top is flat. The towers protrude a little from the wall, and there are no corridors in the interior. Right angle tires are installed. The tiles are placed in a checkerboard pattern on the straw wall. Their base is horizontal, and the inlet and outlet holes are at the same height. The first archaic fortifications did not have a foundation, and the firing lanes were located much lower [7]. The thatched wall is made of rectangular raw bricks. The thickness of the wall was 1-1.5 meters, and the width of the corridors was 2.5 meters.

When Kozalikir was rebuilt for the second time, its territory was further expanded, and the defense system was further strengthened. During this period, the bricks were square. The protective towers are also in the shape of a right angle and are placed every 35 meters. There are three rows of tires on the defensive wall. Their distance was 2 meters.

The defense system of the archaic period was also studied on the basis of the Kal'alikir 1 monument located on the Sarikamish delta. Its layout is rectangular, its dimensions are 1000x700 meters, and it occupies an area of 70 hectares. The base of the defensive walls is a 1-meter-high thatched wall, on top of which square bricks are laid. The thickness of the outer wall was 3.80 meters, the thickness of the middle wall was 2.80 meters, and the thickness of the inner wall was 2.80 meters. The wall is reinforced with towers. There are four gates of the castle, which are protected by a false path and constellations [8]. In the western part of the castle, there was a palace under construction, typical of the Achaemenid style of architecture. The castle and fortifications are not finished. Although the construction of the Kal'alikir 1 monument is not completed, the style of its military architecture shows the changes that took place in this field in the region.

The defense system of the archaic period of urban planning did not have a base (sokol) when the castles were built. The shooting lane is also located much lower. The outer and inner defensive walls were built on a common platform - a thatched foundation. The height of the preserved foundation in the city of Kal'alikir 1 was 2 meters and the thickness was 15 meters.

During the Kanha period, i.e., from the 4th century BC to the 1st century AD, great changes were observed in the development of the ancient Khorezm fortifications. This mainly indicates that the state was independent and powerful. During this period, the culture of urban planning also develops. In military architecture, powerful defensive walls and gates with complex mazes are built [9]. The architecture of this period preserves the tradition of building cities on hills. Cities are built in different ways:

Cities with a clear rectangular layout:

- Jonboskala, Hazorasp, Ichan castle in Khiva, Tuproqkala in Khiva, Tuproqkala in Yangariq, Almaotishgan, Voengan, Kaparas, Katta Guldursun, Katta Kirqqizkala, Akshakhankala, Ayozkala 1, Kurgashinkal It includes Shorcha and other fortresses.
- Cities with a square layout:

The towns of Bozorkala, Burlikala 2, Konerlikala, Govurkala 1 and 2, Tuproqkala 3 and others.

- Cities built in a circular shape:

Koykyrilan Castle, Shavot Earthen Castle, Kichik Kirqqiz, Ustik, Earthen Castle in Chemonyob.

- Cities built in the wrong geometric shape:

Regardless of how the cities were built, they followed the basic rules of fortification. In military architecture, a powerful defensive wall, a portico with a complex architectural solution, a proto-heizma, a trench, and towers and shinaks were used to strengthen the defense of the wall. Different forms of constellations were used during this period. Towers were built at a certain distance along the fortress wall. He was taller than the wall and pushed out. According to the location of the constellations, there are different types: right angle, square, oval, semicircular, drop-shaped, circular, "Swallow"[10] constellations, which strengthened the defense of the fortresses. The semi-oval-shaped constellations are located in Bazarkala, Koykirilgankala, Tokkala, Pilkala, Jigarband, Ayozkala 1, Tuproqkala in Shavat, Govurkala 1, Ereskala and others. built in castles. The rectangular constellations were in Qal'aliqir 2, Hazorasp, Ichan Qala, Tuproq Qala in Khiva, Akshakhan Qala and other monuments. The drop-shaped constellation was found in Kaparas, the circular constellation was found in Koykyrilan Castle, and the crescent-shaped constellation was found in Qal'aliqir 2, Toqkala, Ayozkala 1, Devkesgan, and Korgoshinka.

In the ancient Khorezm military architecture, tires were installed obliquely. In order to make it possible to shoot the places at the foot of the wall, the bottom of the shins is made with a steep slope on the outside. In Devkesgankala, Korgoashinkala, Katta Kirqqizkala, Jonboskala, Ayozkala,

Burlikala and other monuments, slanted tires were found.

BC The construction of large-scale fortresses and the development of military architecture in the IV-I centuries also show the power of the ancient Khorezm state and its path in the political field. During these four centuries, the state of Khorezm followed the path of independent development and gained its place and status among the neighboring countries.

Changes in military architecture are also observed in the 1st-4th centuries AD, which is called the Kushan period. BC Many fortresses were destroyed as a result of the invasion of the ancient Khorezm state in the 2nd century. Castles such as Kalajik, Khiva Tuproqkalasi, Shavot Tuproqkalasi, Konarlikala, Koykirilgankala, Toqkala, Quyisoykala, Kandumkala, Devkeskankala were not restored after this invasion. , left in ruins. According to researchers, the invaders were the Yueji tribes, who seized power. As a result, a dynastic change was observed in the state, a new dynasty came to power[11].

Representatives of the new dynasty restored the state's defense system and rebuilt many ruined fortresses. These include Kizilkala, Ayozkala 2, Toqkala, Tashkala 2, Jigarband, Sadvar, Almaotishkan 1, Katkala, Voyangan, Zamakhshar, Kohna Uaz, Yorbakrkala, Shahsanam, Mangirkala. , we can take Mizdahkon Govurkalas as an example. These castles existed in the Middle Ages. During the renovation process, the old fortress walls were surrounded by a new wall. In some cases, 2 walls in the castle are very close to each other. In some cases, the tires on the lower floor of the shooting lane are blocked. Shooting lanes - tires have been preserved only on the second floor. According to archaeologist scientist G. Khodzhaniyazov, the transition to the construction of such strong foundation fortifications was the second fundamental turning point in the system of ancient Khorezm military fortifications [12].

The dynasty built new cities in the region and paid great attention to state protection. Changes in the political, economic and cultural life of the society influenced the culture of urban planning. During this period, there are some changes in the construction style of the castles compared to the previous period. First of all, the fortresses built during this period were smaller in terms of territory. Newly built cities that do not occupy a large area in terms of area: Kozikiryankala (48x30 m), Jildiqkala (80x80 m), Oktepa (40x32 m), Anqakal'a (90.8x91.60 m), Kyzilkala (65x63 ,20 m), Bo'ldimsoz (105x90 m), Burlikala 2 (42 x 39 m)[13]. The pakhsa has a high base, the walls are built straight, no beams are installed on the lower floor, they mostly used right-angled towers. Arches are built on a high base. According to the researchers, the lack of installation of shinyaks on the lower floor may be related to the improvement of military weapons. They protected the city from walling machines, and secondly, they increased the slope of the wall, which made the wall even stronger. For this reason, the lower floors of the renovated castles were closed with bricks. Such a situation is observed in Kichik Kirqqizkala, Toqkala, Ichan castle (Khiva), Govurkala on Sultan Uwais mountain and others. In the small town of Kirqqizkala, the lower archway was completely demolished during the Kushan period, and its top served as a floor for the second floor [14].

The construction of the city of Tuprokala is the most striking example of the achievements of Khorezm military architecture. The layout of the city was rectangular and its dimensions were 500 x 350 meters. It occupies an area of 17.5 hectares. The walls of the castle were built on a 3-meter-high thatched foundation. The outer wall is decorated with pilasters and reinforced with rectangular towers. There were many constellations along the wall, the distance between them was exactly 9 meters. Two-story shooting lanes passed through the walls, tires were installed on the second floor. The arch of the city was built in the northwest corner of the castle. It is located on a hill with a height of 14.50 meters. The arch occupies an area of 3.24 hectares.

Conclusion

Suggestions: The following suggestions are put forward from the opinions recorded in the publications of the Khorezm expedition staff: it is necessary to study the past history in depth, to always pay attention to the life they have undergone.

Conclusion: Although the ancient Khorezm military architecture is similar to the construction styles of the fortress-cities in Bactria, Sughd, and Margiyana, it has its own characteristics. These can be seen in the two-story shooting lanes, semi-oval, "swallow-tail" shaped towers, the widespread use of spear-shaped shingles, the entrance gates in various styles, and the widespread use of protekhisms. In other regions of Central Asia, including the cities of Northern Bactria, the external defense walls were not so thick and the protekhism was poorly made. According to the researchers, this may have been intended to protect against cavalry and foot soldiers who did not have powerful military weapons. Corridors and turrets inside the walls in the defense of the first cities of Margiyona have not been identified so far. In the architecture of Sughd, pakhsa and raw bricks were mixed, and towers were mainly made in the shape of a rectangle, and the same style was widely used in the construction of defense structures. The defense system of cities in Janadaryo, Guvandaryo, and Middle Syrdarya basins developed on the basis of ancient Khorezm architecture. This was determined based on the construction style of Chirik Rabat, Bobishmulla 1, Balandi 1 and other monuments[15].

The emergence and development of the culture of urban planning is considered an important factor determining the process of human development. Thus, the above-mentioned information made it possible to come to the following conclusion:

- In the first half of the 4th to the 3rd millennium BC, the inhabitants of Lower Amudarya were in the form of a semi-basement in this society. In the second half of the 3rd millennium BC, no changes were noticed in the topographical structure of the settlements.
- The living conditions of the population reached in the 10th-6th centuries BC continued in the form of a semi-basement:

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