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## THE HISTORY OF STUDYING THE CITY OF MARGILAN IN LANDSCAPE ARCHEOLOGICAL RESEARCH

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## ИСТОРИЯ ИЗУЧЕНИЯ ГОРОДА МАРГИЛАН В ЛАНДШАФТНО- АРХЕОЛОГИЧЕСКИХ ИССЛЕДОВАНИЯХ

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*Abstract.* The article emphasizes the importance of the city of Margilan, which plays an important role in the urban planning of South Fergana, based on the information provided in written sources. The formation of anthropogenic landscapes in urban planning processes is covered on the basis of finds of archaeologists who researched in this area.

*Аннотация.* В статье подчеркивается важность города Маргилан, который играет важную роль в градостроительстве Южной Ферганы, исходя из информации, представленной в письменных источниках. Формирование антропогенных ландшафтов в градостроительных процессах освещается на основе находок археологов, проводивших исследования в этой области.

*Keywords:* Margilan, landscape, written sources, irrigation zones, micro-oasis, urban planning.

*Ключевые слова:* Маргилан, ландшафт, письменные источники, оросительные зоны, микрооазис, градостроительство.

### Introduction

The issues of the ancient urban culture of Uzbekistan is one of the most widely studied topics. Many researchers, archaeologists and orientalists have made a great contribution to the study of ancient urban planning in Uzbekistan. Many archaeologists and orientalists, such as V. Bartold, V. Jukov, A. Yakubovsky, A. M. Litvinsky, I. B. Bentovich, O. G. Bolshakov, A. M. Belenitsky, M. E. Masson, B. Denike, B. Zasytkin, Y. Gulomov, G. Pugachenkova, N. G. Gorbunova, V. A. Bulatova, Yu. F. Buryakov, R. Kh. Sulaimonov, M. I. Filanovich, A. Anorboev, B. Matboboev, F. Maqsudov, made a great contribution to the study of the history of the ancient cities of Uzbekistan. This study focuses on the direct impact and interconnection of the ancient urban culture of Central Asia, including Uzbekistan, on the urbanization of the ancient world. Of particular importance in these studies is the archaeological study of the history of ancient Fergana, as well as such ancient cities as Bukhara, Samarkand, Khorezm, Termez. Archaeological excavations in the south of Fergana began at the beginning of the 19th century, and these studies are mainly related to the construction of the Great Fergana Canal.

The services of many archaeologists, such as M.E. Masson, A.N. Bernshtam, N.G. Gorbunova, G.A. Brykina, B.A. Latynin, G. Ivanov, V.A. Bulatova, A. Anorboev, B. Matboboev, F. Maqsudov, in the study of the history of the emergence and development of urban planning, starting with the first agricultural crops that formed in the south of Fergana [2].

#### *Materials and methods*

Ancient Fergana occupies a special place in the history of Central Asian cities in terms of urban development. Ancient and medieval sources contain a lot of interesting information about the cities of this historical region, its population, crafts, nature, customs and trade routes, and minerals. The results of archaeological research and written sources show that in the IV-II centuries BC in Fergana during the period of the Davan state, the culture of urban planning developed rapidly. According to Zhang Jian, Fergana-Davan was characterized by a high level of agricultural culture, production and social relations. The settled economy of the population of Davan served as the basis for the formation of strong settlements. Up to several hundred thousand people lived in approximately seventy large and small settlements, and population growth, crafts and economic development contributed to the rapid development of urban life. There are separate urban-type centres in Fergana. These are walled public dwellings, some of which have been converted into urban settlements. Such settlements are surrounded by two rows of outer and inner walls. The flourishing of the ancient Fergana regional urban culture during this period is even more noticeable, although the region was not part of the Kushan kingdom. Its main factor is the connection with the cities of the empire and several large trade centres of the ancient world, as well as the formation of new settlements along the trade networks passing through the territory of Fergana, and the observation of urbanization processes in them. These processes are reflected in the results of archaeological cartographic work carried out in the Fergana Valley in recent years, as well as in the results of archaeological excavations carried out in the region for several years, and in the results of scientific research by several scientists [4].

Medieval historians and geographers in their writings ranked the cities of Fergana as the cities of the Upper and Lower Nisi, as well as the cities of South Fergana, Sokh, Rishtan, Kuva and Margilan.

According to sources, Margilan was one of the cities of the Lower Nisya, which, according to Sami, was an important region of Fergana during the Karakhanid period.

Among geographical writings written in Arabic, Khudud al-Alam differs from other sources of information about the cities of southern Fergana. The play contains a lot of historical information, such as rivers, mountains, cities and villages, minerals, occupations of the population. Abu Raikhan Beruni also shows the cities of South Fergana on his geographic map. According to F. Maksudov, who for several years carried out archaeological excavations in the South Fergana-Margilansai oasis, from the VI-V centuries BC, agricultural settlements were formed here. The development of a culture of irrigated agriculture was an important factor in the emergence of urban settlements, such as Simtepa, in the IV-III centuries BC. By this time, irrigated agriculture began to develop in the part of the ancient city below Margilansai.

The scientist noted that with the gradual development of experience and skills in irrigation, as well as with the influx of new tribes and the intensive settlement of nomadic pastoralists, the process of conquering new lands for irrigated agriculture will accelerate. These processes determine the stage of intensive urbanization of South Fergana [6].

By this time, in South Fergana, in the old part of the city of Margilan, on the territory of the present mahalla Mashhad, a large urban-type settlement with an area of at least 20-25 hectares will

be built. The intensive development of the city and the population density, as well as the fact that archaeological sites are practically absent due to a number of circumstances, also create a number of difficulties for researchers when studying the cities of the Margilansai basin.

Archaeological and paleogeographic studies carried out by archaeologists in the Margilan River basin show that the culture of irrigated agriculture was formed here in the Bronze Age. This is due to the formation of anthropogenic landscapes in the ancient Margilansai depression. A. Valiev, who studied the formation and development of anthropogenic landscapes in the ancient cities of Uzbekistan, stressed that it is being solved on the basis of archaeological materials and information from written sources [8].

As a key factor in the development of anthropogenic landscapes in ancient times, he emphasizes the rapid expansion of settlements and population growth during this period. It is noticed that the settlements originate from the nature of the oasis and develop in connection with their water supply. Such irrigated areas are observed in the division into micro-districts specific to the Margilansay oasis. Archaeologists have unearthed layers of irrigation, which proves the existence of irrigated agriculture in this area in the 15-14th centuries BC. According to researchers, in the 10th-9th centuries BC, irrigated agricultural land expanded along the upper and lower reaches of the Margilan River. Archaeologist A. Anorboev shows here three microwaves: Yailma, Simtepa, Margilan. Among them, the Margilansay micro-district includes the current territory and the vicinity of the city of Margilan. The development of this land took place in the second half of the 9th century BC. - the beginning of the VIII century [9].

It was during this period that the construction of large canals began, as a result of which the influence of the population on nature increased. According to the scientist, no settlements belonging to this period have been found here. Many tombs of Aktam have been discovered dating back to the 6th-4th centuries BC. Aktam residents are mainly engaged in agriculture in the Yailma micro-district, but they also have grazing livestock on their farm. In the 1960s N.G. Gorbunova analyzed archaeological materials from villages and graves in southern Fergana and found that they belonged to the arable population, and in subsequent studies of southern Fergana it was difficult to distinguish arable land from livestock [10].

The main reason for this, in our opinion, may lie in the fact that the population of southern Fergana is engaged in mixed farming.

As a result of the expansion of artificial irrigation, population growth, and the development of new lands, the formation of new micro-districts was observed. During this period, on the left bank of the Margilan River, in the old part of the city of Margilan, on the territory of the Mashad mahalla, the city of Margilan appeared, consisting of an ark, a shahristan (inner city) and a work area of 20 hectares. There was a fired church in the city. The city of Margilan is located in the centre of the Margilan micro-district, its active participation in economic, industrial, intercity and international trade has played an important role in the development of the city. The city of Margilan grew in the Middle Ages.

The fact that an offshoot of the Great Silk Road passing through South Fergana passes through the city of Margilan also plays an important role in the economic and cultural life of the city. As a result of archaeological research carried out by the archaeologist, F. Maksudov at the Gizlartheпа monument in the city of Margilan, materials from the 1st-4th centuries AD were discovered here. Based on these data, it is explained that the Margilansai basin was developed during this period [4].

According to researchers, two factors are cited as reasons for the later development of agricultural land in South Fergana compared to other lands in the valley. According to him, these

lands have not yet been fully explored by archaeologists, or, indeed, the Margilansay basin was developed later. In our opinion, due to the fact that today the city of Margilan is one of the most densely populated cities and, as a consequence, the development of the urbanization process, the ancient monuments have not yet been fully studied. Future archaeological excavations here are likely to make the urbanization process obsolete.

### *Results and discussion*

The theories put forward by researchers, such as the resettlement of people from Sogdiana or Bactria to the valley in the VIII-VII centuries BC, and the idea that these lands were developed by them, have not yet been proven. This suggests that the Margilansai basin was first developed not by the Bactrians and Sogdians, but by local residents who founded the first urban culture. It cannot be denied that the appearance of ceramics in Margilan was influenced by the population from the south or East Turkestan. Considering that in ancient times the Margilans also took an active part in trade along the Great Silk Road, we can see that not only internal but also several external factors played a role in the development of urban planning.

According to research and the conclusions of researchers in the process of urbanization, the development of new lands, that is, the development of former agricultural areas as housing influenced the process of urbanization, and, thus, the number of cities increased. According to researchers, in 1978 the area of the irrigation zone here was 2020 km<sup>2</sup>, of which the area of urban areas was 306 km<sup>2</sup> or 15% of the irrigated area.

By 1992, this figure was 470 km<sup>2</sup> (23% of the irrigated area), and finally, in the early 2000s, the area involved in the urbanization process in the Margilan oasis was 550 km<sup>2</sup> (27% of the irrigated area) [5]. These data show that as landscapes expanded, natural landscapes have changed as a result of anthropogenic factors. This situation also affected the urbanization of ancient Margilan [11-14].

### *Conclusion*

In conclusion, I can say that the research carried out by archaeologists in different years from the VI-V centuries. BC Testify to the emergence of the first agricultural culture in the Margilansay oasis in the southern part of Fergana. The old part of the city of Margilansai was suitable for irrigated land. Population growth due to the development of irrigated agriculture and the development of animal husbandry in connection with the intensive settlement of new people has a significant impact on the urbanization process in Southern Fergana. At the same time, it should be noted that the peculiarities of urban planning in South Fergana depend on the natural and geographical position of the region.

Here, the features of urban planning require their reflection in the development of the ancient mining industry and metalworking, the transformation of ceramics from a household into production, such an impact of the new education.

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