The Influence of Turkic Khaghanate Rule on the Political Life of the Khitan Tribes

Jasur Laziz ugli Latipov,
Jahongir Yunus ugli Ergashev,
Muzaffar Muradovich Raximov
Senior lecturer of the Bukhara branch of TIIMSH
Teachers of Bukhara state university, Uzbekistan

ABSTRACT
In this article were analyzed the relations of the early medieval Khitan tribes with the Turkic Khaghanate and the political changes that occurred in the influence of these processes on a scientific basis. Also in the Khitan society there is an opinion on the factors of socio-political events that occurred from the mid 6th century to the mid 8th century. In article also scientifically studied the relations of the peoples of the north with the Chinese Tang Empire, who lived in the Far East region during the early Middle Ages.

ARTICLE INFO
Article history:
Received 25 Feb 2021
Received in revised form 28 Feb 2021
Accepted 15 March 2021
Available online 26 March 2021

Keywords: Turkic khaghanate, Khitans, China, northern Khitans, Goguryeo, civil war, nominal vassalage, Sui dynasty, border attacks, political influence, subordination, Tan dynasty, Dahe tribal union, uprising, dynasty marriage, general Ketuyu, Turkic manuscripts, tribal nobles, "iltabar", "ilijin", a period of peaceful development.

Introduction
The early Middle Ages is the period when the Far East region underwent tireless political changes and played an important role in the formation of various nomadic ethnic groups. The fact that the Turkic Khaghanate (552-659), formed during this period, is an important stage of the Turkic nation's statehood, has always been recognized by historians. After all, the ancient Turks, who founded a huge empire from the shores of the Pacific to the shores of the Black Sea, are the great predecessors of other major Turkic Empires, restored in the following centuries. Among such successor empires, it
is possible to recall the Empire of Liao (907-1125) and the state of Karakhitai (1124-1218), which ruled one by one in northern China, Manchuria and Central Asia. The Khitan tribes, who founded these states, were also once considered one of the important subjects in the structure of the Turkic Khaghanate, like other northern tribes, and lived in a nomadic way on the eastern borders of the state.

**Main Part**

In the middle of the 6th century, the weakened Rouran(Jujan) Khaghanate (330-555) was hit hard by Turks, who considered them vassals. The establishment of the Turkic Khaghanate by Bumin Khaghan (552-553) in 552 was changed the balance of power in the north. According to the "Bei shi" (History of the Northern Dynasties), shortly after, the last of the Rouran(Jujan) rulers Khakan Tiefia (552-553) was killed by the Khitans[12,3266]. And this means that as some other tribes they are submitted to the Rouran(Jujan), the Khitans also passed to the side of the Turks. Until that time, the Khitans lived an impoverished life, constantly living under the influence of the compression of the bordered tribes.

That being said, the Khitans were not under a single political rule during this period. And the head of the tribe sought to unite with different external forces in international relations. We can evaluate this as an internal disagreement. The non-existence of state bodies of power regulating these conflicts was one of the factors hindering the processes of tribal integration. Therefore, we can say that the majority of the Khitans tribes were submitted to the oppression of the Turks. They were also shot from the northern Qi (550-577) state of China. L.Gumilev wrote that at this time both the Tatabi (Xi people) and the inhabitants of Bayxi were in enmity with the Khitans[5,36]. As a result, Khitans that remained under the influence of three-way compression, 10 thousand households retreated to the east and settled in Goguryeo kingdom (37 BC – 668 AD) will be forced to ask for asylum[2,75]. Because Goguryeo during this period was independent from the influence of China and the Turks.

The other part of Khitans, which operates in cooperation with the Turks, begins an actively participate in the political processes between the Khanate and China. In particular, in the summer of 555, the decisive blow of the successor of Bumin Khakan, Mughan Khakan (553-572) and his faithful Khitans’ vassals destroyed the last remnants of the Rouran (Jujan)[14]. But the Turks will not be able to complete subordinate the Khitans who have not left their territory. Their mood changed depending on the level of political situation in the Khanate. As a result, the Turks carried out frequently attacks on the eastern regions. A.Khujaev wrote that Mughan Khakans’ legates against the Hephthalites (which was in 563-567), attacks on the Kyrgyz and Khitans in the north and east direction were organized, re-subordinating them[6,88]. And this shows that the Khitans were only nominal vassal to the Turkic Khaghanate.

In the Turkic Khaghanate, from the early 580s the struggle for the throne has culminated, such a situation leads to a weakening of control over dependent peoples, such as the central authority of the Turks. The participation of the Khitans in the Civil War had a negative impact on political moderation in the eastern regions of the state. Therefore, in 584, when the threat of war arose between Ishbara Khakan (Shabolie or Shetu, 581-587) and on the other side the rebellious Abo Khakan (Abrui, 581-
587), who formed an alliance with Khakans brother Chuluohou (he was Khakan in 587-588), who achieved an uprising of the Khitans against the Ishbara Khaghan[5,123]. However, the fact that the rebellion did not give the expected result was mentioned in the historical literature.

In 585, the Khitans, which are under the influence of the Turks, killed Tutun Pandie, who appointed by a Ishbara Khakan, and rebelled again. The next year there was a collision between the two sides, L.Gumilev connects these events with the fact that Khitan tribes were the main supporters of Chuluohou, operating in the northern regions of the state[5,115]. Then, in his possession of the throne of Turkic Khaghanate, most likely, the support of these tribes was of particular importance. However, soon he will be killed during the First Perso-Turkic War.

At the end of the 6th century, during the reign of Jangar Khakan (Yami, 599-609), the ruler of the Eastern Turkic Khanate (599-630), the a group consisting of 4000 households of Khitans withdrew from the influence of Khanate, which began to weaken and disintegrate[19,1881-1882]. They interfere in China's internal and external disputes. Other tribes living slightly northward were still temporarily excluded from the military-political repression by the Sui dynasty (581-618) and Goguryeo because they were still under the influence of the Jangar Khakan[5,150]. During this period, the character of avoid and solidarity in the relations of the Khakan with China was evident.

The favorable political situation that arose in the early 6th century after the death of the Emperor Wendi (581-604) of Sui dynasty led to the invasion of the Khitans to the province of Hebei and North Shanxi in 605[18,47]. However, this attack will end unlucky. Chinese commander Wei Yongki went on a counter-attack in the alliance of a Turkic army of 20 thousand people, receiving 40 thousand captives. All men between them were executed[20,36]. The participation of the Turks in the war indicates that the offensive Khitans consist of representatives of a group that is not submit to the Turks.

The fact that the Sui Empire remained in the whirlpool of internal conflicts and struggles for the throne had a direct impact on the lives of the peoples of the North. According to a well-known Russian scientist G.E. Grumm-Grjimailo, at the time of 618 years in China, the Tang Empire (618-907) was formed, the northern borders of the country were threatened by the Turks and their subordinate Khitans, Shiwei, Karluk tribes, headed by Shibi Khaghan (611-619)[4,242]. Taking into account these data as well as the factor of the reincarnation of the power of the Eastern Turkic Khaghanate at the beginning of the 7th century, it can be concluded that the Khitans directly participated in political processes as one of the important constituent elements of the Khaghanate, which had a strong power in the northern steppe during this period, had a the Chinese will have to get used to it for a while. The fact that the Khitans were under the protection of the Eastern Turkic Khaghanate, together with keeping them from Chinese political repression, encouraged their offensive strength. On the eve of the exchange of dynasties in China, several times clashes with the Turks took place.

The founder of the Tang dynasty, Emperor Gaozu (original name Li Yuan, 618-626), during which the Chinese-influenced Khitans began to be placed on several territories. In particular, the Neiji tribe, which during the Sui dynasty submitted to China with 4000 apartments, were placed on the
In 619 year, the Khitan named Song Aocao was assigned the task of the leader of this territory[20,112]. These tribes were, in our opinion, ethnic groups that did not obey the Turks and returned from the Goguryeo territories.

And the Khitans, which were subordinated to the Turks, tirelessly carried out attacks on borders. However, soon in 621, a head of the Khitan named Son Aocao was assigned the task of the leader of this territory[20,112]. These tribes were, in our opinion, ethnic groups that did not obey the Turks and returned from the Goguryeo territories.

And the Khitans, which were subordinated to the Turks, tirelessly carried out attacks on borders. However, soon in 623, a head of the Khitan named Son Aocao was assigned the task of the leader of this territory[20,112]. These tribes were, in our opinion, ethnic groups that did not obey the Turks and returned from the Goguryeo territories.

According to historian scientist L.Gumilev, the Khitans remained faithful to the Khanate until 628[5,150]. In the process of the struggle for the throne, which began in that year, Khitans were headed by the head Mohui (627-644) declared subordination to the Tang Empire. Eastern Turkic Khaghan Ilkhaghan (in Chinese sources Xieli, 620-630) asked from Emperor Taizong (original name Li Shimin, 626-649) not to accept the subordination of the Khitans[13,5350]. And the emperor rejects this request of the Khaghan. And this means that the tribes completely withdrew from the influence of the Turks. Soon, Eastern Turkic Khanate was destroyed in 630 as a result of the Chinese attack. As a result Tang Empire will have the opportunity to keep the situation in the north in its favor for the next fifty years.

Under the leadership of the Tang dynasty, in 629, the Dahe confederation (629-730), which united eight tribes of Khitans in the territories where they were settled, was founded, and to leader Mohui was given a symbol of power – a drum and a flag[10,23]. During this period, the population of these eight tribes was about 200 thousand people, and the chiefs of the tribal union could form an army of at least 40 thousand people[16,200]. And the Tang Empire achieved the tranquility of the north-eastern territories without any victims. At the same time, there is also an opportunity to use the military power of the nomads in the battles, to provide the army with horses. Such political changes in the history of the Khitans were caused by the decline of the Eastern Khanate.

In 679-681, the liberation struggle of the eastern Turks began and this process eventually ended with the establishment of the Second Turkic Khaghanate (681-744) by the Iltirish Khaghan (Kutlugh Khakan, Gudulu in Chinese sources, 681-691). In the manuscript of Kui Tigin, among the tribes who were in a hostile mood against the Turks "qitan" (Khitan) is also mentioned[15,99]. From the content of the views on the monument it becomes clear that the initiator of the establishment of a military-political alliance against the Turks was Tokuz Oguz tribal union. Under the pressure of the Tang Empire, which they were all in this matter, the Khitans also come out against the Turks. However, because of the late arriving of Khitans and the imperial forces clashes ended with the victory of the Turks[5,302]. According to the manuscript of Tonyukuk, Eltarish Khaghan fought seven times with the Khitans in 682-691[15,45].

Soon a major uprising began in the north-eastern regions of the Tang Empire. Under the leadership of the Khitan tribal heads – Li Jinzhong (675-696) and Song Wanrong (696-697), this uprising rose against the Chinese rule and posed a threat to the inviolability of the northern territories of the Empire. In this situation, the Turks were waiting for the uprising to reach its climax, observing the current situation. The uprising increasingly aggravated the political and military situation of the
Tang Empire, the Khitans took control of the territories in the north of the Great Wall into their own hands. However, in 696, Li Jinzhong died of the accident and his work was continued by his brother-in-law Song Wanrong[3,37]. In such conditions, Kapaghan Khaghan (Mochuo in Chinese sources, 691-716) offers his military support to the Tang Empire. Instead, he demanded the province of Hexi, Turkic-populated area in the northwestern part of the country[8,83-84]. When Empress Wu Zetian (690-705) agrees to his request, Kapaghan Khakan attacked the Khitans.

The entry of the Turks into the conflict changed the fate of the war. In some historical literature there is information that the son of Li Jinzhong at this time fled to the presence of the Kapaghan Khaghan[9,127]. And this shows that at the same time with the uprising, a strong internal political struggle between the Khitan tribal lords continued. In our opinion, the number of supporters of Song Wanrong has been decreasing day by day. And the Turks will take advantage of this favorable situation. Soon, Song Wanrong was defeated by Turks, and was killed treacherously by his slaves in 697, at the time when he wanted to flee to the territory the Kingdom of Silla (58 BC – 926 AD)[13,5351]. The remaining Khitans left without a leader were stopped fighting and surrendered to the Turks. The new leader, Li Jinzhong's nephew – Li Shihuo (697-717) was given the title of "Iltabar" of the Turks[7,128].

At the end of the 7th century, the international political situation in the northern regions changed somewhat. The subordination of the Khitan and Xi peoples to the Turks put an end to the actions of the Chinese in the north-eastern direction. In addition, due to the fact that delay in fulfilling the conditions promised to the Turks, the Kapaghan Khakan troops launched an invasion on the submits of Lingzhou and Shengzhou prefectures[5,308]. Disputes with the Khitans did not lead to a full-fledged victory to the Tang Empire. At the borders, the threat of the Khitans will continue to be preserved. In particular, in 699, the Khitans launched new small-scale robbery attacks on the borders[16,202]. Later, the Chinese side began to offer the rulers of the eastern state of Bohai (698-925) to form an alliance against the Khitans and the Xi people, although they avoided going to a dispute with the vassals of the Turks[11,41].

In the second decade of the 8th century, the international situation is gradually changing. The new emperor Xuanzong (712-756) put an end domestic disputes in China. And the subordination of the Khitans to the Turks did not last even twenty years. In the influence of the weakening of central power in the Turkic Khaghanate, Khitan tribal chief Li Shihuo visited the palace of Tang in 714 and received the title of "Songmo Junwang" (Ruler of Sunmo region) from the emperor[16,202]. In 716, Kapaghan Khakan was killed and the Xi people also turn away from the Turks. The leader of Tatabi tribes Li Dapu declared his loyalty to China[1,365]. Tang Empire, which did not achieve great success in persistent disputes, was also interested in the completion of disputes and the establishment of peaceful relations.

The death of chief Li Shihuo led to the increase of the struggle of power between the Khitan nobles. It is the re-introduction of the Chinese administration provoked the displeasure of some tribal leaders. Domestic disputes, which began after the death of the Turkic Khaghan Qapaghan, will be resolved in favor of the sons of the Ilterish Khaghan – Prince Bilga (716-734) and Kul Tigin, will
cause confusion of the tribal leaders who are in favor of reconciliation with China. Because, the resumption of the Turkic invasion could turn the territories in which the Khitans live into an area of robbery. Soon, the authority of the new chief Li Suogu (717-720), who is in favor of continuing cooperation with the Empire, will be rejected, and the great representative of the tribal military nobles, general Ketuyu (or Ketugan) will be come to the forefront of the political struggle. As a result of the revolt of the general Ketuyu, in 720, The chief Li Suogu and Xi leader Li Dapu both were killed and it was announced that Li Yuyu (or Li Yugan, 720-724), the nephew of Li Suogu declared as a new tribal chief[20,59].

Although the Tang Empire was not satisfied with the Ketuyu rebellion, but It was forced to recognize the administration of the newly appointed tribal chiefs as legitimate. Because the Chinese were preparing for the long war against the Turks. In 718, a truce with Tibet was concluded and war was suspended, and in the upcoming military march it was planned to be an ally of Tan Empire, deceased Qapaghan Khaghan's son Beg Tigin, a relative him Bilga Tegin, as well as Basmyl, Khitan, Tatabi (Xi) tribes[9,117]. Especially important was the participation of the Khitans in disputes that could arise with the Turks. Therefore, the development of diplomatic relations was supported by the Tang government.

Historical literature verifies that in the autumn of 720, the Chinese army of 300 thousand, led by Wang Zun, the governor of the Shuofang military commandery in the north-west of China, as well as the Basmyl, Khitan and Xi troops, attacked the Bilga Khaghan’s horde from different sides. However, on the advice of Tonyukuk, the Turkic commander-in-chief, the Khaghan’s horde turned to the north, and this occupation ended without success[1,274]. Then the Turks organized one-on-one punitive rides against the tribes that participated in the attack. For example, it is written from Bilge Khakan’s tongue in ancient Turkic manuscript: "At the age of thirty eight (in 722) I drew troops towards the Khitans in winter"[15,119]. The details of the attack of the Turks are not known to us. According to L.Gumilev, the fact that he was kept silent in his manuscript about the result of this walk indicates that he did not bring enough success[5,343]. In some sources were written, the war consisted of small robberies and ended with the victory of the Turks. If it was ended with a complete defeat, it would not have been written at all about walking.

But the relations of the general Ketuyu with the Tang Empire began to take a negative turn from the end of 720s. During his visit to the Changan palace in 727, he was welcomed unpleasantly by the Minister Li Yuanhong[17,438-439]. Shortly earlier, the ambassadors of the China launched to re-establish diplomatic relations with the Turks, expressing their dissatisfaction with the compliments (dynastic marriage, giving various titles) rendered by the Empire to the leaders of the Khitan and Xi, who were considered vassals of the Turks during the negotiations [1,276]. In our opinion, the leaders of the Khitan tribe, who rejected the Tang influence, hoped for the patronage of the Turkic horde and demanded that Ketuyu come to a dispute with China. In that period, the Turks may also have promised to support them in the fight against China. If the uprising ended successfully, the Khanate had a large international political advantage, while the Khitan nobility had plenty of prey.

The expulsion of the rulers one by one from power, who had been grooming for ten years in the
palace of Tang, did not lead to a sharpening of relations with the Empire. The Tang palace was stood calmly to this. Ultimately, Ketuyu performs the most risky action. In 730, he killed Dahe clan leader Li Shaogu (725-730) and declared his submission to the Turks[5,351]. Influence of these events, the Xi people also rebel against the Chinese administration. As the rule of Li Shaogu, Xi ruler and his wife also fled under the protection of the Empire [20,61]. In this way, a new rebellion of the Khitans began in the form of a military coup.

Early, Ketuyu was defeated in the mountains in the north of Yuchzhou in 732, but in the spring of 733 began a new attack in the tribes of the Turks[7,128]. And the people of Xi surrendered to the Empire at the first attack and started to act in cooperation with the Empire. But at the time of Ketuyu's second attack, they left the battlefield and caused the imperial army to fall to 10,000 men[5,351]. In such conditions, the position of the Xi people in the war is controversial. Despite their actions in the battle of 733, there is no record in the historical literature that the Chinese took any punitive action in response. On the contrary, in 734 Bilga Khaghan organized a triumphant attack against them. In the war against the Turks, 30 thousand Xi soldiers were killed in the battlefield[4,225].

A more interesting aspect of the issue is that in historical literature there is information that the Turks gave proposal to the Bohai ruler in that year for alliance in the war against the Khitans, but received a rejection response[17,442]. But in our opinion, the Turks wanted to attract Bohai in the war against the Xi people, not against the Khitans. Because general Ketuyu will remain faithful to the Khaghan until the end of the his struggle. Bilga Khaghan, however, punished the people of Xi for their treachery before the war. However, this was his last triumphant military march of Khaghan. In the same year, the defeat of the Khitans, following the poisoning of the Khaghan made changes in the balance of international powers. In particular, at the end of 734, Chinese troops led by Zhang Shougui defeated Ketuyu army. The Khitans planned to get help from the Turks again[20,62]. However, the accidental death of the Khaghan did not allow this.

In our opinion, the influence of the factor of waging war on the two fronts was particular importance on the defeat of the Khitans. When Bayanchur (746-757), the second ruler of the Uyghur Khanate (744-840), who replaced the Second Turkic Khanate, ascended the throne, the Khitan and Xi peoples joined the revolt led by Tai Bilga Tutuk. However, both the insurgents and the Nomads who came to their aid in the clashes were defeated several times[5,400-401]. The continuation of the war against the Uighurs during the conflicts with the Sogdian-Turkic origin general An Lushan, who guarded the borders of the Tang Empire, weakened the military power of the Khitans. As a result, they were defeated again. Then, after the An Lushan uprising, which shocked the entire Far Eastern Region, a period of peaceful development of the history of the Khitans began, and this period, which lasted about a century, was connected with the period of the establishment of a new state in the second half of the 9th century.

**Conclusion**

In conclusion, it can be said that the character of severe development over the next two centuries in the social and managerial procedures of the Khitan tribes, who lived in the compression of
various large empires until the establishment of the Turkic Khaghanate, is manifested. The prestige of tribal rulers in the Khitans was high, and the Turks gave them the title of "ilijin" (free). This is because there have been cases where their participation has affected the outcome of political struggles in the Eastern Khaghanate. The formation of this political influence without the active actions of the leaders of some tribes were, of course, difficult. The Khitans took advantage of the conflicts between the Khaghanate and China, raising their political status. Also, although they have seen enough casualties in disputes with China, they have left without any victims from the influence of the Turkic Khanate. And the subsequent period of peaceful development, which passed under the influence of the Uighur Khaghanate, laid the foundation for the formation of the necessary forces and conditions for the establishing of the Liao Empire.

References:


