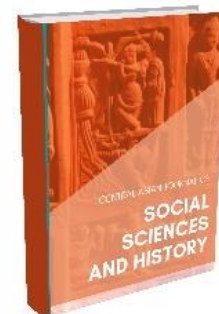




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Problems of Studying the Economic History of Uzbekistan (From the Middle Ages to the Present)

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Abstract:

This article is devoted to the analysis of the problems of the economic history of Central Asia. In particular, the article examines the economic history of Uzbekistan from the oldest period to the present: such as the ancient, medieval, new era, as well as the existing problems and issues of expert training on each period.

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Introduction. Early economic views and economic history as a science. In the ancient world, economic knowledge emerged 4,000 years ago in the form of views on the organization of economic management. This can be seen in the laws of Hammurabi (Babylon) or Manu (India) where private property was protected or taxes. The ancient existence of such views in the Turan region is evidenced by the works of Avesta, Behistun, Naqshi Rostam and Greek historians, as well as archeological monuments of this period.

In the world, the science of economic history in the modern sense arose in Europe in the 19th century, and it was separated from political economy. Economic history is an interdisciplinary subject. It was created at the intersection of historical and economic sciences. In Europe, William Petty's "A Treatise of Taxes & Contributions" (1662), Adam Smith's "An Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations" (1776) are the first works devoted to economic history. It can be said that, unlike Europe, in Turkestan, various branches of the economy: tax, finance, economic management issues are widely covered in the works of medieval authors in our region. An example of this is the works of authors such as Beruni, Farabi, Nizamulmulk, or fiqh books created by scholars such as Marginani and Bukhari. Usually, researchers look at jurisprudence works only as sources of a religious nature.

However, such an approach is a mistake, and these works are important sources that shed light on the history of economic relations of their time. For example, in Marginani's work "Hidaya", which is related to Islamic jurisprudence, we can observe the introduction of some procedures that were in practice in the area before Islam under the name of "fatwas" of Khurasan scholars or Balkh jurists to certain property relations that are specific to the Turan region and are not in the practical experience of Islam. In general, Sogdian documents are a clear example of the fact that knowledge and laws related to economic relations existed in our region even before Islam.

The science of modern economic history, which was formed in Europe in the 19th century, which we mentioned above, includes the following directions:

- financial history;
- trading history;
- agricultural history;
- craft history;
- history of industrial production.

It should be noted that the study of the history of the economy of Uzbekistan also took place and developed on the basis of these directions.

In the 20th century, several new and special directions appeared in the history of economy: the history of techniques and technologies, the history of technical discoveries, the history of individual economic events, the history of individual industries and enterprises, and the history of domestic and foreign trade.

The subject of the science of economic history: the development of the economic activity of peoples from primitive times to the present.

Today, in the naming of this science in the world, it is called from the history of the economy of individual countries and regions (for example, the history of the English economy, the history of the African economy, etc.) to the history of the world economy. Also, in German and Russian historiography, it was called "History of the People's Economy", "History of Economic Life", "History of Economic Life". Similar names can be found in the names of the works^{*} related to the economic history of Uzbekistan during the colonial period. For this reason, when researching works written in the colonial period, students of economic history should pay attention to any works with similar titles. At the same time, we can see that many of the works written from the Soviet period to the present day are researching joint, that is, economic and social issues[†]. Of course, it is known that the concept of

^{*} For example: Материалы к характеристике народного хозяйства в Туркестане, отд. 1, СПб, 1911; *Иванов П.П.* Хозяйство *джуйбарских* шейхов. К истории феодального землевладения в Средней Азии в XVI-XVII вв. М., Л., 1954.

[†] Азадаев Ф. Ташкент во второй половине XIX века. Очерки социально-экономической и политической истории. Ташкент, 1959; Назаров О. М. Совет хокимиятининг Туркистонда амалга оширилган ижтимоий-иқтисодий сиёсати ва унинг демографик жараёнларга таъсири (1920 йилги аҳолини рўйхатга олиш маълумотлари асосида) //Взгляд в прошлое. – 2019. – №. 25.

"economic and social" was included in historiography within the framework of the ideology of the Soviet era. This situation in itself raises the question of whether economic history should be studied separately from social issues or whether it should be included. In addition, it shows that in our history there is still a lack of a single name, definition, concept and direction in the study of economic history, and in many cases the tradition of the Soviet era continues.

Problems of the history of the early medieval economy. The historical sources of this period also consist mainly of archaeological sources. In addition, there are some works, inscriptions, documents and numismatic objects. The Sughd documents alone serve as a valuable source for illuminating the economic history of this period. Looking at studies on the economic history of Turan in the early Middle Ages, it is noteworthy that there is a large amount of work, mainly on trade relations and crafts. However, there are few studies about the state of agriculture and its role in the economy, which is one of the problems of the economic history of this period. The large number of works on trade relations can be explained by the relatively large number of sources on this topic. At this point, it can be said that trade routes, in particular, the issue of the "Great Silk Road", from its name to its importance in economic life, is one of the problems that have not been scientifically concluded. There is also the question of the description of Turan as an important region on the trade route between China and the West. This may also lead to the conclusion that Turan was not a central place in trade relations and served as a stop on trade routes.

Problems of the history of the economy of the Middle Ages. by Muslim scholars in the 9th - 15th centuries many advanced economic concepts were developed. Including: investment, accounting, finance monetary relations, money transfers (link - barot), deposits, waqf, allowances, promissory notes, checks, credit, taxes, trade contracts, economic partnership - companies were created to regulate concepts. Many of these concepts were transferred to Europe.

Currently, we have studied only some aspects of these concepts and practices. For example, the history of money transfers, checks, and securities, which are widely practiced in the Muslim East, is a question that has been studied at a record level in our country? In the Middle Ages, a person who left Samarkand had the opportunity to receive money in Baghdad or Cairo through a money transfer, and cash a security. Iranian researchers report that this practice was not only with European countries within the Islamic world. At the same time, accounting work has not been studied.

Introduction of allowances for economic and social protection of the population. This was done with zakat collected from the population. Ghazali believes that the state should pay benefits not only to the poor, but also to the middle class in times of disaster and famine.

Turkish scientists proved that the opinion that the common people (peasants and artisans) in the Middle East in the Middle Ages were always or often close to the subsistence level (proj.min.) was wrong, and even the purchasing power and economic status of an unskilled worker was higher than the subsistence level. Of course, the implementation of such research in the case of Turkestan is one of the problems of economic history.

The following conclusions can be reached after a short and general analysis of the economic development and depression of Turkestan in the Middle Ages. In the history of our country, the main factor of economic growth was related to political stability, centralized power, and in particular, the presence of a political leader who was able to implement these measures. We can see this in the example of rulers like Amir Temur, Abdulakhon II, Ismail Somani, Mirza Ulugbek.

Similarly, when we analyze periods of economic depression, it can be attributed to the following three factors:

1. Invasion of our country. Achaemenids, Alexander, Arabs, Genghis Khan, Nadir Shah, Russians. For example: Tabari writes that at the time of the Arab invasion, Kabaj khatun was valued at 200,000 dirhams. (A dirham is 3-4 grams of silver, about 60 million).
2. Mutual wars. For example, the period after Amir Temur was characterized by internal struggles or, as Firadsul Iqbal calls it, the famine in Khorezm in the 18th century, the decline of the economy at the level of cannibalism.
3. Weather factor. Natural disasters, changes in rivers. For example, the 535 world cold, 1877 Tashkent and Kurama regions

In Turkestan, which is considered an agrarian country, the economic history of the Middle Ages is directly related to its agricultural history. As the agricultural sector in the region was depressed, it had a direct negative impact on other sectors of the economy (trade, handicrafts, etc.). It is impossible to imagine the development of industries without agriculture. Agriculture was based on irrigated farming in Turkestan, which has a dry climate. Naturally, irrigated agriculture develops with construction and repair of irrigation facilities, construction of new ditches, dams. In order to carry out these activities, we had to have a strong authority and a strong leader.

Trade matters. Foreign trade. It is known that almost all of the ancient ambassadors were considered great merchants along with ambassadorial relations. For this reason, the history of embassy relations should be extensively studied not only from the point of view of economic history, but also from the point of view of political history. The view that foreign trade in Turkestan was in crisis due to the "Great geographical discoveries" of the 15th century entered the scientific literature. However, in the 16th-19th centuries, it is possible to observe a sharp increase in caravanserais in large cities of the country. Of course, this is self-evident. For this reason, it is necessary to review and scientifically analyze the issues in this regard.

Sources. It is known that manuscripts are one of the main sources of information on the history of this period. However, the extent to which the information in these works is true, how to use them, and critical analysis are problematic issues. Especially the data on the number of the population and the number of troops in the sources that are directly related to the economy. In this case, the representation of numbers may be associated with certain mystical or symbolic concepts. For example, the occurrence of the quantity in the sources as four elements, eighteen thousand, universe, thousand and one nights is related to these concepts. Therefore, experts working with sources are asked to pay attention to this situation when deriving a quantity related to a statistical quantity.

On the historiography of the economic history of the Middle Ages. The first group of the economic history of the Bukhara Khanate (Emirate) is made up of works created during the Russian colonial period. Various aspects of the socio-economic and political history of the khanate, land-water relations, forms of ownership, internal and external trade relations, and a number of issues have been thoroughly studied in these researches and publications. The works of Semyonov, Akhmedov, Chekhovich, Abduraimov, Vildanova, Dzalilova, Davidovich, Mukminova, Sukhareva, Ziyoev, Muhammadjonov and other authors can be included in the sentence of these studies.

For example, one of the major studies, which sheds light on the economic history of the Bukhara

Khanate created during the Soviet era, analyzed both historical sources and documents, M. Abduraimov's[†] masterpiece.

Also, "Ocherk pozemelno-podatnogo i nalogovogo ustroystva b . Bukharan khanate. A number of studies such as "Tashkent" are valuable because they are written on the basis of primary sources.

Ivanov[§], Chekhovich^{**}, Vildanova^{††} a series of studies of large-scale administrative and economic documents of the khanate are the works that are included in scientific treatment for the first time. It should be recognized that the research of historical documents has not yet been carried out on this scale.

Ahmedov^{‡‡}, Dzhaliilova^{§§} serves as a guide for researchers to work with the sources of economic history of the Khanate. In addition, during this period, large-scale research on certain issues was carried out. In particular, Mukminova's^{***} works related to endowments, crafts, trade relations and other areas of socio-economic life. about the strata of Sukhareva^{†††}, Ziyaev's^{†††} was widely covered in his works.

However, it should be noted that the economic history of the Khanate was judged by the researches of the Soviet era in the framework of the communist ideology, which requires a reconsideration of this topic. Respecting the research on this topic and their scientific level, it is necessary to approach the topic from a new perspective in future research, especially in this volume.

radical changes took place in the study of the history of Uzbek statehood . In the research and literature carried out in these periods, issues related to the life and activities of Sufism scholars who made an important contribution to the cultural, spiritual and educational life of the 16th century Bukhara Khanate, scientific and literary heritage. objective interpretation began in a new spirit.

In particular, among these studies, A. Ziya G. Agzamova, H. Toraev, G. Sultonova, S. Inoyatov, O. Hayitova, Q. Rajabov, A. Zamonov, R. Kholikova, Kh. Ghulomov 's works can be noted separately. Of foreign researchers dedicated to the economic history of the Bukhara Khanate make up the third group. Among them, in the works of Bregel, McChesney, Scott Levi, Burton, Welsford, Anke Von Kügelgen,

[†] Абдураимов М. А. Очерки аграрных отношений в Бухарском ханстве в XVI-первой половине XIX века. Ташкент. 1966.

[§] Иванов П.П. Хозяйство джуйбарских шейхов. К истории феодального землевладения в Средней Азии в XVI-XVII вв. М., Л., 1954

^{**} Чехович О.Д. Бухарские поземельные акты XVI-XIX вв. / Проблемы источниковедения. Т.IV. М., 1955; О дипломатике и периодизации среднеазиатских актов / Источниковедение и текстология средневекового Ближнего и Среднего Востока. М., 1984

^{††} Чехович О.Д., Вильданова А.Б. Вакф Субхан-кули-хана Бухарского 1693 г. // Письменные памятники Востока. Ежегодник 1973. М., 1979.

^{‡‡} Ахмедов Б.А. Историко-географическая литература Средней Азии XVI-XVIII вв. (письменные памятники) Ташкент, 1985.

^{§§} Р. К истории аграрных отношений в государстве Шейбани-хана в начале XVI века / ОНУ. 1963, №9.

^{***} Мукинова Р.Г. К истории аграрных отношений в Узбекистане XVI в. По материалам "Вакф-наме". Ташкент, 1966.

^{†††} Сухарева О.А. Квартальная община позднефеодального города Бухары (в связи с историей кварталов). М., 1976.

^{†††} Зияев Х. Развитие экономических, политических и культурных связей Узбекистана с Россией (конец XVI - начало XIX века); Из русско-бухарских посольских связей XVII века (Русский посол Бухары в Москве) / Общественные науки в Узбекистане. 1984, №1, 12.

Tulibaeva, Selim Oktan, Bilal Chelik and others, the political, socio-economic and cultural life of the khanate, palace positions, the geographical location of the country, the lifestyle and customs of the population - issues related to customs and trade relations were thoroughly analyzed.

Problems of studying the economy of the colonial period. It is known that one of the two main economic goals of Turkestan during the colonial period of the Russian Empire was to turn the country into a region that supplies cheap raw materials. Sources that serve to illuminate the history of this period (archive documents, reports, statistical collections, memoirs, maps, etc.) There are also new sources and methods used by foreign researchers in studying the economic history of this period.

the expansion of cotton lands was carried out at the cost of available water resources and food growing land in the country. Special attention should be paid to the fact that this had a very negative effect on the economic life of the Turkestan population at the beginning of the 20th century. Although many studies have covered the empire's cotton policy in Turkestan and the transport of other wealth to the center of the empire. However, it should be noted that its impact on the economic life of the country's population, the aggravation of food shortages, and the reason for the terrible famines in the early period of the Bolshevik rule were not covered. For example, Japanese researcher Akira Ueda reveals this very issue in his research entitled "Economic history of Fergana region in 1876-1929". He carried out his research with the help of "GAT" (GIS) - geographic information system, together with available sources. That is, by including the statistical data on the Ferghana Valley during the empire and the Soviet era into the GAT maps, he made a comparative analysis of the state of fertility of the land, the number of inhabitants in each village, the amount of cultivated crops and other changes over the years^{§§§}. Or Beatrice Penati revealed the economic status of the population and economic changes in Turkestan through a comparative analysis of the quality of food of the people in the historical period before and after 1917. Of course, in order to carry out the above research, it is necessary for young Uzbek researchers to have not only historical, but also knowledge of economics and the use of information technologies.

Also, it would be a one-sided view to assess the emergence of railways, banks, factories, and big capitalists in Turkestan as positive changes in the economic sphere. Because, first of all, it is necessary to take into account that the railways in the country are organized to carry out the tasks of transporting wealth, and banks are used for the development of the cotton industry, and factories are organized only for the packaging of raw materials, and their role in other matters is of secondary importance.

The appearance of large Uzbek investors (capitalists) in Turkestan at the beginning of the 20th century, and the study of their historical path, are considered to be little-revealed aspects of the economic history of this period. For example, when we study the economic history of the Soviet era, we mainly study the land-water policy, the subjugation of landowners. However, there are few studies on how the investments of industrialists such as Obidjon Mahmudov and Mirkomilboy Mirmominboev were liquidated by the Bolshevik authorities.

§§§ UEDA A. Economic Conditions in the Ferghana Valley during the Critical Years, 1917–1929 //Journal of Asian Network for GIS-based Historical Studies Vol. - 2014. - T. 22. - S. 31; Ueda A. Geographic information system (gis) and Uzbekistan history - 2022. - T. 1. – no. 01. – S. 180-185.

The economic history of the Soviet era can be said to be one of the most studied and covered topics compared to other historical periods. However, the emphasis is on covering the history of the stages of development of industries such as heavy or light industry throughout the republic, or on the example of a specific region. In this case, statistical archival data often occupy the main scope of the research. It can be said that in order to understand the economic policy of the Soviet government, which is considered a short but complex period, it is not enough to have only archival documents and statistical data in the hands of the researcher. For example, in order to analyze such issues as NEP (New Economic Policy), collectivization, planned economy, it is necessary to study together with the ideas of this period and the issues of the political management system. Also, one of the important problems is the lack of oral history information in covering the economic history of the Soviet period and the first period of independence. Especially in the study of the history of the economic life of the population, oral history provides us with a large amount of analytical data. In this regard, priority should be given to conducting various surveys among the population living in rural areas. Because, as we move away from this period, the possibility of using this research method becomes limited.

Problems of the history of the economy of the independence period. While we are celebrating the 30th anniversary of getting rid of the planned economy of Soviet colonialism, we have not been able to fully transition to a market economy. Just as economics inherited the laws of the Soviet era, so the approaches of Soviet historiography in this regard became a tradition in covering the economic history of the period of independence. In other words, this quarter-century historical period was only one-sidedly and blindly covered in research. Of course, this situation is explained by the political situation of this period. It can be said that the unbiased coverage of the economy of this short historical period is one of the urgent problems of science.

Conclusion and the problem of training specialists: Today in the world, the science of economic history has been formed as a separate branch of science, and training of specialists in this direction has been started in European higher education institutions. In 1926, a magazine called "Economic History Review" dedicated to economic history began to be published in Great Britain, and today the number of such magazines has increased significantly. English, German, French and Russian schools can be recognized separately in the historiography of this subject. In Russian historiography, the volume of works devoted to the study of the history of agrarian issues is greater. It is probably for this reason that the history of the economy of Turkestan during the Soviet period consists mainly of researches carried out within the agrarian sphere. The historiography of foreign economic history shows that. We can see that along with historians, economists also dealt with this field^{****}. However, in our opinion, economic history should not be written only by an economist or a historian. As we mentioned above, this is an interdisciplinary science and the researcher must have knowledge of both disciplines. For this reason, we can see that the work of many historians who have written about economics is mostly filled with statistical data. This is especially evident in the works of the Soviet and independence eras^{††††}. Also,

**** Мухаммедов М.М., Умаров А.З. Экономическая история Узбекистана. Ташкент. 2022; М.М. Ўзбекистон иқтисодий тарихи: Амир Темур давридан то ҳозирги кунга қадар. Тошкент. 2022.

†††† Хакимова К.З. Крестьянство Бухарского эмирата в конце XIX - начале XX в. (Социально-экономическое положение и движение народных масс). Ташкент, 1991; Тилаев Э.Р. Мустақиллик йилларида Ўзбекистоннинг ижтимоий-иқтисодий ва маданий ҳаётидаги ўзгаришлар (жанубий вилоятлар мисолида) Т. -2010; Раҳимов Б. Ўзбекистоннинг мустақиллик йилларида ижтимоий-иқтисодий ва маданий ҳаёти (Сурхондарё вилояти мисолида 1991-2005йй.) С. -2008.

the lack of knowledge of economic laws causes deficiencies in the analysis and drawing conclusions on issues related to the history of the economy. Economists can only be engaged in covering the history of economics. However, a history written by an economist who does not have historical knowledge can lead to not only historical but also political error. For example, i.f.d. prof. Mukhammedov's monograph " History of the economy of Uzbekistan: from the time of Amir Temur to the present day " was written by economist academician K. Abdurahmanov " described" ****in the monograph that all the khanates in the Movoraunnahr region voluntarily joined the Soviet Union after being freed from the colonialism of Tsarist Russia, and its causes and consequences are described in detail . Of course, such erroneous ideas cannot be found in scientific literature and textbooks. For this reason , one of the problems faced by this science is to hire specialists who have in-depth interdisciplinary knowledge in economic history research.

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