



## JALOLIDDIN MANGUBERDI AS A SYMBOL OF NATIONAL HEROISM: HISTORICAL ANALYSIS AND CONTEMPORARY SIGNIFICANCE

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**Abstract.** *This article scientifically analyzes the life, military strategy and political activities of Jaloliddin Manguberdi, who lived at the beginning of the 13th century and fought bravely against the Mongol invasions. The study attempts to evaluate the personality of Jaloliddin in the light of historical sources, modern historiographical approaches and ideological and cultural context. The article also draws conclusions about the educational, ideological and spiritual role of the hero for today. The historical figure of Jaloliddin is considered an important source in understanding national identity and forming a sense of patriotism.*

**Keywords:** *Jaloliddin Manguberdi, Mongol invasion, historical figure, patriotism, military strategy, national hero, historical memory, political leadership.*

In the history of medieval Central Asia, one of the prominent figures known for his bravery, patriotism, and actions grounded in national pride is Jaloliddin Manguberdi. In the early 13th century, he stood as the last leading figure of independent resistance within the Khwarazmian Empire against the Mongol invasion. Although Jaloliddin's life and legacy have been analyzed multiple times by historians, in the current era of globalization and the shaping of national consciousness, it is of great importance to study his heritage from a renewed perspective.

Historical sources, particularly Ibn al-Athir's "Al-Kamil fi al-Tarikh", provide detailed accounts of Jaloliddin's courageous campaigns, his father Muhammad Khwarazmshah's negative attitude toward him, and Genghis Khan's personal respect for him. Jaloliddin was one of the few commanders whose heroism earned the admiration of Genghis Khan himself<sup>28</sup>

In contemporary research, Jaloliddin is regarded not only as a military leader but also as an ideological and philosophical struggler. According to historian O. Khakimov,

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<sup>28</sup> Ibn al-Asir (1965). *Al-Kamil fit-tarix* (Tarixlarning mukammali), 12-jild. Bayrut: Dar al-Kutub al-Ilmiyya. 219-bet





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Jaloliddin was one of the first political leaders of his time to promote the idea of political integration and the restoration of pan-Islamic unity<sup>29</sup>

In today's Uzbekistan, the image of Jaloliddin Manguberdi is viewed as an important pedagogical and ideological resource for fostering national identity, reinforcing historical memory, and cultivating a sense of patriotism among the youth. In December 2021, the broadcast of the historical drama series "Jaloliddin" by the National Television and Radio Company of Uzbekistan once again drew public attention to this significant historical figure.

At the same time, academic analyses indicate that Jaloliddin's legacy should be studied not only at the national level but also in the broader context of international historical processes. His battles against the Mongols and his campaigns extending into Afghanistan, Iran, and India represent not only military strategy but also a manifestation of strong political thinking. In this regard, V.V. Barthold noted: "Jaloliddin's steps on the battlefield clearly reveal signs of political leadership. He was not only a hero, but also a powerful leader"<sup>30</sup>

This research is based on a historical-analytical approach, focusing on the personality, political activity, and military campaigns of Jaloliddin Manguberdi, analyzed through historical sources. The primary sources used include works of 13th–14th century chroniclers — Ibn al-Athir's "Al-Kamil fi al-Tarikh", Rashid al-Din's "Jami al-Tawarikh", and Juvayni's "Tarikh-i Jahangushay". These sources, written by Jaloliddin's contemporaries, provide direct testimonies about his personal qualities and historical context.

Additionally, comparative-historical analysis was conducted based on the works of modern historians, particularly V.V. Barthold's "Turkestan" and N. To'raqulov's "Jaloliddin Manguberdi – A Symbol of Freedom". During the analysis, historical facts were interpreted contextually and compared with present-day values and perspectives. The study also examines Jaloliddin's influence on today's youth from a socio-pedagogical perspective.

Although Jaloliddin Manguberdi's personality has been studied extensively in historiography, his military and spiritual legacy still requires deeper analysis. His activity is characterized not only by military achievements but also by ideological and political leadership. Jaloliddin stood out among the rulers of his time due to his determination, ideological independence, and prioritization of the people's interests.

His bravery in the battle on the Indus River has been documented in many historical sources. When describing the details of this battle, Rashid al-Din notes Genghis Khan's

<sup>29</sup> O.Khakimov (2019). Jaloliddin Manguberdi va musulmon Sharqining siyosiy birligi g'oyasi. *Sharq yulduzi*, №3, 55–60.57-bet

<sup>30</sup> V.V.Bartold (1963). *Turkiston mongollar istilosi davrida*. Toshkent: O'zbekiston SSR Fanlar Akademiyasi nashriyoti.







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astonishment: “Seeing Jaloliddin’s courage, Genghis Khan looked upon him with admiration and said, ‘Even though his father did not like him, I do’<sup>31</sup>”

This evidence demonstrates that Jaloliddin was not only courageous but also a commander who displayed battlefield dignity and earned the respect of his enemy. Such heroism, as emphasized by Ibn al-Athir, emerged as a symbol of the only remaining hope in a state on the brink of collapse<sup>32</sup>

Unlike many members of the Khwarazmshah dynasty who made numerous political mistakes, Jaloliddin Manguberdi was a statesman who understood the demands of his time and strove to unite the people. He gathered around himself exiled commanders, soldiers, and ordinary citizens, continuing the resistance movement. Historian N. To‘raqulov comments on this: “Jaloliddin sought to overcome political fragmentation. In addition to military resources, he tried to rely on the people’s spirit, historical memory, and religious unity<sup>33</sup>”

Strategic thinking is clearly evident in Jaloliddin’s decisions. For example, his attempts to form coalitions with local forces in the territories of Iran and Afghanistan, as well as his plans to campaign into Iraq — all reflect his geopolitical awareness and political intuition.

Jaloliddin Manguberdi’s heroism holds significance not only in the past but also in the shaping of national consciousness today. According to I. Karimov: “Inspiring loyalty to the Motherland, respect for historical memory, and a sense of national pride in the hearts of young people — the life and legacy of figures like Jaloliddin serve as an invaluable source<sup>34</sup>”

In modern historiography, his heroism is interpreted as a symbol of independence. The unveiling of a statue of Jaloliddin Manguberdi in Surkhandarya region in 2021, and the production of a feature film dedicated to him, are clear evidence that this historical figure has transformed not only into a historical, but also a cultural symbol<sup>35</sup>.

Moreover, historical analyses suggest that Jaloliddin’s ideological outlook may have been shaped under the influence of his mentor Sayf ad-Din Bahruz. From this perspective, he should be recognized as a leader who successfully synthesized ideological maturity, intellectual knowledge, and the political thinking of the Muslim East.

**Conclusion:** Jaloliddin Manguberdi is one of those historical figures who left an indelible mark through his courageous actions, patriotism, and unwavering dedication to the idea of national independence. In his short but meaningful life, he became a symbol

<sup>31</sup> Rashid ad-Din (1973). *Jome' at-tavorix* (Tarixlar majmuasi). Tehron: Donya -ye Kitob nashriyoti.

<sup>32</sup> Ibn al-Asir (1965). *Al-Kamil fit-tarix* (Tarixlarning mukammali), 12-jild. Bayrut: Dar al-Kutub al-Ilmiyya. 220-bet

<sup>33</sup> N.To‘raqulov (2015). Jaloliddin Manguberdi siymosi va uning tarixiy roliga yangicha yondashuv. *O‘zbekiston tarixi jurnali*, №4, 85–92. 90-bet

<sup>34</sup> I.A.Karimov (2008). *Yuksak ma'naviyat – yengilmas kuch*. Toshkent: Ma'naviyat nashriyoti.

<sup>35</sup> Jaloliddin” tarixiy badiiy seriali. (2021). Rejissyor: R. Qodirov. O‘zbekiston Milliy teleradiokompaniyasi.





of resistance against invaders and turned into a legendary figure embedded in epics and historical memory among the people.

His historical activity extends beyond personal bravery. He sought to unite the people, preserve statehood, and foster a national spirit of resistance against conquest. As historian A. Karimov writes: “Jaloliddin lives forever in the hearts of his people as a symbol of freedom and pride. His movement represents a historical lesson and an example of courage and loyalty.”

Thus, Jaloliddin Manguberdi’s life and activities — his historical significance and contemporary relevance — should remain at the center of deep scholarly research. This serves not only to restore historical truth but also to strengthen national consciousness.

The figure of Jaloliddin Manguberdi has become a powerful spiritual and ideological symbol not only in medieval history but also in the modern era. He confronted the Mongol invasion during the most critical periods of the Muslim Eastern civilization, and entered history as a symbol of national pride, freedom, and sovereignty. Both historical sources and modern studies show that during his brief but profound political career, he succeeded in uniting the people as a mature leader.

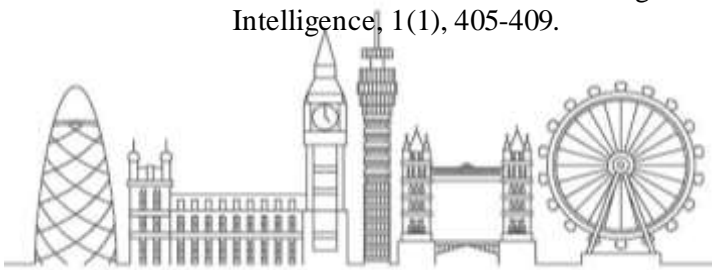
Jaloliddin’s heroic activity deserves recognition not only for his military strategy but also for his ideological leadership. Throughout his career, he managed to unify concepts such as religious unity, historical identity, statehood, and national spirit, making efforts to overcome political fragmentation of his time. Medieval historians — Ibn al-Athir, Rashid al-Din, and Juvayni — all praised his bravery. As modern historian A. Karimov notes: “Jaloliddin’s movement represents the earliest ideological example of the struggle for independence in Eastern history.”

Furthermore, Jaloliddin’s persona today holds significant value as a historical-pedagogical and cultural asset. In the Republic of Uzbekistan, growing attention is being paid to his legacy: monuments, streets named in his honor, and depictions in art and cinema all serve to solidify his historical memory. Notably, the “Jaloliddin” television series, released in 2021, revived his image in the national consciousness as a modern-day hero<sup>36</sup>.

Jaloliddin Manguberdi is not merely a commander of the past, but a historical role model, ideological symbol, and measure of national identity for present and future generations. His life and struggle, aligned with ideas of national revival, freedom, and unity, serve as a source of spiritual education for today’s Uzbek youth. For this reason, his historical legacy must be studied even more deeply and actively integrated into the education and upbringing system.

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<sup>36</sup> Buronov, O., & Davronov, U. B. (2025). Administrative-territorial division and demographic indicators of Samarkand during the years of independence. *International Journal of Artificial Intelligence*, 1(1), 405-409.







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