

THE IMPACT OF THE ARAB CONQUEST ON POLITICAL PROCESSES IN KHOREZM

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Abstract. *The conquest of Khorezm by the Arabs put an end to the independent political activities of its state. The state became subject to the Arabs and had a great influence on the ideological life, language, and religion of society. The process of the conquest of the Khorezm state by the Arabs is described in textbooks and manuals published for higher educational institutions. Since these events are described and analyzed differently in them, this process is covered in the article under the analysis of At-Tabari.*

Keywords: *Arab invasion, dynastic struggles, social life, political situation, Africans, Mamluks.*

After the Arab Caliphate captured the oasis of Merv and established its rule there, it first began wars of conquest against Transoxiana. When the Umayyads came to power in 661, the Arab attacks intensified. During this period, the Khorezm state united with other states in Central Asia and made a plan to fight the Arabs. According to At-Tabari, in the year 61 AH (680 - 681) - "the Arabs turned back when winter began. At that time, the kings of Khorasan gathered in one of the cities of Khorasan on the Khorasan side and held a military meeting. According to it, the states agreed not to attack each other and to act together against the Arabs³⁰. The Arabs repeatedly asked the Amir to attack this city, but he refused. When Salm arrived in Khorasan, he began a military campaign against the city, which continued throughout the winter. Al-Muhallab persistently asked him to begin a campaign against it. Then he sent him at the head of 6 thousand, and according to some sources 4 thousand troops. He besieged the city, asking them to obey. The people of the city expressed their agreement to conclude a peace treaty in order to buy them off. Al-Muhallab demanded more than 20 million dirhams. This peace treaty also agreed to buy various goods at half price. For this reason, he bought cattle, horses, and gazelle skins at half price. With this, he received 50 million dirhams

³⁰ История ат-Табари. -Ташкент. 1987. -С.50.

from the city. Thus, al-Muhallab came to the attention of Salm. Salm took what he liked from the booty and organized an embassy to send him to Merv³¹.

Al-Tabari reports that Al-Muhallab accompanied Salm ibn Ziyad on a military campaign against Khorezm and wrote that they concluded a peace treaty in exchange for a large sum of money. Al-Tabari also greatly inflates the amount of booty taken. According to Al-Balazuri, it amounted to 400,000 dirhams³².

This campaign was the first plundering campaign of the Arabs against Khorezm. According to At-Tabari, the next campaign of the Arabs against Khorezm took place in 85 AH (704-705 AD). It is described in the story of the disobedience of the viceroy of Khorezm, Yazid, to the emir al-Khadjaj. He noted that the reason for Yazid's departure from the viceroyship of Khorezm has been narrated in different ways. One of these was a matter related to Khorezm, and Emir al-Khadjaj wrote a letter to Yazid and said that he would march against Khorezm. But Yazid told the emir that the winter there was cold and the booty was not enough. Then Amir al-Khadjaj summoned him. Since the summoning of the viceroys to the Center was not a good sign, Yazid said that he would march against Khorezm, and the emir instructed him not to go if the place was as he said. Yazid, disobeying the orders of Amir al-Khadjaj, marched on Khorezm. The people of Khorezm concluded a peace treaty with him and took the prisoners according to it. Since it became very cold on the way, they took the clothes of the prisoners and put them on. The prisoners died of cold³³. After Yazid, al-Mufaddala was appointed as the viceroy of Khorasan, and his assistant was al-Mufaddala. According to at-Tabari, al-Mufaddala ruled for 9 months. After him, Amir al-Khadjaj appointed Kutayba ibn Muslim as his viceroy in 85 AH (704/705 AD).

The first Arab campaigns in Khorezm were only for the purpose of plunder. They invaded the territory, took a certain amount of prisoners and property, and then returned. This can also be justified by the relationship between Amir al-Khadjaj and Yazid. The complete subordination of Khorezm to the Arabs is also associated with the name of Kutayba ibn Muslim.

At the beginning of the 8th century, dynastic struggles continued in the Khorezm state. The events of that time are clearly described in the work of at-Tabari. E.V. Rtveladze, who analyzed these events, said that Mazdak's ideas also penetrated Khorezm. Under the influence of these ideas, it is possible that Khorezmshah's brother Khurzad rebelled against him and argued that the wealth of all the states should be divided equally³⁴,

³¹ O'sha asar. -B. 34-35.

³² История ат-Табари. -С. 281. прим.30; Хорезм в истории государственности Узбекистана. -С.102.

³³ История ат-Табари. -С. 70.

³⁴ Хорезм в истории государственности Узбекистана. – С. 103.

because the brother of Khorezmshah was supported by the majority of the population of the Khorezm state. Khurzod fought against the nobles close to Khorezmshah, seized wealth and deprived them of inheritance rights. After Khorezmshah could not adequately respond to this action, most of them left the state. Mazdak's ideas were supported by the middle-class rural and urban population, who acted against inequality and representatives of the upper class. The idea that all wealth and land on earth should be distributed equally among the population prevailed.

During this period, Khorezmshah is given in written sources as Chogan, and on coins his name is given as Azkadjuvar. Khurzod was the governor of the city of Khamgird. Researchers indicate that this city is an ancient city near Urgench³⁵.

In the work of al-Tabari, the conquest of Khorezm by the Arabs is stated to have taken place in 93 AH (711/712 AD). Before Qutayba ibn Muslim's campaign to Khorezm, the political situation there was tense and there were internal struggles. He did not have enough strength to oppose his brother Khurzad (Khurrazad), who had rebelled against the Khorezmshah. The course of these events is described in al-Tabari as follows: "The Khorezmshah was weak, and his brother Khurrazad, although younger than him, did as he pleased and considered himself superior to the king. One day, having heard that one of the king's relatives had a valuable thing, a concubine, a horse, or something, he sent his man to take it. He took everything he liked by force. He did what he wanted, and he imprisoned whoever he wanted. No one, not even the king, could resist him. When the king was informed about this, he replied that he did not have enough strength to resist him. Finally, in order to resist his brother and teach him a lesson, he turned to Qutayba. He gave Qutayba three golden keys to the cities along with the ambassadors he sent, and set a condition for him to hand over his brother and those who opposed the king. He did not warn anyone about this letter. The ambassadors of the Khorezm Shah arrived at Qutayba at the end of winter. At this time, Qutayba was preparing for a military campaign. Qutayba received the letter and sent a satisfactory reply to the Khorezm Shah. He himself pretended to be going to Sogd and made a speech. He appointed his deputy Sabit and Mawlā Muslim in Merv and set off on the campaign himself³⁶.

To strengthen his rule and fight against his brother and his supporters, the Khorezm Shah Chagan secretly concluded an agreement with the Arabs. He called them to help Khorezm. Qutayba ibn Muslim was aware of the political unrest in Khorezm and the military power of Khurzad. For this reason, he planned a ruse before his march to Khorezm. He announced his march to Sogd, and he himself began to march to Khorezm.

³⁵ Хорезм в истории государственности Узбекистана. – С. 103.

³⁶ История ат-Табари. -С. 98.

According to al-Tabari, Khurzad (Khurrazad), who heard of Qutayba's march to Sogd, "gathered his kings, scholars, and peasants and said: - Qutayba has planned to march to Sogd, but he will not march on us. Therefore, let us enjoy life this spring!" They felt that they were protected from invasion, and began to drink and enjoy life³⁷.

The Khorezmians did not notice Qutayba until he reached Khazorasp with his army. After Qutayba stopped at the river, the Khorezmshah Chagan turned to his supporters and asked, "What do you think, should we fight?" They said that they should fight Qutayba. But the Khorezmshah Chagan replied: "I do not think so. We are weak against him, he is stronger and braver than us. In my opinion, we can give him something and get rid of him. We will distract him like this for this year, and we will see next year." The supporters of the Khorezmshah said that their thoughts did not agree with him. Then the Khorezmshah went to the city of al-Fil, which was located across the river.

A peace treaty was concluded between the Khorezmshah Chagan and Qutayba. According to him, they agreed to give Qutayba ten thousand cattle, money, property and help in the fight against the king of the city of Hamjerd. Qutayba agreed to the agreement and fulfilled its conditions. The king of the city of Hamjerd was in a hostile mood with the Khorezmshah Chagan. Qutayba ibn Muslim sent his brother Abd al-Rahman against the king of Hamjerd. Abd al-Rahman fought against the king, killed him and took possession of his country. He brought four thousand prisoners to Qutayba. Qutayba ordered them to be executed. The execution process is also described in the work of At-Tabari. It is stated in it that al-Muhallab ibn Iyas said: "On that day, they took their swords from the nobles and began to cut off their heads. There were such sharp blades among the swords that it was impossible to even inflict a wound with them. Then they took my sword and used it, and they all cut them off. "One of Qutayba's relatives, jealous of me, looked at the executioner and said, 'Knock him down.' When he struck him with his sword, he hit his molar, and he cut that off too"³⁸. This account of events shows that the Arab invasions of the territories were carried out brutally.

Qutayba handed over to Khorezmshah his brother and all those who opposed him. Khorezmshah executed them, confiscated their property, and sent them to Qutayba. Qutayba arrived in the city of Fil, took all the property specified in the agreement, and returned to Khazorasp.

The supporters of Khurzad, who did not want to submit to Khorezmshah, moved to the territory of the Khazar Khaganate under the leadership of Bulan from 712

³⁷ История ат-Табари. -С. 98.

³⁸ История ат-Табари. -С.98.

to 730. There they seized the affairs of the state. They also used military forces to attack the territories occupied by the Arabs in the Caucasus³⁹.

Qutayba left Iyas ibn Abdullah ibn Amr as his deputy in Khorezm. According to At-Tabari, since he was weak, Ubaydullah ibn Abu Ubaydullah mawla Muslim was engaged in collecting the tribute. The people of Khorezm learned of Iyas' weakness and gathered fighters against him. Ubaydullah conveyed this news to Qutayba. Qutayba wrote a letter to Ubaydullah and ordered Iyas and Hayyana an-Nabati to be flogged with a hundred lashes and their beards shaved off. Ubaydullah conveyed this to Iyas, who escaped this punishment. Only Hayyana was flogged with a hundred lashes and his beard shaved off. Later, Qutayba sent al-Mugir to Khorezm again. When al-Mugir arrived in Khorezm, the children of the people whom the Khorezmshah had executed did not want to obey him and went over to the Turks. When Al-Mugir arrived, he captured some, defeated some in battle, and made peace with the rest. He collected the jizya from the population and went to Qutayba. Qutayba appointed him as the viceroy of Nishapur. This is how the events are described in the work of At-Tabari. Researchers who analyzed the information of Yaqubi, Balazuri, and Ibn al-Asr gave a more accurate analysis of these events. According to them, the appointment of Chagan as king, the execution of Khurzad, and the conclusion of a new treaty between Chagan and Qutayba caused even greater discontent among the people of Khorezm⁴⁰. Having learned about this uprising through a letter from Iyas ibn Abdullah, he sent an army to Khorezm under the leadership of his brother Abdullah ibn Muslim. However, these actions did not help the Chaghan, who was forced to flee to the nomadic Turks living on the banks of the Aral Sea and the Syr Darya. They had once been his allies. When they did not welcome the Chaghan well, he was forced to go to Qutayba's camp in Merv. Qutayba appointed him as the viceroy of Nishapur⁴¹.

After Khorezm, Qutayba ibn Muslim attacked Sughd. To march on Sughd, he gathered warriors from the Khorezmians and Bukharas who were subordinate to him. Together with them, he besieged Sughd for a month and then captured it. In the following period, he also demanded fighters from the local population during his campaigns to Tashkent and Fergana. When Qutayba marched on Fergana in 94 AH, he demanded 20 thousand warriors from Bukhara, Kissa, Nasaf and Khorezm.

As a result of the conquest of the Khorezm state by the Arabs, fundamental changes were made to the socio-economic and cultural life of this place. Abu Raykhan Beruni

³⁹ O'zbekiston tarixi (Xorazm tarixi). XI jild. (O'zbekiston tarixi va manbalar). -B. 173.

⁴⁰ Ғуломов Я.Ғ. Хоразмнинг суғорилиш тарихи. – Б. 128; Хорезм в истории государственности Узбекистана. – С. 105.

⁴¹ Хорезм в истории государственности Узбекистана. – С. 105.

wrote in his work that people who knew the Khorezm script well, studied narrations and could pass on their knowledge to others were destroyed by Qutayba. For this reason, there is no information about the history of the pre-Islamic period. At the same time, the state administration has shown that sometimes this house passes into the hands of others⁴². When Qutayba conquered Khorezm for the second time, he made Askajamuk, a descendant of Arsamukh, king. He wrote that they had no right to rule the state, but were kings only in name. After Askajamuk, seven more of his descendants ruled Khorezm. Abu Raykhan Beruni shows that when his eighth descendant, Abu Abdullah Muhammad, was martyred, they lost even the status of king⁴³.

In the 8th century, crafts and trade declined. The weight and quality of the coins minted by the Shaushafar and Abdullahs, who ruled during this period, decreased. As a result of the massacre of many inhabitants, villages and cities were devastated. Since irrigation networks were left unattended, there was no development in agriculture. Even after the Arabs established rule in Khorezm, the population's movements against them did not stop. According to the information given in At-Tabari, in 728 there was a rebellion against the Arabs in Kerder⁴⁴.

The Khorezm state was officially dependent on the Arabs, on which it paid tribute and sent military warriors when required. In fact, the kings of the Khorezm cities operated independently. This is evidenced by the fact that the state minted silver coins. Since silver was not mined in Khorezm, the quality of these minted silver coins was low.

During the rule of the Arabs, Khorezm was divided into two parts. The African dynasty ruled in southern Khorezm, while the viceroy of the Arabs ruled in northern Khorezm. They paid a separate tribute to the Arab caliphate. The central city of southern Khorezm was Kat. Information about this city has been preserved in some Arab and Chinese sources. They mention the names of the Khorezm shahs. Information about ambassadors sent to China has been preserved in Chinese sources. Information about the later period of Arab rule, that is, the second half of the 8th century and the beginning of the 9th century, has not been preserved.

By the end of the 10th century, as a result of the weakening of the Arab Caliphate, the formation of large independent states in Central Asia (Tahirids, Saffarids, Samanids) and the intensification of the struggle between them, the desire for independence also increased in Khorezm. In 995, the emir of Gurganj, Ma'mun ibn Muhammad, attacked and captured the city of Kat with a large army. He captured the Khorezmshah Abu Abdullah and executed him in Gurganj. Thus, Ma'mun ibn Muhammad united all of

⁴² Беруний Абу Райхон. Танланган асарлар. Қадимги халқлардан қолган ёдгорликлар (Осор ал-боқия).-Б.70.

⁴³ Беруний Абу Райхон. Танланган асарлар. Қадимги халқлардан қолган ёдгорликлар (Осор ал-боқия).-Б.70.

⁴⁴ История ат-Табари. -С.217.

Khorezm under himself, took the title of Khorezmshah, and moved the capital to Gurganj.

In the 9th and 10th centuries, international relations and trade developed in Khorezm as a result of the passage of the northern branch of the Great Silk Road through the territory of the Caucasus. The northern branch of the Great Silk Road went through the Caucasus to Byzantium, and from there to European territories. This is supported by archaeological research. In 1988, a silver coin of Khorezmshah Shovushfan was found at the Mokraya Balka monument, located east of the city of Kislovodsk. In 1997, a gold coin of the Byzantine emperor Augustus Tiberius (698-705) was found at the Kuyukkala monument. Khorezm coins dating back to the 7th-8th centuries AD were found in Bashkortostan. Khorezm silver coins dating back to the 3rd-8th centuries were found in the Kamaboy region. These finds are evidence that Khorezm traded along the Great Silk Road.

The political processes that took place in Central Asia in the 9th-11th centuries also affected the Khorezm oasis. In the 8th century, the Khorezm state, which was included in the Arab Caliphate, was replaced by the Tokhiris, who established their rule in Central Asia, and later fell under the rule of the Saffarid state. When the Samanids established a centralized state in Central Asia in the 90s of the 9th century, their rule was established. The rule of these dynasties was only formally subordinate, representatives of this dynasty did not invade by battle, and military operations were not carried out in the Khorezm oasis. After the execution of the last representative of the Afrigid dynasty, Abu Abdullah Muhammad, the rule of representatives of a new dynasty was established in the kingdom⁴⁵. From 995 to 1017, the Mamunid dynasty ruled, and from 1017 to 1034, the Altintash dynasty. Representatives of this dynasty are also known in history as the Khorezmshahs.

When the political situation in Central Asia between the Karakhanids, Samanids and Ghaznavids became tense, in 995, the emir of Gurganj, Mamun I, made a surprise attack on the Afrigids, namely the Kat fortress, and captured it. He executed the Khorezmshah Abu Abdullah. He himself united the entire Khorezm oasis and moved the center of the state to the city of Gurganj. When Mamun was killed by his own warriors in 997, his son Ali came to the throne. Ali married Mahmud Ghaznavid's sister, and then in 1009, Mamun's brother Mamun II took the throne. He also married a Ghaznavid queen. During this period, the Mamunids were subordinate to the Arab Caliphate, and in 1014, Mamun II was given the title of "Ayn-ad-dawla va Zayn al-milla" by Caliph Qadir. This also indicates the positive policy pursued by the representatives of the Mamunid dynasty in

⁴⁵ Беруний Абу Райхон. Танланган асарлар. Қадимги халқлардан қолган ёдгорликлар (Осор ал-боқия). -Б. 70; O'zbekiston tarixi (Xorazm tarixi). XI jild. -B.173.

the region. It was during the reign of the Mamunid dynasty that the first academy was founded in Khorezm. It went down in history as the "Academy of Mamun". At that time, it was called "Dar-ul-Hikma" (House of Wisdom). The academy was built in Old Urgench, the central city of Khorezm at that time. It operated from 1004 to 1017⁴⁶. Today it is the Kirg Mulla Fortress located in the Tashkhowuz region of Turkmenistan. The Academy of Ma'mun was headed by Abu Raykhan Beruni. Research was carried out here in such disciplines as geometry, trigonometry, astronomy, topography, chemistry, and mineralogy. At that time, the Khorezm oasis became a center of science and knowledge. In addition to Khorezm, about 100 scientists from Bukhara, Samarkand, Jand, Merv, Nishapur, Balkh, Egypt, Syria, and other regions worked at the Academy. Among them were Ibn Sina, Ibn Iraq, Abu Sahl Masihi, Ibn al-Khammar, and others. The most famous scientist of that time, Al-Khwarizmi, worked at the "Bayt al-Hikma" in Baghdad⁴⁷. The significance of his research in mathematics has not lost its significance to this day.

The end of the rule of the Mamunid dynasty is associated with the attack on the Khorezm oasis by Mahmud Ghaznavi. Having established his rule in Central Asia, Mahmud Ghaznavi asked Mamun II to recognize his rule. When Mamun II recognized the rule of the Ghaznavids, a military protest movement began against him led by Alp-tegin. In the uprising of 1017, Mamun II died as a result of a fire in his house. After the death of Mamun II, his 17-year-old nephew Muhammad ascended the throne. The state was practically ruled by Alp-tegin. The military, who seized power, began looting the city. They seized the property of the rich and killed people they considered enemies. To put an end to such atrocities, the troops of Mahmud of Ghaznavi entered Khorezm. He established his rule here and put an end to the rule of the Mamunid dynasty. All those who acted against Mamun II were executed. The source states that they were thrown under the feet of an elephant. Muhammad, his relatives and scholars were taken to Ghaznavid. Thus, the rule of the Ghaznavids was established in the Khorezm state. Mahmud of Ghaznavi appointed his own military commander, Altintash, as the viceroy of Khorezm. Researchers also believe that Altintash's origin is from a Turkic tribe. Altintash began his activities during the reign of Sabuk Tegin of Ghaznavid and rose to the rank of military commander. In 1008, he won the battle against the Karakhanids, further justifying the trust of the Ghaznavids⁴⁸. For this reason, Mahmud Ghaznavi appointed his trusted man as viceroy of Khorezm with the title of Khorezmshah.

⁴⁶ Иброҳимов А. Маъмун академияси. – Тошкент. А.Навоий номидаги Ўзбекистон Миллий кутубхонаси нашрети, 2005. -Б.10.

⁴⁷ O'zbekiston tarixi (Xorazm tarixi). XI jild. -B. 262-272; Иброҳимов А. Маъмун академияси. -Б.20.

⁴⁸ www.wikipedia.org/wiki/Алтунташ (мурожаат вақти. 31.01. 2025)

Altintosh's residence was the city of Kat. Later, he moved to the city of Urgench. This is the city of Urgench in the present-day Khorezm region. Altintosh fought against the Oghuz and Karluks who invaded the Khorezm oasis. He attacked Mangishloq. Later, he actively participated in Mahmud Ghaznavi's campaigns against the Karakhanids.

Despite the fact that Khorezm was the most remote region of Central Asia in the early Middle Ages, an oasis in the middle of the deserts, the political processes taking place in Central Asia influenced the development of the state. As a result of the invasions of nomadic herders, Arabs, and the Ghaznavid dynasty, the country was devastated. Despite paying a large tax during the reign of the Arab Caliphate and subsequent dynasties, it was able to use its internal resources and improve the country. It is also likely that when Mamun I founded the academy, he took into account the region's interest in science and technology and its achievements in these fields.

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