

ANCIENT DAVAN: THE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC CENTER OF THE FERGANA VALLEY***Irgashev Lazizbek****is a Korean language teacher at the Korean Academy Educational Center****Mamadaliyeva Dilrabo****is a second-year student of the History major at the Namangan branch of the Tashkent International University of Chemistry*

Annotation: This article explores the ancient Davan state, which thrived in the Ferghana Valley during the 2nd–1st centuries BCE. Due to its strategic location, Davan played a significant role in the Silk Road trade network, serving as a vital hub for commerce, agriculture, and livestock breeding, especially renowned for its high-quality horses known as "Heavenly Horses." The state's international reputation grew through its cultural exchanges and military interactions with China. The article examines Davan's political and social structures, economic and cultural development, and its interactions with the Chinese Empire. It also discusses the state's role in ancient international relations, its influence on cultural exchange, and its importance as a commercial center along the Silk Road. This study offers valuable insights for research in history, archaeology, and economic development.

Keywords: Davan state, Ferghana Valley, Silk Road, Heavenly Horses, relations with China, cultural influence, ancient trade.

QADIMIY DAVAN: FARG‘ONA VODIYSINING SIYOSIY VA IQTISODIY MARKAZI***Irgashev Lazizbek****“Korean academy” o`quv markazining koreys tili o`qituvchisi****Mamadaliyeva Dilrabo****Toshkent Kimyo Xalqaro Universiteti Namangan filiali “Tarix” yo`nalishi ikkinchi bosqich talabasi*

Annotatsiya. Mazkur maqola miloddan avvalgi II–I asrlarda Farg‘ona vodiysida joylashgan Davan davlati haqida keng ma’lumot beradi. Davan davlati o‘zining geografik joylashuvi tufayli Buyuk Ipak yo‘li savdo tarmog‘ida muhim o‘rin tutgan. Ushbu davlat savdo, dehqonchilik va chorvachilik, ayniqsa, ot yetishtirish sohasida yuksak rivojlanishga erishgan. Xitoy tarixiy manbalarida Davanning "osmon tulporlari" deb nomlangan otlari mashhur bo‘lgan. Maqolada Davan davlatining siyosiy va ijtimoiy tuzilishi, uning iqtisodiy va madaniy rivojlanishi, shuningdek, Xitoy bilan bo‘lgan diplomatik va harbiy munosabatlari yoritilgan. Shu bilan birga, Davanning qadimiy xalqaro aloqalardagi roli, madaniy o‘zaro ta’siri va Buyuk Ipak yo‘lida savdo-sotiq markazi sifatida ahamiyati tahlil qilingan. Maqola tarix, arxeologiya va iqtisodiyotga oid tadqiqotlar uchun foydali bo‘ladi.

Kalit so‘zlar: Davan davlati, Farg‘ona vodiysi, Buyuk Ipak yo‘li, tulporlar, Xitoy bilan munosabatlar, madaniy ta‘sir, qadimiy savdo.

The ancient inhabitants of Fergana created a unique irrigated farming culture in the basins of the Karadarya branches, which emerged from the confluence of spring waters as early as the Bronze Age. By the Early Iron Age and Antiquity, ancient farming cultures, developing on the basis of the traditions of local cultures in Fergana, cover the entire valley, and the sedentary lifestyle of the population forms the economic basis of society. According to the results of research, starting from the 3rd century BC, urban culture spreads widely throughout the Fergana Valley. It was during this period that ancient cities such as Akhsikent, Marhamat, Qubo, Margilan, and Bob (Pop) appeared along the branches of the Great Silk Road that passed through the Fergana Valley.

Although the oldest written sources provide information about some of the first state associations in Central Asia, there is no such information about Fergana. Nevertheless, Y.A. Zadneprovsky assumes the existence of the ancient Fergana (Davan) kingdom. According to Academician A. Askarov, when talking about Fergana in the period before the middle of the 1st millennium BC, usually only the emergence of the foundations of an ancient state in the form of a "chieftdom" (oasis) is understood. According to the scientist, taking into account this circumstance, statehood in Fergana, apparently, may have arisen in the 5th-4th centuries BC. This conclusion of A. Askarov is based on two historical arguments. First, archaeological finds dating back to this period (Shurabashot culture) allow us to put forward assumptions about the development of productive forces (growth in production and trade). [A.M. Atakhodjayev, A.T. Zamonov and others – "History of Uzbekistan Part I", Bayoz – 2024. 358-364p]

The state of Davan (this country is mentioned by this name in Chinese sources) arose approximately in the 3rd century BC and was located in the Fergana Valley. Chinese rulers tried to conquer this state several times, but their efforts were in vain. During one of the military campaigns, they captured the capital of the Davan state, Ershi, but the population left it in exchange for compensation.[<https://tarix-kitob.uz>]

The state known as Davan is one of the ancient states in the Fergana region. The Chinese ambassador Zhang Xiang called this state in the Fergana Valley Davan (Da-yuan) in his written sources. This is mentioned in the 3rd century BC. This is also confirmed by the memoirs of the Chinese ambassador Zhang Xiang, who visited this country in 138-125 BC. According to sources, at that time Fergana had a population of 300 thousand people. It had more than 70 large and small cities, where trade and crafts were highly developed. The capital of the country, Ershi (now located in the Marhamat district of Andijan region), was considered one of the most prosperous, beautiful and densely populated cities of its time. Ancient Uzgan and Koson were also among the most famous cities of Dawan. There were more than 10 large agricultural settlements in the Dawan region, where the local nomadic population was engaged in the cultivation of rice, wheat and other agricultural crops.

The Chinese traveler emphasizes that viticulture is highly developed in the valley, and that the preparation of long-lasting, strong-tasting wines is highly developed. Another important aspect of socio-political life in Davan is the high position of women in society. According to Zhang Xiang, the men here showed special respect for women. The ruler of the state relied on the council of elders, its advice and guidance in resolving any internal and external issues related to the life of the country. In

particular, the Supreme Council, consisting of elders, had special powers in matters of war and peace, and embassy relations. The ruler was forced to recognize this. [Q. Usmanov, M. Sodiqov, S. Burkhonova – “History of Uzbekistan”, Economics-Finance – 2016. 62-63p]

China, eyeing the prosperous life of the Fergana state and its wealth, has repeatedly launched large armies against it. For example, at the end of the 2nd century BC (in 104) and in the 80s of the 1st century AD, the Chinese waged fierce wars to subjugate the Dawan state. The Dawans managed to maintain their independence with the military assistance of their neighbors, the Kangs and the Kushans. Realizing that it was impossible to conquer the territories of Central Asia by force, the Chinese then concluded an agreement with the Dawan state. According to this, it was agreed to establish diplomatic and trade relations between the two states, including the sale of the Fergana River to China. The Fergana region managed to maintain its relative independence to some extent even during the subsequent significant changes in the socio-political life of Central Asia. The residence of the great ruler was in Gushan (presumably the present city of Uzgan). The power of the king was limited by the council of elders, consisting of tribal nobles. The Supreme Council could depose the ruler from the throne and even sentence him to death. The term Davan is found in historical literature until the 3rd century AD. Then, instead of Davan, the terms "Boshan" and "Polona" (5th century AD) appeared, and historians noted that these terms refer to the ancient Davan. There is an opinion that the Chinese called Davan a country whose name was associated with the Tokhars (Takhwar).[<https://uzpedia.uz>]

1000 BC There is information about the existence of numerous cities in Fergana as early as the 2nd century BC. From the 2nd century BC, the caravan route from Kashgar to Fergana (Davan) along the northern route begins. International transit trade in silk and other products begins along this route. By this time, the population of Fergana begins to increase and many fortified settlements appear. Davan becomes important on the trade route. Many fortresses were built in the Yassa and Karadarya oases to protect the trade route.

At some point in 25-221 AD, apart from the palace of the Khan, Fergana was politically dependent on both sides, first on the Yarkyan power, and then, from 130 AD, on Kashgar. After that, there is a long break in information about Fergana. That is why it is very difficult to provide information about the political and socio-economic life of Fergana during this period. Only from the last quarter of the 5th century is Fergana mentioned in Chinese sources as Lona, later - Bohan, Bokhanna, Polona, and it is written that mercury, gold and iron were mined here in large quantities, that its ruler had the title of Jabgu, sat on a throne in the shape of a golden ram, and that the queen wore a golden crown on her head. The ancient socio-economic situation of Fergana did not differ much from its situation in the early Middle Ages. According to the Sogdian documents found on the Mug Mountain, the ruling class did not have a single political and economic basis. At the highest level of this hierarchy were representatives of the Turanian ruling family, called "chjavo" in Chinese chronicles. According to the information in Beish, Suyshu and Tanshu, these dynasties originated from the Oghuz clan. Cattle breeding also played an important role in the conditions of Fergana. Here, cattle were raised in the foothills, mountains and steppe areas of the valley. Pasture-breeding was well developed. Chinese sources indicate that horses played an important role in the life of the Fergana people. They were beautiful, but at the same time, strong-legged. The magnificent pastures of Eastern Fergana created ample conditions for the development of horse breeding. The Osh region was especially distinguished,

because here, firstly, in the mountain gorges and foothills, in summer pastures, wild alfalfa, the favorite food of horses, was abundant; secondly, artificial alfalfa groves were created on the fertile lands of the Adirorti lowlands, Akbora and Arovansoy basins.

Domestic and foreign trade played an important role in the economy of Fergana. In the cities, products imported from other countries and locally produced products increased. Much attention was paid to the production of competitive products. As a result, along with local trade relations, international trade also developed further. The people of Fergana were masters of trade. Such an economic basis ensured the stable material well-being of Fergana. Chinese sources prove that the agricultural culture in ancient Fergana was highly developed. The Chinese were especially impressed by the alfalfa and grapes, which were unfamiliar to them. The sources also contain the following information: "The Chinese ambassador brought seeds, so the child of heaven (the Chinese emperor) planted alfalfa and grapes on fertile land." In addition to grapes, the gardens of the Dawan people had many pomegranates, apricots, and other fruit trees. Chinese historians associate the appearance of these fruits in China with Dawan. In particular, on the Ayrimchatov rock hills, 8 km from Osh, there are images of 30 beautiful thoroughbred horses. Similar images were also found on the Aravon rock near Marhamat, in the Navkat oasis and in Obishirsoy. These images not only confirm that Davan was famous for its heavenly horses from ancient times, but also indicate that the people of Fergana were masters of high art. According to sources, neighboring states, in particular the emperors of China, highly valued Davan horses.

When analyzing the information in the sources, women were honored in Davan. It is clear that in Fergana social life, family relations between husband and wife were built on an equal basis. For example, men respected their wives very much, and the ideas put forward by their wives were not rejected by their husbands. The Dawans were a people with deep eyes and thick beards, famous for their skill in trade.

Relations between Fergana and China. Information about ancient Fergana (Day-yuan) was first brought to China by Zhang Qian. During this period, the Yuezhi (Ruzie, Oghuz) were defeated by the Huns, their leader was killed, the Huns made a drinking vessel from his head, and the Yuezhi retreated south to the Boktar region, and the Chinese emperor learned that they intended to take revenge on the Huns (they learned this from the Huns who were captured as a result of the Sino-Hun wars).

In turn, the Han Empire was also tired of the Hun attacks and was looking for allies among their enemies. According to the Shiji, the Han state wanted to send an envoy to the Yuezhi (the Ruzei who came to Central Asia) with the intention of crushing the Huns. However, many countries in western China, including the lands, small states and tribes in East Turkestan, were under the control of the Hun Khaganate. Therefore, the Chinese envoy had to pass through the Huns to reach Central Asia. Taking this into account, the emperor found the capable Zhang Jiang, a palace guard, to be the person who could fulfill this task. Zhang Jiang set out for the country of Ruzie (Great Yuezhi) with his companion Tangyichi (a slave from the Huns, whose real name was Ganfu). They set out from western China and were captured while passing through the Huns' land and taken to the Hun ruler Tangriqut (in Chinese sources <<Shanyu>>). Tangriqut took them away and said, "If the Guzers (Ruzei) have become our enemies, why did the Han state find it necessary to send an ambassador to them? If we send an ambassador to the country of Yue (the countries in southern China, including Vietnam) through the country of Han, would the Han agree to this?" He was angry and kept Zhang Qian in his country for 10

years. During this time, he was married to a Hun girl and had a son. However, Zhang Qian kept his embassy card without losing it. [A.M. Atakhodjayev, A.T. Zamonov and others - "History of Uzbekistan, Part I", Bayoz - 2024. 358-364p]

After receiving reports from Zhang Xian (who was originally sent in vain to form an alliance against the Huns), the Chinese emperor Wu Di became interested in developing trade relations with the developed urban civilizations of Fergana, Bactria, and Parthia. The emperor believed that the possessions of Fergana (Davan), Bactria, and Parthia were large states full of rare goods, with populations living in certain places and possessing crafts somewhat similar to the Chinese people. Later, the Chinese sent many envoys to these countries and even to Seleucid Syria, about a dozen each year.

The tall and agile horses owned by Davan, which were of great importance in the fight against the nomadic Huns ("heavenly horses"), attracted the Chinese. The refusal of the Davan people to sell them horses, a series of disputes, and mutual disrespect led to the death of the Chinese envoy and the confiscation of the gold sent as payment for the horses.

Angered and considering Dawan weak, the Chinese emperor sent Li Guangli, the brother of his favorite concubine, in 104 BC. His army consisted of 6,000 cavalry and "30,000 young men of distinction from the provinces." General Li lost many of his men along the way in minor battles with local rulers. After a crushing defeat at a place called Yucheng, the commander realized that he did not have enough strength to capture the enemy capital and retreated to Dunhuang (102 BC). Emperor Wu responded by providing Li Guangli with a much larger army and a large caravan of oxen, donkeys, and camels to provide the army with food. With this force, the commander had no difficulty reaching Li Dawan's capital, Ershi. After a 40-day siege, the Chinese breached the outer wall and cut off the water supply. The Ershi nobles killed their king and sent his head to Li Guangli, urging the Chinese to take as many celestial horses as they wanted. Li accepted the offer, appointed one of the nobles as the new king, and returned home with the horses. On his return journey, all the small states were subordinated to Han rule. In 100 BC, he reached the Jade Gate with 10,000 men and 1,000 horses. Emperor Wu of Han received news from the diplomat Zhang Xian that the Dawan state possessed fast and agile Fergana horses, which he called "heavenly horses", which were of great help in the fight against the nomadic Hun cavalry and in improving the quality of the Han cavalry. Therefore, Emperor Wu sent envoys to Dawan. The envoy's purpose was to explore the region and explore trade routes to bring back these horses. However, the Dawan king not only rejected the agreement, but also confiscated the gold sent as payment for the horses. The Han envoys were ambushed and killed on their way home. Humiliated and enraged, the Han court sent an army under General Li Guangli to subdue Dawan, but their first raids were poorly organized and poorly equipped. Two years later, a second, larger and much better-equipped expedition was sent. The troops sent successfully besieged the Dawan capital Alexandria Eskhata (Ershi) (some sources state that Ershi was located in the Mingtepa region of Marhamat District) and forced Dawan to surrender unconditionally. The Han expeditionary forces established a pro-Han regime in Dawan and took away enough horses to improve the Han Empire's horse breeding network. This projection of power, as well as the numerous small Tokhar oasis city-states in the Western Regions, forced the Huns to shift control of their trade relations to the Han dynasty, which later paved the way for the establishment of the Western Regions Protectorate.[<https://uz.m.wikipedia.org>]

Conclusion. The state of Dawan is one of the states that played an important role in ancient history. Located in the Fergana Valley, this state was located on one of the central branches of the Great Silk Road and made a great contribution to the development of trade, cultural exchange and political relations. The population of Dawan achieved high results in agriculture, viticulture and winemaking, and was distinguished by its skill in trade. Dawan horses, especially those known as "sky vultures", were famous throughout the East and served as an important factor in China's relations with this state. The political structure of the state consisted of independent city-states, which united to resist external threats. Military conflicts with China further increased the international importance of Dawan, but at the same time led to the weakening of the state. These conflicts required not only military power, but also diplomatic skills. The state of Dawan occupies an important place in the study of the economic and social life of ancient societies and their role in international relations. The history of this state shows what role it played in the combined trade and cultural relations of the East and the West. The Dawan state remains an interesting subject of research not only for historians, but also for economists and archaeologists. This study is of great importance in studying the rich heritage of the Dawan state and understanding the connections between ancient civilizations. This information allows us to more deeply understand the multifaceted processes in the history of the Great Silk Road.

References:

- 1.A.M. Atakhodjayev, A.T. Zamonov, U.R. Khalmuminov, A.T. Makhammadiyev, A.I. Ismoilov, S.Z. Abdusodikov – “History of Uzbekistan Part I”, Bayoz – 2024. 358-364p
- 2.<https://tarix-kitob.uz/qadimgi-dunyo-tarixi-6/qadimgi-khorazm-qang-va-davan-davlati/>
- 3.Q. Usmanov, M. Sodiqov, S. Burkhanova – “History of Uzbekistan”, Iqtisod-Foliya – 2016. 62-63p
- 4.https://uzpedia.uz/pedia/dovon_davlati
- 5.https://uz.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Samoviy_otlar_urushi