

**MUSA SAIDJONOV'S SCIENTIFIC LEGACY AND BUKHARA ARCHAEOLOGY
AT THE END OF THE 20TH CENTURY****Sayfutdinov Feruz Ilniyazovich,**

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Abstract: This article analyzes the scientific contribution of Muso Saidjanov to the study of the medieval historical topography of Bukhara. In the 1920s, research on the historical geography of Bukhara became one of the most important directions in Central Asian historiography. As a native scholar, Saidjanov approached the history of the city from a critical and scientific perspective. Despite holding high administrative positions, he continued his academic activity without interruption. His research was based on archaeological observations and a detailed analysis of waqf documents from the Samanid, Temurid, Shaybanid, and Ashtarkhanid periods. Special attention was given to Narshahi's work *History of Bukhara* as a primary source. The article emphasizes Saidjanov's conclusions on the formation of Bukhara during the 6th–7th centuries, the boundaries of the shahristan, the location of city gates, and the irrigation system. It also highlights his cautious attitude toward legendary narratives. Saidjanov's research remains an important and reliable source for the study of medieval Bukhara.

Keywords: Central Asia, history of construction, construction styles, political processes, economic situation, cultural center, Emirate, dual style, ensemble style, social significance

In the 1920s, the study of the medieval historical topography of Bukhara began to be considered one of the most important and urgent tasks for historical science. Due to this process, such famous scientists as V.V. Bartold and I.I. Umnyakov, together with other researchers, conducted research in this direction, and published a series of scientific articles. Muso Saidzhanov, as a local intellectual, did not remain aloof from this scientific movement, but as a native of Bukhara and a person who was not indifferent to its historical and cultural heritage, he considered the study of the historical topography of this ancient city to be his scientific and spiritual duty. At the same time, he worked in various high positions. Despite this, he continued his scientific research, in particular, he did not stop his scientific activity during the period when he headed the Bukhkomstaris organization in the 1920s.

In his research, the author scientifically reveals the stages of the emergence of feudal fortresses in Central Asia, as well as in the Bukhara oasis, that is, the formation and acceleration of urbanization processes. Muso Saidjanov, as the first local historian to approach the issue of the history of the emergence of the city of Bukhara from a scientific point of view, occupies a special place. His above-mentioned research is based on multifaceted archaeological observations. It is also based on scientific conclusions formed as a result of an in-depth study of endowment documents from the Samanid, Temurid, Shaybanid and Ashtarkhanid periods and their comparative analysis. In this regard, this work is considered a source worthy of repeated reference, while not losing its scientific value.

The scientist, who began to deal with the issue of the historical topography of Bukhara, first briefly addresses the issue of the emergence of ancient cities and urban culture in Central Asia and puts forward his scientific hypotheses in this regard. He rightly draws attention to the fact that the study of the issue is complicated by the paucity of local sources on the history of ancient times, and suggests taking into account information from Chinese and Greek sources. It

is noted that they and other sources provide information that when Alexander the Great marched into Central Asia, there were many prosperous cities in the country and that the population was engaged in trade, crafts, agriculture and cattle breeding. Muso Saidjanov, using the historical and geographical term "Turkestan" for Central Asia, focuses more on the history of the region in the early Middle Ages and notes that bilingual - Turkic and Persian-speaking peoples lived here.

Speaking about the fact that before the Arab conquests there was no strong state in the country, and that the country was formed from small, independent principalities, he admits that the large cities of Khorezm and the Zarafshan basin - Marokanda, Balkh, Marghyana - appeared mainly on the banks of large rivers. Apparently, Muso Saidjanov, based on the level of scientific thinking of his time, connects the period of the emergence of ancient cities in the country with the beginning and middle of the AD. This was natural, because at that time archaeological research had not yet been conducted to determine the age of large cities, and this issue was not at all on the agenda and was not particularly relevant.

It is emphasized that the high status of large landowners - farmers among the social classes of the population led to the increase and expansion of their mounds, and gradually these mounds began to turn into cities, and in general, urban planning traditions arose in this way.

The scientific ideas and considerations put forward by the scientist in the 1920s on the formation of urban planning traditions in the country were further developed and scientifically enriched in the course of subsequent research. In particular, based on his deep scientific observations, he emphasizes that today there are hundreds of archaeological mounds in Central Asia, each of which was initially formed as a large peasant estate, and over time turned into centers of trade and craftsmanship. In this process, the social status of the peasant, who was the owner of this estate, increased, and he gradually became the absolute ruler of this territory, that is, the king, and he thinks that the Ikhshids in Sogd, the Bukhara Khudots in Bukhara, and the Khorezmshahs in Khorezm were formed as a result of these historical processes. These considerations of the scientist are distinguished by their scientific validity and logical consistency and have not lost their relevance to this day.

The above information clearly confirms Muso Saidjanov's thorough knowledge of the historical geography and historical topography of the Bukhara oasis. His main scientific direction was aimed at studying the historical topography of medieval cities, and as a result of his research in this area, he achieved significant scientific achievements, which are still recognized by the scientific community today. At that time, or rather, within the framework of the program of the "Historical Conference" scientific society, which began operating in 1921, there was a need to carry out special research work in the city of Bukhara. It should be noted that the regional studies conducted by Muso Saidjanov were aimed at studying the city not from an archaeological point of view, but mainly from a historical topographic point of view, which is one of the distinctive features of his scientific approach. Therefore, although he recognized Bukhara as an ancient city, he left open the question of when exactly it was founded. Another important point is that at that time, issues related to the antiquity of cities had not yet acquired sufficient scientific and social importance, and the main attention of researchers was focused on studying the city as it existed, preserving its medieval appearance and the historical and cultural monuments that had survived in harmony with this appearance.

Musa Saidjanov paid special attention to the lack of accurate information in ancient Greek sources about the existence of the city of Bukhara during the conquest of Turkestan by Alexander the Great, and therefore did not allow groundless and futile attempts to artificially ancientize the history of the city. It is worth noting that the authors of historical studies published during the years of independence, in particular, A. Muhammadjanov and A. Sagdullaev, also put forward conclusions in their works that correspond to this scientific opinion expressed by Musa Saidjanov in the 1920s.

Also, Musa Saidjanov, cautiously refraining from drawing a firm and unanimous conclusion on the existence or non-existence of the city of Bukhara during the campaigns of

Alexander the Great, notes that the commander moved towards the middle and lower reaches of the Zarafshan basin, and also, according to some legends, he went not to Balkh, but to the city of Boykent.

In studying the history of the emergence of the Bukhara Arch and the city, the main attention is naturally paid to Narshahi's work "History of Bukhara", which is accepted as the only and most important source in this matter. Narshahi's opinion, in particular, that he considers Baykent to be more ancient than Bukhara, is undoubtedly accepted. At the same time, it is emphasized that the works "History of Bukhara" by Khoja Gunjar and "Sahih Bukhari" by Imam Bukhari are not as important in this matter as Narshahi's. As a result of the analysis of primary sources, especially Narshahi's work "History of Bukhara", a firm conclusion is drawn that the city of Bukhara was formed during the period of the Turkic Khaganate, that is, in the 6th-7th centuries. It is also emphasized that the geographical division of Bukhara was preserved even during the Arab conquests, and this situation continued until the Samanid era. As established by Musa Saidjanov, the middle and lower Zarafshan were under the control of the Turkic Khaganate, and Bukhara served as the center of this administrative unit.

Although there is also a legend about the emergence of the Bukhara Arch associated with Siyavush, it is worth noting that it was not presented in Narshahi's work without changes, but rather was taken from Abu-l-Hasan Nishapuri's work "Khazayin ul-Ulum" and was included in Narshahi's text by translators.

Musa Saidjanov probably pays special attention to this issue. The legend that the Bukhara Arch was built by Siyavush is firmly established in the historical and literary literature of the Middle East and had a certain political significance in its time. Part of the idea of recognizing Bukhara as part of the Persian-speaking territories or recognizing its belonging to them, as a result of which the city was founded by the kings of Iran. At the same time, Musa Saidjanov refused to comment on this legend, citing it directly and attributing its origin to the work of Narshahi. Despite the fact that Abu-l-Hasan Nishapuri never visited Bukhara, the citation of this legend is of particular importance. Among the services of the scientist Musa Saidjanov in the field of Bukhara regional studies, the practical study of the Bukhara city is of particular importance, which is an important part of his scientific heritage. Unlike the studies conducted by Lerkh, Fenin, and Parfenov on the cartographic study of the city, Muso Saidjanov carried out topographic studies precisely in the direction of regional studies. Unlike the cartographers mentioned above, he directly studied the city center, not the total area of 500 hectares of Bukhara, but the city center, which is 18-22 hectares. It is worth recognizing him as the first researcher who personally walked around Bukhara city, determined its width and area by counting the sarjin, and conducted his research mainly through the data of foundation documents. The scientist called his research, which he completed based on his observations, "The territory, distance and gates of the city". It is known that Muso Saidjanov was famous in scientific circles as a connoisseur of oriental manuscripts. Based on this knowledge, while studying the historical topography of Bukhara, he paid special attention to the data of numerous foundation documents. This is not without reason, because according to the tradition of drawing up documents, the territory and boundaries of the object converted into a waqf are clearly marked in them. Although the information provided in the waqf documents regarding the territory of the shahristan is considered primary, Muso Saidjanov approaches them critically, identifies inconsistencies and clarifies the information. The scientist studied the Bukhara shahristan at two main elevations. The first is the eastern part of the Bukhara Ark, and the second is the hill in the eastern-southern direction. The southeastern part is known as the Navmijkat region mentioned by Narshahi. Muso Saidjanov studied both parts as a single shahristan, and determined the period of its formation as belonging to the VI-VII centuries AD

Musa Saidjanov, who showed special interest in the irrigation system of Bukhara city, notes that, taking into account the conditions of insufficient water, the city was supplied with water through two reservoirs - Hawzi Qazikalon in the north and Hawzi Khojakalon in the east.

It is noted that the first of these reservoirs is located 5 meters above the ground, and the second is 4-5 meters deep.

The research conducted by Musa Saidjanov in determining the northern, eastern, southern and western borders of the city is of great importance to this day. The width of the city territory determined by him in the unit of length measurement of the sarjin was also confirmed by subsequent research. The monuments and objects located along the northern border of the city show that Musa Saidjanov's ideas are worthy of attention. In particular, the localization of the Qataghon Mosque, Chop Bazaar, Khoja Abdullo Kabir, Khoja Auliyai Gharib, Shah Akhsi tombs and Shah Akhsi Khanaqos in this area is of great importance in studying the historical topography of the city of Bukhara. Muso Saidjanov determines the length of the northern part of the city as 315 sarjins and considers Shah Akhsi Khanaqos to be located within the city.

Examination and observations show that Muso Saidjanov's information is accurate and reliable. When walking east from the street to the left of Shah Akhsi Khanaqos, the ground becomes lower and after a certain distance the wooden buildings and narrow streets of the old city end, and modern areas begin. The scientist walked through these areas on foot and personally mastered the information based on observations.

According to the scientist Musa Saidjanov, the eastern part of the shahristan is the area between the Shah Akhsi Khanaqo and the Abdulla Nazar Mufti Madrasah in the Poyi Astana guzar. The madrasah was located in the outer southeastern corner of the shahristan and was not part of the territory of the shahristan; it was demolished during the Soviet era and does not exist now. Before its demolition, it stood on the left side of the Khanaqo in front of the Nadr Devanbegi pond. The length of the eastern part of the shahristan was approximately 100 sarjins. The localization of the southern part of the shahristan is given clearly and clearly in the research of Musa Saidjanov, and such accuracy enriches the idea of the region. According to it, the southern part starts from the north side of the currently existing Poyi Astana Mosque, extends to the southwest and passes through the middle of the Kemukhtagaron and Bozori Gul guzars and passes through the north of Hammomi Misgaron (now Hammomi Kord). In this case, Hammomi Kord remains outside the city and then includes the distance of 30 sarjins (62 m) to the Sharifjan (Kazikhana) guzari mosque. The total length of this area is 285 sarjins.

The topography of the areas noted by Musa Saidjanov has been confirmed by modern research. For example, the areas he mentioned are still preserved. For example, the northern parts of Toqi Telpakfurushan, including Zabuda Mosque, the modern "Asia" Hotel, which stands on the outer southern border of the city, are located in the historical and ethnographic area of

Bukhara. Also, Bukhara Qazikaloni Court and mosques in its northern and western parts have been preserved to this day and are under state protection as architectural monuments.

The western part of the city, as Musa Saidjanov noted, starts from the western part of the Great Mosque and extends to the Emir's Prison and is 270 sarjin long. Hammoumi Kunjak, the rear part of the Great Mosque dome, the city market and the Takbandbafon Mosque are currently located in this area. In general, the circumference of the county is 1050 square meters, that is, approximately 2 km.

The data obtained as a result of in-depth study of the historical topography of the county helped the scientist to determine the areas where the gates of the county are located. In this process, Musa Saidjonov mainly referred to Narshakhi's book "History of Bukhara".

While providing information about the seven gates of the county, Musa Saidjonov paid attention to the transformation of the names of the gates and identified the differences between the names recorded in the foundation documents and the names written by Narshahi. For example, "Bazar Gate" was once called "Attaron Gate", and it is noted in the endowment records that it was mentioned as "Dari Ahanin". So, in the 16th century foundation documents, the place of the "Dari Ahanin" gate, although the gate itself has not been preserved, exists as a toponym and is used among the people and in official documents.

According to the endowment documents in the hands of Musa Saidjonov, Abdullah Khan dedicates "Chahorsuk Ahanin", i.e. the current Toki Telpakfurushon shopping complex, to the madrasa he built. Based on this point of view, the scientist came to the conclusion that "Dari Ahanin" is located in the north of Toki Telpakfurushon and on one of the roads leading to Toki Zargaran. It should be noted that there is now a modern hotel in this area, and probably "Iron Gate" was there.

In determining the location of the Shahrstan Gate, Muso Saidjanov refers to Narshahi's work "History of Bukhara" and carefully studies the author's information. Comparing the information written by Narshahi about this gate with the information in the endowment documents, it is assumed that the gate is located in a place called "Water Gate" in the east of the sharistan. In addition, it can be determined by the current dislocation of the streets of Bukhara. For example, it is located in the western part of the intersection on the road from Poyi Astana guzar to the Samarkand Gate of the city.

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