



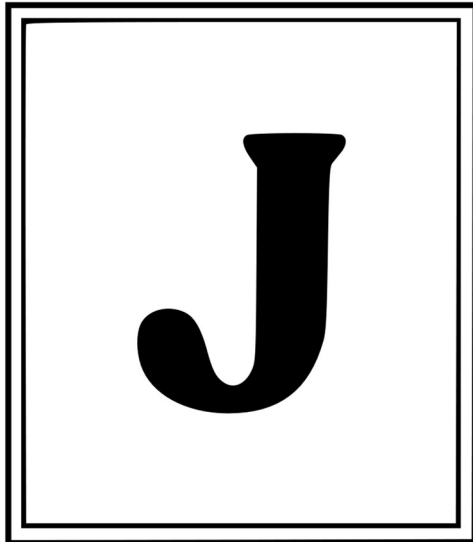
JOURNAL OF CONTEMPORARY WORLD STUDIES

VOLUME | 3 ISSUE | 7 DECEMBER 2025



AN ACADEMIC PLATFORM FOR IN-DEPTH
ANALYSIS OF THE CONTEMPORARY WORLD

VOLUME | 3 ISSUE | 7 | DECEMBER | 2025



JCWS

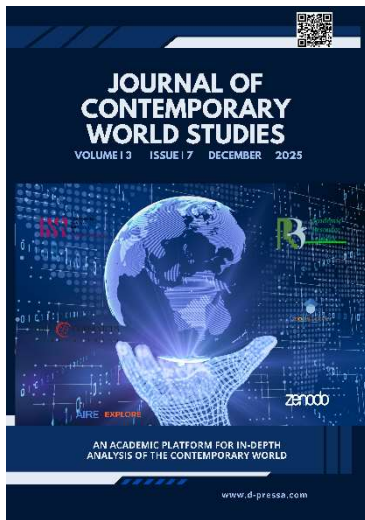
THE ANCIENT CIVILIZATIONS ON THE TERRITORY OF UZBEKISTAN

¹ Gaybullayeva Zilola, ² Bosimqulova Shohista Baxrom qizi

¹ Teacher of the Jizzakh branch of the National University of Uzbekistan named after Mirzo Ulugbek

² Student of the Jizzakh branch of the National University of Uzbekistan named after Mirzo Ulugbek

e-mail: bosimqulovash@gmail.com



Accepted Date:

December 15, 2025,

Published Date:

December 25, 2025

Journal Website: <https://d-pressa.com/index.php/jcws/>

License



This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives 4.0 International License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/).

ANNOTATION:

The territory of Uzbekistan is considered one of the most ancient centers of human civilization. According to archaeological discoveries and written sources, traces of human presence in this region date back to the Paleolithic period (1–1.5 million years ago). This is confirmed by monuments found in the Selengur, Kulbulok, and Teshiktosh caves. During the Neolithic period (6th–4th millennia BCE), sedentary life and agriculture began to develop, and in the Bronze Age (3rd–1st millennia BCE), the first urban cultures were formed. At the beginning of the 1st millennium BCE, the first state formations emerged on the territory of Uzbekistan: Ancient Bactria (southern regions, including Surkhandarya and Kashkadarya), Sogdiana (the Zarafshan Valley, around Samarkand and Bukhara), and Khorezm (the lower reaches of the Amu Darya).

KEYWORDS:

Ancient civilizations, territory of Uzbekistan, Bactria, Sogdiana, Khorezm, Fergana Valley, archaeological sites, urban development, irrigation systems, Great Silk Road.

Introduction

The territory of modern Uzbekistan has been one of the earliest and most important centers of human civilization in Central Asia. Due to its favorable geographical location, fertile river valleys, and rich natural resources, this region attracted human settlement from prehistoric times. Situated between the Amu Darya and Syr Darya rivers, Uzbekistan became a crossroads of cultures, civilizations, and trade routes that connected the East and the West. As a result, the region played a significant role in the formation and development of ancient civilizations whose influence extended far beyond Central Asia. From the Bronze Age onward, complex societies emerged in the lands of ancient Bactria, Sogdiana, Khorezm, and the Fergana Valley. These civilizations developed advanced systems of agriculture based on irrigation, established early urban centers, and created distinctive cultural and religious traditions. Archaeological discoveries such as ancient cities, fortresses, temples, and burial sites provide clear evidence of a high level of social organization, craftsmanship, and economic activity. The presence of early writing systems, coinage, and monumental architecture further demonstrates the advanced nature of these ancient societies. The strategic position of Uzbekistan along the routes that later became known as the Great Silk Road played a crucial role in the region's historical development. Through active trade and cultural exchange, local civilizations interacted with Persia, India, China, and the Mediterranean world. These interactions facilitated the spread of technologies, religious ideas, artistic styles, and scientific knowledge, enriching both local cultures and global civilization. Consequently, the ancient civilizations of Uzbekistan cannot be studied in isolation but must be understood within the broader

context of world history. This article aims to examine the ancient civilizations that flourished on the territory of Uzbekistan by analyzing their political structures, economic foundations, and cultural achievements. Special attention is given to the role of environmental conditions, irrigation systems, and trade networks in shaping early societies. By synthesizing archaeological evidence and historical sources, the study seeks to highlight the significance of Uzbekistan's ancient civilizations and their lasting contribution to human civilization. Understanding this heritage is essential for appreciating the deep historical roots of the region and its enduring place in the history of world civilization.

The main part

1. Early Human Settlement and the Formation of Ancient Societies
Archaeological evidence confirms that the territory of modern Uzbekistan was inhabited by humans from the Paleolithic period. Sites such as Selungur Cave and Teshik-Tash provide valuable information about early human activity, including hunting, tool-making, and social organization. Over time, the transition from nomadic lifestyles to settled agricultural communities marked a crucial stage in the development of early societies. The availability of water resources from the Amu Darya and Syr Darya rivers enabled the establishment of stable settlements and laid the foundation for the emergence of complex civilizations. During the Bronze Age, agricultural productivity increased due to the development of irrigation systems and improved farming techniques. This period witnessed the growth of social stratification, specialization of labor, and the formation of early political institutions. These developments created the conditions necessary for the rise of advanced civilizations in the region.

2. **Bactria: A Center of Early Civilization** Ancient Bactria, located in the southern regions of modern Uzbekistan, was one of the most developed civilizations of Central Asia. Known for its fertile lands and strategic position, Bactria became an important economic and cultural center. The population engaged in agriculture, animal husbandry, and trade, while cities such as ancient Bactra served as administrative and commercial hubs. Archaeological findings, including fortified settlements, palaces, and religious structures, demonstrate a high level of architectural and artistic achievement. Bactria also played a significant role in regional and international trade, connecting Central Asia with South Asia and the Near East. Its cultural heritage reflects a synthesis of local traditions and external influences.

3. **Sogdiana and the Development of Trade and Urban Culture** Sogdiana, located in the central part of Uzbekistan, was renowned for its highly developed urban culture and active trade networks. Cities such as Samarkand and Bukhara emerged as major centers of commerce, craftsmanship, and cultural exchange. The Sogdians were skilled merchants who played a key role in facilitating long-distance trade along the Silk Road. The prosperity of Sogdiana was supported by advanced irrigation systems and fertile agricultural lands. The region also developed a rich cultural life, including distinctive art, religious practices, and written language. Sogdian merchants contributed significantly to the spread of goods, ideas, and technologies across Eurasia.

4. **Khorezm: Statehood and Irrigation Civilization** Khorezm, located in the lower reaches of the Amu Darya, represents a unique example of an ancient irrigation-based civilization. Due to the challenging natural environment, the inhabitants of Khorezm developed complex

canal systems to control water resources. This achievement allowed for the growth of agriculture and the emergence of a strong centralized state. Archaeological monuments such as Toprak-Kala and Ayaz-Kala reflect the political power and cultural sophistication of Khorezmian society. The region developed its own writing system, religious beliefs, and administrative institutions. Khorezm's relative independence and stability enabled it to preserve its cultural identity over long historical periods.

5. **The Fergana Valley: Agriculture and Craft Production** The Fergana Valley was another important center of ancient civilization due to its fertile soils and favorable climate. The population of the valley engaged in intensive agriculture, producing grain, fruits, and vegetables. The region also became famous for its craft production, including metallurgy, pottery, and textile manufacturing. Historical sources mention Fergana's high-quality horses, which were highly valued in ancient times. Trade relations with neighboring regions contributed to economic prosperity and cultural exchange. The Fergana Valley played an important role in the overall development of ancient civilizations on the territory of Uzbekistan.

6. **The Role of the Great Silk Road** The Great Silk Road was a key factor in the development of ancient civilizations in Uzbekistan. Passing through major cities such as Samarkand, Bukhara, and Tashkent, the trade routes facilitated the exchange of goods, ideas, religions, and technologies. This interaction contributed to cultural diversity and economic growth. Through the Silk Road, ancient civilizations of Uzbekistan became integrated into a broader global network. The region served not only as a transit zone but also as an active participant in shaping intercultural

dialogue and mutual influence between East and West.

7. Cultural and Spiritual Life of Ancient Civilizations Ancient civilizations in Uzbekistan developed rich cultural and spiritual traditions. Religious beliefs included Zoroastrianism, local cults, and later Buddhism in certain regions. Artistic expression was reflected in wall paintings, sculptures, and decorative arts. Education, early scientific knowledge, and philosophical ideas were closely linked to religious and social institutions. These cultural achievements formed the spiritual foundation of later civilizations and significantly influenced the historical development of Central Asia.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the ancient civilizations that emerged on the territory of modern Uzbekistan represent a fundamental stage in the development of human society and world civilization. Favorable natural conditions, particularly the presence of major river systems such as the Amu Darya and Syr Darya, created the basis for early agricultural practices and the formation of permanent settlements. Over time, these conditions enabled the rise of complex societies characterized by advanced irrigation systems, urban development, and organized political structures. Civilizations such as Bactria, Sogdiana, Khorezm, and those of the Fergana Valley demonstrated a high level of economic, social, and cultural development. Their achievements in agriculture, craftsmanship, architecture, and state administration reflect a deep understanding of environmental management and social organization. The establishment of cities and fortified centers indicates the emergence of early forms of statehood and legal order, while archaeological evidence confirms the existence of rich material and spiritual cultures. The strategic location of

Uzbekistan along the routes of the Great Silk Road played a decisive role in shaping the historical destiny of the region. Through active participation in long-distance trade, the ancient civilizations of Uzbekistan became important intermediaries between the civilizations of East and West. This interaction facilitated not only economic prosperity but also the exchange of scientific knowledge, religious beliefs, artistic traditions, and technological innovations, contributing significantly to the progress of world civilization. Equally important is the cultural and spiritual heritage of these ancient societies. Religious systems such as Zoroastrianism and Buddhism, along with local beliefs and traditions, formed complex worldviews that influenced ethical norms, social values, and intellectual life. Artistic expressions, including architecture, wall paintings, and applied arts, reflect a high degree of creativity and aesthetic sophistication, many elements of which continue to influence the cultural identity of the region. Therefore, the study of ancient civilizations on the territory of Uzbekistan is not only essential for understanding the national history of the country but also for appreciating its contribution to global historical processes. These civilizations laid the foundations for later cultural and political developments in Central Asia and played a lasting role in shaping regional and world history. A comprehensive and objective analysis of this heritage allows for a deeper understanding of the continuity of human civilization and highlights Uzbekistan's enduring significance as one of the cradles of ancient culture and civilization.

REFERENCES

1. Abdullaev, O. Ancient Bactria and the History of Central Asia. Tashkent: Fan Publishing House, 2002.

2. Karimov, I. Historical and Cultural Heritage of Uzbekistan. Tashkent: National University Press, 2005.
3. Цой М. П. ЦИФРОВИЗАЦИЯ ОБРАЗОВАНИЯ–ТЕОРИЯ И ПРАКТИКА УЗБЕКИСТАНА //Аббасов ББ тарих фанлари бўйича фалсафа доктори Наманган Муҳандислик-Қурилиш институти АРХИВ МАНБАЛАРИДА ФАРҒОНА ВОДИЙСИ ШАҲАРЛАРИНИНГ ТАРИХИНИ ЁРИТИЛИШИ. – 2023. – С. 104.
4. Dostonbek K. SPIRITUAL AND MORAL ENVIRONMENT OF SOCIETY //Social science and innovation. – 2023. – Т. 1. – №. 2. – С. 128-133.
5. Цой М. П., Эшонкулов Т., Касимова Д. П. Реформы в сфере образования Республики Узбекистан //Гуманитарные науки в XXI веке. – 2014. – №. 18. – С. 210-213.
6. Akramov, B. Archaeological Monuments of Ancient Khorezm. Tashkent: Sharq Publishing House, 2001.
7. Rakhimov, N. Sogdiana: Urban Development and Trade in Ancient Central Asia. Tashkent: Fan Publishing House, 2004.
8. Yuldashev, A. Fergana Valley in Antiquity: Agriculture, Craft, and Trade. Tashkent: University Press, 2003.
9. Kamolov D. GLOBALIZATION PHENOMENON AND GLOBALISM //Journal of Contemporary World Studies. – 2023. – Т. 1. – №. 1. – С. 4-9.
10. Mirzaev, S. The Great Silk Road and its Impact on Ancient Civilizations of Uzbekistan. Tashkent: Sharq Publishing House, 2006.
11. Tashpulatov, R. Irrigation Systems and Early Statehood in Ancient Uzbekistan. Tashkent: Fan Publishing House, 2000.
12. Kamolov D. ON THE WAY TO THE DIGITAL EDUCATION SYSTEM OF UZBEKISTAN. – 2023.
13. Hasanov, U. Cultural and Religious Traditions of Ancient Civilizations in Uzbekistan. Tashkent: National Academy of Sciences, 2007.
14. Абдуназаров С. А., Цой М. П. Реформирование системы образования Республики Узбекистан //Актуальные научные исследования в современном мире. – 2016. – №. 10-6. – С. 14-17.
15. Джураев Р. Х., Цой М. П. Подходы и принципы проектирования педагогических программных продуктов //Образование через всю жизнь: непрерывное образование в интересах устойчивого развития. – 2015. – Т. 2. – №. 13. – С. 144-146.
16. Цой М. П. СОВЕРШЕНСТВОВАНИЕ СИСТЕМЫ ОБРАЗОВАНИЯ В РЕСПУБЛИКЕ УЗБЕКИСТАН //Образование через всю жизнь: непрерывное образование в интересах устойчивого развития. – 2016. – С. 247-250.
17. Saitov S. et al. ZAMONAVIY FILOLOGIYA FANLARIDAGI DOLZARB MASALALAR //Scientific practical conference. – 2025. – Т. 1. – №. 1. – С. 419-422.