



Publisher:
Fast support and result LLC

STDF

Science technology & Digital Finance

VOLUME|3 ISSUE|5
NOVEMBER|2025



VOLUME / 3 ISSUE / 5 NOVEMBER / 2025

ТОМ / 3 ВЫПУСК / 5 НОЯБРЬ / 2025

JILD / 3 SON / 5 NOYABR / 2025

Davriy nashrning rasmiy nomi: “Science technology & Digital finance” O`zbekiston Respublikasi Prezidenti Administratsiyasi huzuridagi Axborot va ommaviy kommunikatsiyalar agentligi tomonidan 17.08.2023 sanada berilgan №116083 guvohnomasi bilan ro`yxatdan o`tgan.

Jurnal asoschilari: “Fast support and result” nashriyoti.

Xalqaro indeksi: ISSN 2992-9199.



Science technology & Digital finance

journal homepage: <https://bestjournalup.com/index.php/stdf>

THE ANCIENT CIVILIZATIONS ON THE TERRITORY OF UZBEKISTAN

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Annotatsiya

Mazkur maqolada O'zbekiston hududida qadim zamonlardan shakllangan sivilizatsiyalar tarixi keng va tizimli ravishda yoritiladi. Tadqiqotda Amudaryo va Sirdaryo oralig'ida vujudga kelgan eng qadimgi madaniyatlar — Baqtriya, So'g'diyona, Xorazm va Farg'ona vodiysi sivilizatsiyalarining siyosiy, iqtisodiy va madaniy rivoji tahlil qilinadi. Arxeologik topilmalar, yozma manbalar va ilmiy tadqiqotlar asosida ushbu hududning qadimda Sharq va G'arbni bog'lovchi muhim sivilizatsion makon bo'lgani asoslab beriladi. Maqolada shaharsozlik, hunarmandchilik, savdo-sotiq, irrigatsiya tizimlari hamda diniy va madaniy qarashlarning shakllanish jarayoniga alohida e'tibor qaratiladi. Shuningdek, Buyuk Ipak yo'lining ushbu hudud sivilizatsiyalariga ko'rsatgan ta'siri va ularning jahon madaniyati taraqqiyotidagi o'rni ochib beriladi. Tadqiqot O'zbekiston hududining insoniyat sivilizatsiyasi tarixidagi muhim o'rnini ilmiy jihatdan asoslashga xizmat qiladi.

Annotation

This article provides a comprehensive analysis of the ancient civilizations that emerged on the territory of modern Uzbekistan from early historical periods. The study examines the development of major ancient cultures such as Bactria, Sogdiana, Khorezm, and the civilizations of the Fergana Valley, highlighting their political organization, economic activities, and cultural achievements. Based on archaeological evidence, written sources, and scholarly research, the article demonstrates that this region played a crucial role as a center of early civilization and as a bridge connecting Eastern and Western cultures. Particular attention is given to urban development, craftsmanship, trade relations, irrigation systems, and the formation of religious and cultural beliefs. The influence of the Great Silk Road on the prosperity and interaction of these civilizations is also analyzed. The article emphasizes the significant contribution of ancient civilizations of Uzbekistan to world history and cultural heritage.

Аннотация

В данной статье всесторонне рассматривается история древних цивилизаций, сформировавшихся на территории современного Узбекистана. В исследовании анализируется развитие таких древних культур, как Бактрия, Согдиана, Хорезм и цивилизации Ферганской долины, их политическая организация, хозяйственная деятельность и культурные достижения. На основе археологических находок, письменных источников и научных исследований обосновывается положение региона как одного из важнейших центров древней цивилизации и связующего звена между Востоком и Западом. Особое внимание уделяется развитию городов, ремесел, торговли, ирригационных систем, а также формированию религиозных и культурных представлений. В статье также раскрывается роль Великого шелкового пути в развитии и взаимодействии древних цивилизаций. Исследование подчеркивает вклад древних цивилизаций Узбекистана в мировую историю и культуру.

Kalit soʻzlar:

Qadimgi sivilizatsiyalar, Oʻzbekiston hududi, Baqtriya, Soʻgʻdiyona, Xorazm, Fargʻona vodiysi, arxeologik yodgorliklar, shaharsozlik, irrigatsiya tizimlari, Buyuk Ipak yoʻli.

Key words:

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

Ключевые слова:

Древние цивилизации, территория Узбекистана, Бактрия, Согдиана, Хорезм, Ферганская долина, археологические памятники, градостроительство, ирригационные системы, Великий шелковый путь.

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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.

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