



The Role of the Works of Greek Historians in the Study of the Ancient History of the Peoples of Central Asia

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Abstract: In the study of the ancient history of the peoples of Central Asia, the manuscripts of Western scholars, especially the manuscripts and works of Greek and Roman scholars, are of great importance for us in illuminating the ancient history of the peoples of Central Asia. In this article, the Greek historian and the essence of the works written by scientists about Central Asia is analytically described.

Keywords: Geradod, Strabo, Athens, Greece, Greece, Central Asia, Oxus, Alexander, Shiroq, Spitamenes, Tomaris, Yaxart, Hyrkonia, Ptolemy, Sogdiana, Bactria, Poliene.

Introduction

The great Greek scientist and historian Herodotus was born in 484 BC in Halicarnassus, Asia Minor. The city of Halicarnassus was a convenient port city that connected the cities of Asia Minor and Greece, where trade was widely developed. Herodotus describes the Caucasus mountains in his works. In particular, it provides valuable information about the Caspian Sea and its shores, the life of the people living on this shore. The Araks River joins the Caspian Sea, says the historian. Aeschylus in his tragedy "Prometheus in Chains" talks about the Caucasus Mountains and the Caspian Sea, calling these places "the Hecataean Miletus". According to Herodotus, nomadic massagets live along the Caspian. Massagets eat fish, poultry and dairy foods. The people of this land were very militant. It is said that Herodotus, who was unable to subjugate them even the Iranian horn, Herodotus, provides historically important information about Central Asia. The presence of several governorates here indicates that they are all dependent on the great Iranian state. These governorates are called anik. Including Bactria, Hyrcania, Caspian, Sogdians, Sakas, Khorezmians and Aryans. Aryans are peoples located in the western part of Afghanistan. At that time, the capital of Bactria was the city of Balkh, and the Caspian governorship included tribes located in the southwestern part of Turkmenistan. The Khorezmians were located in Khorezm, the Sogds were located along the banks of Polydamet (Zarafshan), and the Sakas were located in the western foothills of the Tian Shan mountain. Ares River passes between Hyrcania and Khorezm. Long canals are dug from this river and irrigation stations are used effectively in agriculture. After that, Herodotus continues his journey in India. Goes to Punjab. He gathers valuable information about Darius, who came here. In the work of Herodotus, the beautiful nature of India found its wonderful image. In his later works, Herodotus describes the countries of Libya and Egypt in detail. Kush provides valuable information about the history of the country of Ethiopia. After that, it will be in several other large countries dependent on the huge Hellenic state. It describes beautiful cities such as Chios, Teos, Phoksy, Clasomene, Rhodes, Cyprus, Miletus, Phaselis, Halicarnassus and historical events there. Herodotus' literary heritage is very rich. We can also call this literary heritage small novellas or collection of stories.

Literature Analysis and Methodology

Strabo's work "Geography" consisting of seventeen books has its rightful place in world literature. The work contains very rich materials related to antiquity. These materials are especially valuable historically. The work "Geography" has not lost its importance not only for its time, but also for our contemporaries today. Therefore, in this work, we have set ourselves the goal of briefly discussing the image of the ancient times of Central Asia and Strabo's life. is dedicated to the history of peoples. Strabo himself will be in hundreds of countries and thousands of big cities. He explains the history of the peoples he has been to on the basis of what he has seen and known, and he looks for facts about distant countries from specific sources and historical books. Although the name is called "Geography", it should not be understood that the work consists only of the location lines of the nations and peoples of the world from beginning to end. While reading the work, we come across vivid expressions and information that have scientific and artistic value. This work plays a major role in the development of the science of geography. It is also a scholarly study that sheds light on the history of ancient literature. Because the poets and tragedians who created in the ancient world devoted many pages of their work to the topic of literature and were able to express valuable thoughts about the unique nature of literature. The important thing is that Strabo does not simply mention the poets who were his predecessors, he dwells on their works, quotes large fragments of their works and expresses his attitude to them. [2: p. 512] In the book O The past of the Saka, Sogd, Scythian, and Massaget tribes living in Central Asia is noted separately. Books XII-XIII-XIV cover the history of Asia Minor. We also get valuable information about the countries of Iran and India from the XV book. Book XVI contains stories from the countries of East Asia, Assyria, Babylonia, Mesopotamia, Syria, Phoenicia, Arab countries. The XVII book is dedicated to the lands of Egypt, Ethiopia, and Libya. When Strabo dwells on the life of the Massagetae living in the eastern part of the Caspian Sea, he notes that the previous historians wrote almost nothing about these tribes. They say that what is written is too little or does not provide enough accurate information. Another Greek historian, Apollodorus, called his work "History of Perfume". Strabo read the work of this historian. Because, when describing the life path of Strabo, we noted that he carefully studied the facts about Central Asia. He even relied on some exaggerated or unreliable sources. But he did not include the facts that caused the slightest doubt in his work. In this respect, he has great faith and respect for the work of Aristobulus, who came to Central Asia. Because Ptolemy was Alexander's closest person and trusted commander. In his diary, he praised Alexander-Macedonsky too much. That's why he used to add extra words to some of the events described in his diaries in order to win Alexander the Great's trust. The Tanais River separates Asia from Europe. A large part of Asia lies between the Tanais River and the Hyrcanian Sea, and these areas were not occupied by the Macedonians. In order to show themselves off, the writers used a clever misconception that this part of Asia was conquered by Alexander. According to the above comments of Strabo, it is known that the Macedonians did not go to the banks of the Tanais River. The famous scientist Bobojon Gofurov confirms the facts that the Macedonian king Alexander did not go to the banks of the Tanais river. Many rivers such as Ox and Oks flow from the Indus mountain. Yaksart is the northernmost of these rivers and flows into the Caspian Sea. In fact, many history books confuse the river Yaxart with the river Tanaid. However, Sir and Don are separated by a long distance. As Strabo noted, if the Tanaid River flows from European lands, it crosses Asia. However, Strabo says that the Yaxarti empties into the Caspian Sea. It is possible that the Aral Sea was connected to the Caspian in those times. or there may be a very short distance between the two seas. In any case, Strabo is not quite right to say that the Yaksarti is poured into the Caspian Sea. For us, Strabo's service is characterized by the fact that he clarified many abstract facts. For example, it is important to separate Yaxart and Tanaid from each other. Because the events that took place near Yaksart are very important for scientists. Many studies confuse the events that took place between these two rivers. [3: 212-215 b]

Discussion and Results

Two books of Arrian's campaign of Alexander: the third and fourth books are devoted to the history of Central Asia. The third book consists of 30 chapters. From the 28th chapter of the third book, a unique picture of the history of Central Asia is given. "Alexander came to the banks of the Ox

River," says the author. In the preceding chapters, Alexander's march to Iran and his victory over Darius the Horn of Iran are told. After defeating the king of Iran, he fled to the Caucasus Mountains. Alexander keeps chasing him. The chase lasts for several days. Darius wants to hide in the Caucasus mountains. However, despite being the closest person to the king of Iran, Bess killed Darius, took his wealth and fled to Central Asia. When Alexander found Darius dead and ordered him to be buried with honor according to the Eastern custom, he himself followed in the footsteps of Bess. and named it Alexandria. The Ox River is the ancient name of the current Amudarya. This river was one of the largest rivers in Asia, excluding the Indian rivers. Alexander tries to cross the Ox River. However, the river was very wide, it was impossible to cross it. The width of the river is 6 stadia (1 stadia corresponds to 184 meters, 98 centimeters in Greek measurement). At the same time, the river was quite deep. In order to build a convenient bridge over this river, it was necessary to bring wood from far away. It took a long time to build a bridge over the river. Therefore, Alexander ordered to make a boat-like waterproof device from leather. The skins are sewn with the dry stems of plants (the author does not mention the name of such a plant. It is probably a reed. Because reeds grow on the banks of the river). Thus, Alexander's troops crossed the river Ox (Amu) for five days. Alexander also gives permission to the Thessalians who want to leave their troops and go to their country. If we pay attention to the episodes related to these events, Alexander initially intended to easily conquer Central Asia without fighting. After crossing the Oks river, Alexander rushes towards Sogdiya - now Uzbekistan. Because here the news is spreading that Bess is gathering forces against Alexander with a large army. At that time, a messenger came to Alexander from Spitamenes and Detaphernes and told him that if he would send a small detachment, he would capture Bessus. After hearing the news, Alexander sent Ptolemy, son of Laga, to the detachment with Spitamenes to Datafernes. This detachment consisted of very well-armed, well-trained warriors. Bess, who was the governor of Bactria and Sogdiya, was actually from the Ahmani dynasty. [12: p. 78] After killing Darius III, he declared himself king. Ahmonites and Sogdians decide to capture Bess. Ptolemy traveled 10 days in four days and arrived near the camp where Spitamenes spent the night. Ordering the infantry to continue marching, he and the cavalry approached the village where Bess was located. Knowing that Spitamenes would capture Bess from the enemy with his own hands, he showed Ptolemy the fortress where Bess was located and went to the interior of Sogdiana. Ptolemy surrounds the fortress where Bess is located (it is surrounded by a wall and has a special gate), and promises its guards not to touch Bess if they are captured. [4: p. 174]. After that, the gate of the fortress will be opened. They captured Bess peacefully and returned to Alexander. Alexander hates Bess, who betrayed his king Darius. That is why he orders Ptolemy to "undress Bess and tie her on the right side of the street. Alexander's entire army marches past Bess, who is shamefully naked." It is clear from this episode that an important issue is being pointed out by Alexander's embarrassing Bess and showing it to the neighbor. First of all, he wants to say that anyone who steps on the path of treason will be punished with a shameful death, and secondly, he is teaching his soldiers a great lesson. It is known that in earlier times, the king of Iran, Cyrus, and then Darius, often attacked Central Asia and conquered the scattered tribes there. It tries to show the historical truth without coloring it. In earlier episodes, incl. In the images of the battle with the Iranian king Darius, the writer remains in this position. Sogdians have a strong hatred towards Darius. Because before the war with the Makedons, he had conquered the lands of Sogdiana, demanded our wealth, and enslaved our people. Thousands of Sogdians took part in the bloody battles between Iranians and Macedonians, and many of them were killed. Darius is bloodthirsty, Darius is evil, Darius is a king who is greedy for wealth and wealth. But he was not a traitor. It has been fighting against the plague that invaded Asia for several years. In the play, even though Darius is a king, he remains loyal to his homeland. Even when Alexander made big promises several times and offered to surrender, Darius did not give up. The war between the Greeks and the Iranians will continue for a long time. [11: p. 41] Even when Darius' mother, wife, son and daughter were captured by Alexander, Darius does not want to kneel to the enemy. He does not want to betray his country. He does not back down from his plan to fight the enemy. Arrian could have hated and insulted Darius at this point. However, the writer always tried to approach the event realistically. In turn, the writer reveals Alexander's character in vivid colors. Conquest was in Alexander's blood. The whole life of his father, Philip II, was spent in battles. The writer portrays Alexandria as a conqueror, and at the same time, a knight and a brave general. He will not harm Darius' mother, wife

and children. He finds it necessary to entrust his son to the hands of the most knowledgeable and wise people and teach him a lesson. Many close people offer Alexander to marry the daughter of Darius. But Alexander rejects their proposals [5: 75-b]. « Polyene's work, which includes the fighting skills of ancient warlords and heroes, is a work that should be known not only by military people, but also by all categories of people from the point of view of history. Only the commander who defeats the enemy not only by the force of arms, but by his far-seeing thoughts, is considered to have mastered the highest level of military art," says the translator Dimitry Pappadopoulo in the beginning of the Russian text of the work. The translator continues his thoughts and says: "The short-sighted generals suffered a lot, while the sharp-minded generals benefited as much. [10: p. 63] The formation of the army led by experienced and far-seeing commanders confused the enemy. One reasonable idea of a general, that his military entrepreneurship can lead to victory over the enemy, to destroy a powerful fleet, to overcome insurmountable obstacles, to conquer several provinces. There is a lot of history of nations to prove this fact. Plab examples can be cited. If it were not for dedicated writers who collected testaments, not even a twentieth part of them would have reached our generation. Poliene's work occupies a particularly high place in the treasury of world culture. The historical and artistic value of his works is still It has not been deeply studied by researchers. There are also no sources related to his life that have been restored. A rare work consisting of eight books known as "Military Tactics" (Strategemy") introduced the name of Poliene to the world. [6: 32-p.] Uzbek The story of Shiroq, known as a legend in folklore, has reached us through the work of Poliene, and there are many stories about Darius' march to the land of the Scythians. Almost all of them tell the story of Darius' defeat of the Scythians. In "Shiroq" ("Sirak") cited by Polyenus, it is described that Darius's troops were defeated by the Scythians, while in the story "Darius' march to the land of the Scythians" in Herodotus, Darius himself directly participates in the battle with the Scythians. The Scythians were very good at shooting arrows on horseback, and they were mainly engaged in cattle breeding. The endless plains were very rich in grass. Darius begins to march against them. He sends the chapars first, and then the foot soldiers behind them. Darius's troops, who were chasing after each other, were tired at night and while they were having dinner, the Scythians began to attack from a corner. Scythian cavalry. His troops were always superior to Iranian cavalry. And the pawns are weaker. After this loss, the Scythians sent their representatives to Darius, who was in a difficult situation. [9:28 p.] The representatives brought gifts to Darius. These gifts included a bird, a mouse, a frog and five arrows. Iranians use all their intelligence and try to understand the meaning of the gift sent by the Scythians. It meant: "If you don't turn into a bird and fly to the sky, or hide under the ground like a mouse, or jump through the swamp like a frog, there is no safe return to your homeland for you. You will die from the arrows of this bow." There was no road here. The main part of the army was made up of infantry.[7:30 p.] Iranians were confused about which way to reach the safe bridge of the Istrian river. Cavalry Scythians knew the road well. That's why they reach the bridge before the Iranians. They say to the Ionians guarding the bridge: "Ionians, your last days have come, you stay here and do wrong. Give thanks to the Scythian gods for the safety of your souls, destroy the bridge and immediately return to your country. Let's take revenge on Darius in such a way that he does not set foot in these lands again with the intention of evil." The Ionians begin to consult among themselves. The Athenian Miltiades, who was the ruler and captain of Kherson during the Hellespont period, approved the Scythian proposal. Histiye from Miletus has a slightly different opinion. He says that if the power of Darius is destroyed, no one can control the power anymore. The state is now ruled by the people. Others agree with his opinion. The Ionians consulted among themselves and decided to break the bridge and leave for their own country without the anger of the Scythians. Darius, who arrived that night, panics when he sees the destroyed bridge. Darius ordered an Egyptian with a sharp voice to go along the coast, call Histiaeus from Miletus and order him to come back. As soon as he heard the first sound, Histius, realizing that Darius was safe, returned all the ships and repaired the bridge. [8: p. 56] Thus, Darius returns to his country from the Scythian land. After Darius brought Thrace under his rule, he left Megabizn as the commander of a large army in the country. And in return for his services, he gives the governorship of a province in Thrace to Gistia. Fearing that the power of Histius will exceed, Megabizus asks Darius to recall him to Susa. Darius listens to his advice and calls Histius to Suz. There have been many brave women

like Tomaris, brave boys like Shirok, and true patriots like Spitamen in history. Zafir also used Sirak's entrepreneurship in conquering Babylon.

Conclusion

In conclusion, we can say that although the correctness and accuracy of the works of ancient Greek historians are viewed with doubt, they are of great importance for us in awakening the imagination of the life of that time. They contain information about the march of the Persians and Greek-Macedonian invaders to Central Asia, the heroic struggle of the people of Central Asia against them, as well as information about the historical geography, nature, and rivers of that time.

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