



## About Ancient Bactria in Written Sources

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**Abstract:** In this article, an attempt is made to provide information in written sources about the ancient Bactrian state in the historical past of Uzbekistan, which corresponds to the region between the two rivers of Central Asia.

**Key words:** Ancient Bactria, statehood, archeology, source, lapis lazuli, Achaemenids.

The region of Central Asia is distinguished by its ancient history. Among the ancient states in this region, the history of the Ancient Bactrian state goes back to a long history. The Arabs called a part of this region Movarounnahr - "the land beyond the river"; It was also mentioned in "Avesta", it was also called Turon after the name of the Tur tribe, and from the Middle Ages it was known to the world as Turldston. In ancient China, it was called the Western Land. The main water sources of the region are two big rivers: Amudarya (in ancient times Oks) and Syrdarya (in ancient times Yaksart) flowing into the island. Much smaller rivers - Zarafshan, Kashkadarya, Murgob, Tejen and others also flow in this area. Thanks to this river and the canals and ditches, it was possible to live in a huge area and it was possible to develop a high civilization in the ancient and early Middle Ages. Currently, in this region, as a result of the disintegration of the USSR, there are independent states such as Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and partially Kazakhstan. ", originally meant "prostor" (width) in mscha (for example, "vam-stana" in Indo-European linguistics - a wide space), and then a place (for example, shahriston - a city, a city in the Middle Ages) and country. The historical scope of the book covers the period from the Stone Age to the late Middle Ages. [1] This is not just a strict monograph, but a scientific and popular book, the main source of the political and dynastic history of Uzbekistan. events, including historical geography and cultural history, are presented in a form that can be easily understood by a wide readership. There is no doubt that there is a great need for popular literature, but until now, books on this topic in the world of our father's literature, he was a very small minority. At the same time, the popular scientific nature of this book does not mean that the latest achievements of archeology and history by scientists of our country and abroad have not been taken into account.

The first edition of this book was published in 2005 in 1,000 copies and quickly passed from hand to hand, and they were even rare books (bookinist)It was not easy to find in the store. In the second edition, we have a series we made corrections and also filled it with new material.We believe that our book will help to study the history of Uzbekistan in more depth, for students, the complex past in the historical past of their homeland

It will be a close helper in understanding the process and will be amazing rather, young people who are thirsty for knowledge will become accomplished scientists, historians and archaeologists in the future we hope that our book will serve as a close assistant.

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Bactria - Bactriana - ancient Greek; Baghlika - tall. Hindi; Baktrish - tall. Persian; Bakhdi - Avesta; Bakhlo - Balkh - Bactrian, Persian - Hindiqush (Afghanistan) to the mountains of the Hisar range (Uzbekistan, Tajikistan), historical and cultural regions located along both banks of the Amudarya, initially a small one in the Balkhaba Valley occupied an area that was not the center of the capital is the city of Bactra, which was later called Balkh (Northern Afghanistan). The development of regions by man dates back to the Paleolithic and Neolithic times. At the beginning of the 2nd millennium BC, perhaps much earlier, widespread adoption by sedentary-agricultural tribes (Tashli - Sopollitepa culture) from the Amudarya Plains in the South and North, the Murgob Valley and Southern Turkmenistan. In the valleys of the river, some large and peaceful oases began to form, in which there were a number of fortresses with a strong center. Based on artificial irrigation, high culture characteristic of agriculture, specialized handicrafts such as pottery and iron work begin to develop rapidly. Architecture, construction, and trade were developing widely. Magnificent buildings and palaces (Tashli - 3, Jar-koton) began to rise. In the second half of the 2nd millennium BC, proto-cities began to form in these regions. Much later, perhaps, the first state associations appeared, like the ancient kingdom of Bactria. From the middle of the third quarter of the 6th century BC and until 330 AD, Bactria was part of the Achaemenid Empire based on the right of self-governing. In 329-327 BC

it was conquered by Alexander the Great (Alexander the Great).

done From 306 BC to the middle of the 3rd century BC

the period was subject to the kingdom of the Seleucids. In the middle of the 3rd century BC

On the territory of Bactria, the Greco-Bactrian kingdom arose and lasted for about a hundred years

dominates. During this period, many cities were built in Bactria, under the strong influence of Hellenism, based on local foundations, material and spiritual culture began to rise to a high level. It is one of the greatest monuments of the period. In the second half of the 2nd century BC, Vayuechji (Tohari) tribes began to settle in Bactria from the North and North-East. It is likely that Bactria began to be called Toharistan by this time, this name was first named after one of the tribes that conquered Bactria in 386 AD - the Toharis. In the first half of the 1st century AD, the Kushan kingdom arose in Bactria. In the middle of the 3rd century AD, these places were conquered by the Sassanids. From the middle of the 5th century AD to the second half of the 6th century AD, Bactria - Toharistan - became one of the main centers of the Hephthalite state. Until its subjugation, Tokharistan functioned as a confederation of numerous small feudal holdings under the rule of the Turkic Yabgu.[2] The population of the state consisted of Bactrians who spoke one of the Eastern Iranian languages at the beginning of the 1st millennium BC. Apparently, from the middle of the 1st millennium BC, writings of foreign origin (cuneiform, Aramaic letters) began to appear here, and in the 4th-3rd centuries BC, Greek writing was used. During the reign of the Kushan king Kanishka or his predecessor Kadphiz 11, the Bactrian script was in circulation, which was formed on the basis of Greek and was used in practice until the 8th-9th centuries. In antiquity and the early Middle Ages, other scripts were used in Bactria-Taharistan: Kharoshthka, Brahmi, Pahlavi, Aramaic, Sogdian, and at the same time there were also unknown scripts. In the formation and development of the culture of Bactria and Tokharistan, the advanced civilization of the East and the Hellenistic world have a special place.

After the independence of Uzbekistan, the issue of creating a true and objective history of Uzbekistan was on the cross. Because during the time of the former Union, the history of our country was created one-sidedly, and it was far from historical truths, which made it necessary to change the attitude towards history. The President of Brinchi, Islam Karimov, spoke about the lack of a single scientific concept in the study of the historical past of the Uzbek nation, the history of its statehood, and called on historians to pay more attention to this field. It is emphasized in the work that "self-awareness begins with knowledge of history. This truth, which does not require proof, must be raised to the level of state policy." , only the conclusions that are the fruit of the analysis will show us the

right way". Bakhti, Bakhtrish, Bakhtriyona, Bakhtriya, Bakhli, Bakhlika (in Indian sources) in written sources of various ancient languages is the name of a large country and state. According to scientists, Bactria is a concept related to the name of Bakhdi, Bactra river (now Balkhob)."[3] This state, which began to form at the beginning of the 1st millennium BC, is one of the first states in the territory of Uzbekistan. "The discussion about whether or not there was a kingdom of Bactria before the establishment of the Achaemenid Empire is one of the topical issues of history." [4] Historical sources fully prove the existence of the Ancient Bactrian state. In particular, V. M. Masson imagines the political map of Central Asia before the Achaemenids as follows. "There was a large political union (state) in Bactria, the cultural and political sphere of which extended to the Margians, possibly to the Aryans and the Sogdians," and we can know that handicrafts were highly developed. If we rely on historical data, the majestic towers towering over the workshops of craftsmen and farm buildings in Ancient Bactria attracted the attention of tourists who visited this place. Also, Bactria was in contact with other major states of that time: Assyria, New Babylon, Media and India. The capital of ancient Bactria was originally Zariaspa, later called Bactria. Greek historians wrote about this: "The city of Zariaspa was later called Bactrus after the name of the river".[7] There is no clear information about which dynasties ruled the state. After the Achaemenid invasion, Bactria was occupied. During the reign of Darius I, Bactria is strictly listed as an Achaemenid possession. After the Behistun rock inscriptions by Darius I, more extensive information about Ancient Bactria and its inhabitants is found.

In conclusion, it should be noted that before the conquest of Central Asia by the Achaemenids, there were two states in this region. The ancient state of Bactria, like the ancient state of Khorezm, ruled the territory of Central Asia. We mentioned above that information about the territory of these states, internal state structure and socio-economic and cultural relations was written down by the work "Avesta" and the Greek Historians, albeit in a shorter form, but valuable information. Based on this information, we can see that the issue of statehood in our history began several thousand years ago and was distinguished by its high cultures. Ctesius recorded the siege of the Bactrian city of Ninus by the Assyrian king and Cyrus II's march to Bactria.[5] There can be no doubt that there is historical truth based on the information of Ctesius. Because we can see that the historical relations between Bactria and Assyria are quite developed in the works of the historians of that time. In Bactria, we can find information that during his time he took lapis lazuli (black stone) to Assyria on camels with two scythes. There are clear reports about this in the sources of Sargon II period (VIII BC). In these reports, Assyrian spies penetrated into the interior of Bactria and informed their king about Bactrian lapis lazuli. For example, the report of the Assyrian spy gave the following information: "My king, your majesty does not know that I went to the mountains in search of lapis lazuli. The local people, who learned that I was taking lapis lazuli, raised a riot against me. If His Highness deems it necessary, let him send an army to these parts and take away the lapis lazuli. Only I will not approach the local people, and I will not drink water with them, and I will not kill at the same table."[6]

These data are also proof of our above comments. We can find that the Greek historian Herodotus mentioned Bactria and Bactrians 45 times in his work "History". In particular, he told the story of Cyrus' victory over Croesus, king of Media, and wrote that Babylon, the Bactrian people, the Sakas and the Egyptians stood on Cyrus' path. Bactrian warriors are mentioned in Aeschylus' tragedy "Persians" staged in the 5th century BC, while Strabo described Bactria as "the jewel of the Aryan land". Considering the fact that such written information has reached us and these events took place several thousand years ago, we can know that Ancient Bactria and its ancient inhabitants were the focus of attention of historians of other countries. The territory of Bactria included the lands located in the north-east of present-day Afghanistan, the south of Uzbekistan and the south-west of Tajikistan, and was the largest among the states that emerged in Central Asia. Of course, this state did not come into existence by itself. By the 9th-8th centuries BC, a political association of military significance was formed in Bactrian soil. This corresponds to the time when part of the population of Central Asia was engaged in nomadic pastoralism. "700-540 BC was the period of development of the Ancient Bactrian state, whose territorial boundaries extended to the Hindu Kush range, Badakhshan and Hisar range".[7] In the period before the development of the ancient Bactrian state,

part of the population of Central Asia lived a nomadic way of life, but in the VII-VI centuries BC, a territorial division was formed in the Bactrian society, and the process of population settlement intensified. It would not be wrong to say that this factor also accelerated the above-mentioned development process. In ancient Bactria, the first cities appeared in the Bronze Age. Before the Achaemenid period, there were historical cities of Balo Hizor, Oltindilyar, Kyziltepa and Boytudasht. Archaeological researches were conducted in the monuments. In it, the cities were surrounded by defensive walls, and we can know that crafts were highly developed. If we rely on historical data, the majestic towers towering over the workshops of craftsmen and farm buildings in Ancient Bactria attracted the attention of tourists who visited this place. Also, Bactria was in contact with other major states of that time: Assyria, New Babylon, Media and India. The capital of ancient Bactria was originally Zariaspa, later called Bactria. Greek historians wrote about this: "The city of Zariaspa was later called Bactrus after the name of the river." There is no clear information about which dynasties ruled the state. After the Achaemenid invasion, Bactria was occupied. During the reign of Darius I, Bactria is strictly listed as an Achaemenid possession. More extensive information about Ancient Bactria and its inhabitants is found after the Behistun rock inscriptions by Darius I.[8] In conclusion, it should be noted that before the conquest of Central Asia by the Achaemenids, there were two states in this region. The ancient state of Bactria, like the ancient state of Khorezm, ruled the territory of Central Asia. We mentioned above that information about the territory of these states, internal state structure and socio-economic and cultural relations was written down by the work "Avesta" and the Greek Historians, albeit in a shorter form, but valuable information. Based on this information, we can see that the issue of statehood in our history began several thousand years ago and was distinguished by its high cultures.

#### **Foydalanilgan adabiyotlar ro'yxati.**

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