

# Covering the History of Northern Bactrian Culture in Written Sources

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**Abstract:** This article provides a scientific analysis of the history and culture of Northern Bactria, its coverage in ancient Eastern and Western written sources, information about the region, and its mention in some historical records.

**Keywords:** Ancient Bactria, Northern Bactria, Avesto, Behistun inscriptions, Suza inscription, Bactrian people, Chinese written sources, Kushan culture, Tokharistan

## 1. INTRODUCTION.

The history of Northern Bactria has a place in world history, and the culture formed in this region has influenced the formation of world culture.

Ancient Bactria was a large historical and geographical region located in the upper basin of the Amu Darya, ie in the south-east of Central Asia (now in the territories of Uzbekistan and Tajikistan). In ancient Greek sources, its northern boundary is the Amu Darya (Strabo, Ptolemy), later researchers, based on archeological data, define its northern boundary with the Gissar Mountains, and its southern boundary with the Hindu Kush ridges.

Ancient Bactria includes the southern regions of present-day Uzbekistan and Tajikistan, the southeastern part of Turkmenistan, and the northern regions of Afghanistan; it is bounded on the north by ancient Sogdiana, on the south;

and was bordered on the southeast by the provinces of Arachosia and Panhara, and on the west by the provinces of Margiana. In the scientific literature, the term "Northern Bactria" is used for the part of Bactria that enters the territory of the Central Asian republics, and "Southern Bactria" for the part that belongs to Afghanistan [6, B.3].

Archaeological excavations in ancient Bactria over the years have yielded a wealth of valuable information. The first archeological excavations in the territory of Bactria If conducted by Fushe, in later years M. E.. Masson, G. A. Pugachenkova, L. I. Albaum, B. A. Litvinskiy, E. V. Rtveldze, A. A. Asqarov, A. S. Sagdullaev, Sh. Pidaev, B. Turgunov,

B. Stavisskiy, I. T. Kruglikova, V. I. Sarianidi, T. Shirinov, U. Rahmonov, Sh. Shaydullaev and other archaeologists conducted research.

## 2. DISCUSSION.

In turn, ancient written sources also contain information about the history of Bactria. Avesto serves as an important source in covering the ancient history of our country.

Including the names of ancient regions in the Avesto Listed in the third chapter of the book of Yasht and the first chapter of the book of Videvdat. Bactria Videvdat occurs in Fargard in the form "Bakhdi":

"... First, I founded Aryonam Vaijo on the Vanhvi Datyo River, the best country for people to live in. Secondly, I, Ahuramazda,

I founded Gava Sogda, one of the best countries and countries. Third, I, in Ahuromazda, founded the mighty Mouru, one of the best countries and lands. Fourth, I, in Ahuramazda,

I founded the beautiful Bakhdi, one of the best countries and countries with a high flag "[8, p.21].

Information about the state of Bactria can be found in the Achaemenid inscriptions, including the Behistun rocks. The inscription on these rocks, dated to the time of Darius I, mentions Bactria among the 23 countries under the rule of Darius I. This note contains the following message of Darius I: "The state called Margiana left me. A man named Frada from Margiana declared himself governor of the province. Then I, the satrap of Bactria, called my submissive Persian Dadarshish and said to him: I must crush those who do not obey. Dadarshish rode with his troops and fought with the Margians. Ahuramazda helped me. By the will of Ahuramazda, my armies completely defeated the rebels. This is what I did in Margiana "[2, P.132]. While Darius I in the Behistun inscriptions indicated mainly the western provinces of the Achaemenid state, in the Naqshi Rostam inscriptions the list of countries begins with the eastern provinces after Media and Elam. The list includes Bactria after Media, Elam, and Arya. In the Achaemenid "Suza inscription", gold from Sard and Bactria, shiny stones and lapis lazuli from Sogdiana, turquoise stones from Khorezm, silver from Arachosia were used to build a palace in Suza and bronze is mentioned [7, p.87].

In Persepolis, Bactrians are depicted in 15 places, carrying a vessel and with two-humped Bactrian camels. This is a

manifestation in the material culture of the duties or taxes brought annually to the treasury of the Achaemenid Empire from the satraps belonging to it. The Achaemenid Empire paid tribute to silver in the amount of 300 talents [8, B.21] (one talent is 33,655 kg. Of silver).

Various information about Bactria was given by the ancient Greek historians Herodotus, Ctesias, Strabo, Diador, Pliny, Arrian, Hecate, Skilak

and occurs in the works of others. Herodotus (484-425 BC) in his book "History" 13 times about Bactria, Bactria and the Bactrians, the Sogdians.

He mentioned the Khorezmians 3 times, the Saks 11 times, and the Massagets 19 times, and told about their material culture, customs, religion, and history. For example, Herodotus was the king of the Achaemenids

After Cyrus II's conquest of Media, he reports that "Babylon, the people of Bactria, the Scythians, and the Egyptians were obstructing his way" (Herodotus, I, 153). It follows that the Confederation of Bactria and Sak-Massagets was among the most important states, such as Egypt or Babylon. The term "Bactrian people" given in Herodotus' data refers to a particular ethnic unit. The word "ethnos", meaning "people", is very common in Herodotus' History (145 times according to researchers), and only in two places is the word used in reference to Bactria [9, p.43]. Before Herodotus, the great Aeschylus used the term "Bactrian people" in the tragedy of the Persians. The names of the young Bactrian warriors Tenagon and Aritom are mentioned in the "Persians" tragedy. They perished in the Battle of Salamis (480 BC). "The people of Bactria perished," Aeschylus concluded. Herodotus also states that "the hats of the Bactrians were very similar to those of the Medes, who were armed with reed arrows and short spears" [3, p. 64].

A lot of information about Bactria mil. avv. It was written by Ctesias, who lived in the palace of the Achaemenid king Artaxerxes in 414-398. About the clash of Ctesias Cyrus II with the Bactrians, about the existence of many fortresses in Bactria, their high

and surrounded by fortified defensive walls, gives information about the location of the royal palace in the capital of Bactria. Among the peoples described by Ctesias, the Bactrians are among the first to be mentioned. Bactria itself is located to the east: the road to the "plain" of Bactria from the west is blocked by "mountains", through which only "passes" pass. Bactria stretches from the Tanais to the Indus River, which separates it from Europe, and the Indus River from India [11, pp.8-14]. It should be noted that the works of Ctesias have not reached us in their original form. However, the Greek historian Diodorus (90-21 BC) in his "Historical Library" based on the stories of Ctesias, the

military campaigns of the Assyrian king Nin to Bactria, the king of Bactria Oxiart and reports on his treasure.

Although ctesium data are sometimes the subject of much debate, the truth of this information is also evident in archaeological research. So far, more than 240 villages, castles and urban remains dating back to the first half of the 1st millennium BC have been found and studied in Bactrian soil.

Suffice it to mention such monuments as Kuchuktepa, Pshaktepa, Beshkutan, Talashkan, Jondavlattepa, Bandikhan 1, Buyrachi, Qizilcha, Obishir, Shurtepa, located in the Surkhandarya oasis. They were castles and fortresses fortified with defensive walls and towers, and the inhabitants of ancient Bactria at that time were engaged in irrigated agriculture. The construction of houses, the construction of religious and secular monumental buildings, the diversification of handicrafts and trade, especially ceramics and metallurgy, textiles and tanning, jewelry and many other industries testify to the high level of development.

According to the Greek historian Arrian (95-175 AD) in his book Alexander's March, Alexander pursued Bess and entered the territory of Bactria. Instead of fighting Bess against Alexander, the Bactrian riders, realizing that she was fleeing his pursuit, abandoned Bess and dispersed to their homes. Alexander, on the other hand, ruled over the defenseless Bactrians, appointing the Persian Artaboz, and mil. avv. In 329, Navtak captured Bess, who was chained by his accomplices, and set out for Smarakansa (Samarkand), the capital of Sogdiana [1, p.27,9,10]. According to Arrian, Alexander spent the winter in Zariasp (the fortress of Bactria), tired of the battles with Spitamen in Sogdiana. Arrian mentions Bactria several times in connection with the details of Alexander's military campaigns. For example, mil.avv. In the winter of 328, in Zariasp, he met with a representative of the Khorezmian king Farasman, who completely conquered Bactria, where he established Macedonian military units, and so on.

The Roman historian Quintus Curtius Rufus, who lived in the late 1st century BC and mid-1st century AD, wrote in his History of Alexander the Great that Bactria's nature was rich and diverse. In some places, many trees and vineyards produce abundant, sweet fruit. Fertile lands are irrigated by numerous springs and rivers. Wheat is planted in fertile soil. Other lands will be left for pastures. " A large part of the country is occupied by barren steppes, and there are no people or fruits in the lands abandoned due to drought "[8, P.152-153].

While Quintus Curtius gave detailed information about Ruth Alexander's military campaigns, he also tried to analyze Alexander's psychological state during the war. For example, when Alexander was the first to enter the battle unprepared, he saw the courage of the enemy soldiers who entered the

battle unscathed, and he "called his friends for advice without fully recovering from his wounds." "He was not afraid of the enemy, but of embarrassment. The Bactrians revolt, the Scythians are disturbed, he himself barely gets to his feet and rides a horse, to be a guide and to inspire the soldiers nor was it possible "[5, P.5-6]. Quintus Curtius Rufus was frightened even by Alexander, who had learned great victories in battles, by Spitamen's military methods, often by experienced commanders against Spitamen, and by himself as the chief, with two armed cavalymen on each of the enemy's horses. , writes that the dexterity of the soldiers resembles the agility of horses, and that they suddenly attack the enemy from the rear, front, and sides, endangering the enemy. In a battle with Spitamen, an experienced Macedonian-led army "lost 2,000 infantry and 300 cavalry. Alexander threatened to execute the soldiers who came out of the battlefield and kept the news of the defeat a secret as a precaution," Curtius Rufus wrote.

Another Greek historian, Strabo (64-24 BC), in his famous Geography, left a good account of the customs, cities, and rivers of the ancient Turanian peoples. "In ancient times, the way of life and customs of the Bactrians and Sogdians did not differ much from the way of life of the nomads. However, the traditional culture of the Bactrians was much higher "[10, B.3]. "It is said that Alexander founded 8 cities in Bactria and Sogdiana and destroyed many of them."

Ancient Chinese written sources about Bactria and its people also provides valuable information. However, according to Chinese sources, mil.avv. In the last quarter of the 2nd century, the Da-yuechji tribal alliance of nomadic Saks overthrew the Greco-Bactrian state, and political power in Bactria passed into the hands of the Yuezhi, led by the Tokhar tribe. From then on, Bactria was called Tokharistan. Tokharistan is pronounced "Daxya" in Chinese sources. According to Chinese sources, the Tokhar tribes first settled on the right bank of the Amudarya, in what is now the Surkhandarya region, making Dalvarzintepa their political capital. This is where the mil. avv. In 126, the Chinese ambassador Zhang Qian met with the chiefs of the Yuezhi tribes and rejected an offer to fight together against the Huns.

In his report, Zhang Qian writes about their state borders: "Dahya is located to the west, 3,000 li south of Davan. To the west is Ansi (Parthia) and to the north is Kanguy "[4, p.92]. Zhang Qian argued that the Da-yuechji were in fact nomadic tribes and had settled under the cultural and economic influence of the inhabitants of the new areas. According to the ambassador, "there is no single head of state in Dahya, and each city is governed by its own governor." "There are 5 patriarchal principedoms in Dhaka (Hyumi, Shuanmi, Guishuan, Hise and Dyumi.) Zhang Qian lives in Dhaka, has cities and lives in houses and the left, the population is capable of trade. "

### 3. CONCLUSION.

The information that Zhang Qian saw and wrote about Daxya is fully reflected in the large-scale archeological excavations carried out on this land. After Zhang Qian's visit, the Da-yuechji tribes were divided into 5 and lived separately for about a hundred years, after Kuyzuan Kadfiz, the Guyschuan dynasty, proclaimed himself the king of Guyschuan (Kushan). He started wars with Ansi (Parthia), conquered Pudu (ancient Kashmir in Paropamisadae) in the south of Hindu Kush, and also occupied the lands of Gibin (province of Cain) [2, p.183]. According to an analysis of Chinese written sources and archeological-numismatic materials, Kudzula Kadfiz lived for 80 years and reigned in Bactria in the first half of the 1st century AD. According to the Rabatak dynastic list, his son Vima Takto reigned briefly under the name of "unknown king" Soter Megas. Then Vima Kadfiz, another son of Kudzula, came to power (51-78 AD) and conquered the lands up to the Banoras province of India and ended the last rule of the Greeks. Vima Kadfiz is reforming the currency and minting gold coins. Moves the country's capital to Peshawar. The Kushan Empire rose to the pinnacle of its power during the reign of King Kanishka. It will expand the state borders to the east, at the expense of Pakistan and India, and strengthen the system of public administration. During his tenure, a number of reforms of national importance will be carried out. These include monetary reform, language reform, writing reform, and religious reform, and Kanishka pursues independent domestic and foreign policies on all fronts.

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