



TERRITORIAL LOCATION OF THE FIRST CULTIVATOR-LIVESTOCK FARMERS IN CENTRAL ASIA

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Annotation: *This article is dedicated to study of territorial location of the first peasants and cattle breeders in Central Asia. The main attention is paid to the locations of Jaytun culture. The author revealed his attitudes towards the ideas of scientists who worked on this issue and narrated his own conclusions.*

Keywords: *Central Asia, Jaytun, peasant, cattle breeder, mastering economy, production economy, settled life style.*

Introduction

Transition from mastering economy – farming, hunting and fishing to production economy – farming and cattle-breeding became one of the most important stages of human history. This event has identified the perspective of history and the fundamental turning point in all aspects of the life of ancient societies.

Palestine, Jordan, South-East Asia and territories of Iraq are mentioned as the first territories productive economy. The result of studying of these places – Jerikhan, Chatal Guyuk, Jarmo etc. there were found tools of the 8th and 7th millennium BC, related to the field of agriculture, including mattocks, spades, stone sickles and poultry for storage of agricultural products¹.

Statement of the Problem

The history of productive economy in Central Asia originally started in the southwestern part of Turkmenistan. Cultivation settlements of Jaytun culture belonging to the 6th and 5th millennium was located on a small pasture limited with Kopetdagh mountain sidewalks and in the north with the Karakum hills (Jaytun, Chupantepa, Chaghalli and others)².

In the archaeological science the memorials of Jaytun culture is combined with the locations of the Neolithic period of North Iran together with the first Caspian-based farming center. It

¹Мелларт Дж. Древнейшие цивилизации Ближнего Востока (The Most Ancient Civilisations of the Near East) / Пер. с англ. Е.В. Антоновой. – М.: Наука, 1982. – Р. 21; Ллойд С. Археология Месопотамии (Archeology of Mesopotamia) / Пер. с англ. Я.В. Василькова. – М.: Наука, 1984. – Р. 26-39.

²Массон В.М. Джейтун и Кара-Депе. Предварительные сообщения о работах 1955 г. (Jaytun and Karatepa. Preliminary messages on works of 1955) / СА, 1957. №1. – Р. 144-146.



emerged slightly later in comparison with the area of the territories as Southern Anatolia of the East, the East Mediterranean, Eastern Anatolia, Zagros and Mesopotamia, on which productive economy had been spread³.

The researchers take into account the specifics of harvesting and hunting economy in the South-Eastern region of the Neolithic for the study of the issue of the appearance of the farming culture in the southwestern part of Turkmenistan and North-Iran.

An analysis of the bones of the wild animals found in the Mesolithic era shows that for centuries there had been hunted antelopes, sheep, goats, pigs and bulls in the Caspian region territories. But the existence of bones of lots of lambs among wild sheep bones of the 7th millennium BC. in the Kamarband cave in northern Iran was interpreted as the transition to the livestock farming in that period⁴.

It is quite probable that the fertile soil layers, sufficient rainfall throughout the year, rare cold and snow, wild-growing trees and wildlife on the lands between the Elbrus Mountains of Northern Iran and the Caspian Sea and south-western Turkmenistan plains created favorable conditions for early cattle-breeding and farming in these regions⁵.

The first farmers and livestock breeders mastered feeding plants, especially grain plants and oasis near mountains rich in water sources. For example, in the slopes of the Turkmen-Khurasan Mountains 40 species of wild grains were identified. Therefore, it is supposed that Jaytun people brought wheat and barley seeds from the mountains, they mastered sheep and goats using the tradition of hunting for them in the mountains and on the basis of that there appeared livestock breeding⁶.

The lands on which the memorials of Jaytun culture is characterized by dry desert climate. On the lower plains of Kaltachinar, Feruza, Altiyab, Arvaz and other mountain streams which flowed from the Kopetdagh Mountain to the Karakum Desert, flood waters formed small

³Лисицына Г.Н. Становление и развитие орошаемого земледелия в Южной Туркмении (Formation and Development of Irrigated Agriculture in Southern Turkmenia). – М.: Наука, 1978. – Р. 9.

⁴Лисицына Г.Н. Становление и развитие... – Р. 36.

⁵Букинич Д.Д. История первобытного орошаемого земледелия в Закаспийской области в связи с вопросом о происхождении земледелия и скотоводства (History of primitive irrigated agriculture in Caspian area In connection with a question on an agriculture and cattle breeding origin) // Хлопковое дело, 1924. №3-4.

⁶Массон В.М. Земледельческий неолит юго-запада Средней Азии (Agricultural Neolith of the Southwest of Central Asia) // Средняя Азия в эпоху камня и бронзы. – М. – Л.: Наука, 1966. – Р. 90-91.



lakes in spring season. They were temporary and then dried up. The first peasants used to sow the seeds of cereals, from moist soil to the bottom of these lakes⁷.

According to regional location signs, the Neolithic locations of South Turkmenistan differ from the Mesolithic memorials in the Southeast of the Caspian Sea. The memorials belonging to Jaytun culture were spread only on the northern slopes of Kopetdagh Mountain, on the narrow plain of the Karakum border.

They consisted of relatively small (0.5-1 ha) locations for the separate kin communities. Archeological researches were carried out in a number of memorials, including Jaytun, Chupontepa, Munchokli, Bami and others⁸. As a result, residuals of 20-30 ancient one roomed houses, which had been built of clay, were found and examined in some locations. The existence of such accommodations is a sign of the appearance of settled condition of life and forms of economy⁹.

It is possible to assume that it is not accidental that the first peasants were settled in the lower part of the lower mountain streams. First of all, these areas were favorable to farming, and secondly, they are used to feed sheep from nearby pastures and pastures in the desert oases. Because of the slow development of the production forces, the people who settled down the slopes and settled on the plains did not have the opportunity to cultivate the coast of large rivers and to deal with farming.

The locations of the Jaytun culture were not enclosed with defensive walls. Perhaps, there was no need to protect from external influences under the conditions of much water resources, untreated areas and virgin fields. The houses of Jaytun were about 20-30 square meters. According to V.M. Masson, such settlements belonged to separate pairs; each family comprised 5-6 people, the population of Jaytun was 150-180 people, and a relatively small settlement of 60-70 people living in Chaghallitepa¹⁰.

G.N. Lisicina analyzed the paleodemographical issues of the Neolithic and Eneolithic population of southern Turkmenistan. In this regard, the results of existing investigations (G.

⁷Массон В.М. Земледельческий неолит... – P. 76.

⁸ Ершов С.А. Холм Чопан-Депе (Hill “Chupantepa”) // Тр. Института истории, археологии и этнографии АН Туркменской ССР. Т. II. – Ashkhabad, 1956. – P. 13-22; Массон В.М. Джейтунская культура (Jaytun Culture) // Тр. ЮТАКЭ. Т. X. – Ashkhabad, 1960. – P. 37-109.

⁹Массон В.М. Поселение Джейтун (Jaytun Settlement) // МИА. №180. – L.: Наука, 1971. – P. 78-79.

¹⁰Массон В.М. Поселение Джейтун... – P. 105.



Frankfort, I.M. Dyakonov, K. Renfryu)¹¹ in the scientific literatures on the Oriental Demography were taken into account.

G.N. Lisicina writes that in the plain of Kopetdagh on the slopes with a total area of 6,000 square kilometers, 6,000 people lived in the Neolithic era. The density of the population in the region was 1 person per 1 sq.km¹². Probably, the results of such calculations and the indicators of population number were relative. However, it is natural that at the stage of emergence of producing farms, there was little population engaged in agriculture and livestock farming.

The representatives of kin tribes of Central Asia's largest geographical population continued to engage in mastering economy as hunting, fishing and harvesting. According to researchers, during the period of ancient hunters and harvesters, their density was one of the most distinctive features of distribution of 1-5 people per 100 sq/km. In particular, the lowest indicator is 1 man for 100 sq/km, and if that is connected with nomad harvesters, five or more people reaching 100 sq/km is defined as the densities of the region of highly developed hunting communities¹³.

The distribution of the population of the primitive period in different natural-geographical regions and the development of economic cultural species differed according to special peculiarities. Communities based on mastering and producing economy differed widely in terms of food production, lifestyle and material culture. However, the common goal of this or that social system was to ensure the living conditions of the members of the community. Also, the task of finding foodstuffs, cultivating them in nature, or meeting other growing needs of society in the light of social factors that were beyond the scope of production was of great importance.

Depending on the dimension of the locations of the Jaytun culture, their population was composed of 2-4 tribal communities. Although each couple had a special place in the family, such houses were located in a common area, combining the kin families with shared lifestyles, labor supplies, and food supplies. There didn't appear a small family that could support itself economically; such families lived in the composition of kin during the Neolithic

¹¹Лисицына Г.Н. Становление и развитие... – P. 65-70.

¹²The above shown source. – P. 69.

¹³Массон В.М. Экономика и социальный строй древних обществ (Economy and Social System of Ancient Societies). – L.: Наука, 1976. – P. 102.



period. There were discovered granaries belonging to kin societies in Jaytun¹⁴. Separate kin societies owned their own herds, processed land, food was equally distributed among kin representatives and production tools were common. It can be approved by the collected archaeological evidence.

Therefore, it is possible to observe new features in the development of the regional economic system. Economic-cultural characteristics such as the form of production economy, superfluous products, settled lifestyle, building housings for long-term accommodation, turnover of household and community crafts into regular system of primitive trade are among those. In the 4th millennium BC, the Eneolithic era in Central Asia began and it has a special place in history. The Eneolithic stage in South Turkmenistan is differentiated by the following characteristics of the period prior to the Jaytun culture:

1. Formation of stable settled life and irrigated agriculture on the basis of organized crop-livestock farming.
2. Growth of the intensive development of large territories and their density.
3. Development of production forces as a result of the emergence and development of metallurgy.
4. The appearance of innovations and inventions in the field of craftsmanship and building construction, (copper weaponry and tools, pitchers, multi-roomed houses, defense walls, use of raw bricks in construction and architectural planning)¹⁵.

It is worth mentioning the service of a number of scientists in the south of Central Asia in studying the Eneolithic monuments¹⁶. There were found and investigated 32 ancient settlements in southern Turkmenistan. They are located on pastures 10-20 km wide along the northern slopes of Kopetdagh Mountain in the lower reaches of the small rivers flowing towards the Karakum desert, which starts from the mountains. These locations were

¹⁴Массон В.М. Поселение Джейтун... – Р. 107.

¹⁵Хлопин И.Н. Энеолит юго-запада Средней Азии (Eneolit in the South-west of Central Asia) // Средняя Азия в эпоху камня и бронзы. – М. – Л.: Наука, 1966. – Р. 93; Сагдуллаев А. Қадимги Ўрта Осиё тарихи (The History of Ancient Central Asia). – Tashkent: Университет, 2004. – Р. 23-26.

¹⁶The results of the investigations were reflected in different publications, see: Куфтин Б.А. Работы ЮТАКЭ в 1952 г. по изучению «культуры Анау» // Известия АН Туркменской ССР. Серия общественных наук. №1. – Ashkhabad, 1954; Литвинский Б.А. Намазгадепе (по данным раскопок 1949-1950 гг.) (Namazgatera (According to excavation 1949-1950)) // СЭ, 1954. №4; Лисицына Г.Н., Массон В.М., Сарияниди В.И., Хлопин И.Н. Итоги археологического и палеографического изучения Геокюрского оазиса (Results of Archaeological and Paleographic Studying of the Geokhor Oasis) // СА, 1965. №1; Бердыев О.К. Новые раскопки на поселениях Песседжикдепе и Чакмакльдепе (New Excavation on the Settlements Passdjiktepa and Chakmaklitepa) // Каракумские древности. Вып. II. – Ashkhabad, 1968 and others.



available for 1500 years in these areas. The first irrigation constructions – canals were dug by the population in the length of 2-3 km, they were artificially irrigated the surrounding lands and managed to produce relatively high yields for the Eneolithic period¹⁷.

According to G.N. Lisicina's data, the fields around Jaytun consisted of 7.5-15 hectares of land, in the Geoxoor oasis in the Eneolithic period fields comprised 50-75 hectares of land and there were planted barley and wheat¹⁸. Livestock breeding also plays an important role in the life of population and sheep, goats and cow were bred on the pastures surrounding the oasis. Hunting (hunting antelopes and pets) was developed only to obtain additional meat products. Bones of wild animals found at the locations of the animals comprised about 10%¹⁹.

In Central Asia, the geographical proliferation of ancient peasant tribes has been identified not only by the need to acquire new fertile land and water resources. From the Eneolithic era, major changes in the internal and external economic and cultural relations in the Ancient East are evident. Rapid development of farming, construction and crafts, copper ore, rare metals (gold, silver) and the use of precious stones – feruza, sardolik, lojuard. These radical changes and lots of cultural news influenced the communication routes, the development of local and inter-regional exchanges and the gradual multilateral trade and communication systems²⁰.

In Central Asia, there was a widening of the boundaries of ethnicity and population. It is indicated by Sarazm location situated in the upper stream of the Zarafshan River, 15 km to the west of the city of Pandjикent²¹. It is likely that the population groups from the southern Turkmen and Hindu regions had a great role to play in developing the copper ore deposits in Zarafshan mountain range. Because during the Eneolithic period, not only the professionals in copper melting business, but also the group of people involved in mining and supplying raw materials. These activities have led to the need to meet the needs of the handicraft industry, the long distance exchange and trade.

¹⁷Массон В.М. Энеолит Средней Азии (Eneolithic Age in Central Asia) // Археология СССР. – М: Наука, 1982. – Р. 10-11.

¹⁸Лисицына Г.Н. Становление и развитие орошаемого земледелия... – Р. 211.

¹⁹Хлопин В.Н. Энеолит юго-запада... – Р. 112-113.

²⁰Мавлонов Ў. Марказий Осиёнинг қадимги йўллари.. (Ancient Routes of Central Asia) – Р. 32.

²¹Исаков А.И. Саразм-новый земледельческий памятник Средней Азии (Sarazm-new Agricultural Memorial of Central Asia) // СА., 1986, №1.



In the 4th millennium BC, Kukcha-Pandj River basins in the north-east of Afghanistan were mastered nearly at the same time with Sarazm location in the upper Zarafshan by population groups came from the Indian Valley²². The reasons for such long migrations were due to the need to obtain rare raw materials as lojuard, silver and gold mines in the mountains of Badakhshan region.

Copper mines were located in Upper Zarafshan, Central Kyzylkum, Fergana and Central Kazakhstan²³. As can be seen from this, raw materials were spread in different geographical areas. This, in turn, led to the expansion of the region's economic needs of the ancient population.

The uneven economic and cultural development among the tribes that emerged during the Neolithic era still played a key role in the Eneolithic era. Hunting and fishing were of great importance in some of the mountainous areas of the region, in the lower part of Zarafshan, in the Kyzylkum and Ustyurt steppes. Tribes with different culture and economy were facing each other. They established relationships. Geographical conditions and diversity of natural resources in different regions required mutual commodity exchange. Therefore, from the earliest times, raw materials, jewelry and labor tools turned into products of exchange²⁴. During the Eneolithic period, a special production process was started (crop, livestock and craft products).

By the beginning of the Bronze Age, Central Asia had had two main economic and cultural varieties. In the central and north-western regions of the continent, fisheries, hunting and livestock farms, farming and livestock breeding in southern provinces were developed. The location of the ancient tribes in different geographical and natural conditions determined the characteristics of their socio-economic development. Natural geographical environment and human interaction was developed and formulated as an anthropogenic, cultural landscape.

Conclusion

As you know, from the earliest stages of history, material production and social relations have been identified as the most important factors in the life of primitive societies, ways

²²Сагдуллаев А.С., Тогаев Ж.Э. Миграции эпохи бронзы в Центральной Азии (Migrations of an Epoch of Bronze in the Central Asia) // Проблемы истории, археологии и этнологии Центральной Азии. – TAshkent, 2018. – P. 88.

²³Буряков Ю.Ф. Металлургическая база древней государственности Согда и Хорезма (Metallurgical Base of Ancient Statehood Sogdiana and Khoresm) // Сўғд Марказий Осиёнинг маданият алоқалари тизимида. – Samarkand, 1999. – P. 28-32.

²⁴Массон В.М. Экономика и социальный строй... – P. 74.



and means of survival. For this reason, the main types of hunting, fishing, and later farming and livestock breeding became the primary forms of farming.

As a result of the emergence of agriculture and livestock farming, a new method of obtaining foodstuffs – production was developed. It increased productivity and contributed to the extensive creation and expansion of superfluous products. As a result of the growth of production, the socio-economic relationships and culture of the tribal system developed on new bases. Moving from one region to another, cultivating new lands, continuing migratory processes, the borders of ethnicities and populations changed. As a result, internal and external economic and cultural ties were rapidly intensified.