



STUDYING SOURCES REGARDING CENTRAL ASIA IN EUROPE (XIX - EARLY XX CENTURIES)

Rasulova Durdona Bakhronovna

Associate Professor at the Academy of Public Administration
under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan,
Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)
E-mail: durdonarasulova@inbox.uz.
Phone: (+998 97) 928-09-99

Article history:	Abstract:
Received: May 22 th 2021 Accepted: June 6 th 2021 Published: July 7 th 2021	This article provides a comprehensive analysis of the study of the sources of nature, geography and culture of Central Asia in Europe. It also reveals the role of these sources in the study of European scientific schools and the establishment of the "Central Asian Studies" on its basis.

Keywords: Central Asia, Oriental Studies, Sources, Natural Sciences, Culture, Science and Education.

1. INTRODUCTION

The peoples of the East have contributed greatly to the development of world civilisation and studying their history, culture, language and ethnography has always been a special need of Europeans. European scientists and researchers are interested in studying unique exotic features, interesting geography, remarkable high culture, unique nature, rich past and ancient trade routes of the peoples of the East, especially in the Central Asian region. Since the French, the British, the Germans and other peoples are very interested in studying the Central Asian region, they have approached it based on specific needs (diplomatic, cultural ties, missionary work, coalition cooperation and other issues). Both the purpose and scope of these relationships have changed over time. For example, in the 11th and 12th centuries they were looking for an ally to fight the Mongols, and in the 14th and 15th centuries they were encouraged to cooperate to fight the threat of the Ottoman Turks.

2. MAIN PART

In the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, as in the rest of the world, geographical knowledge developed in France. The great interest in learning Eastern languages that developed in the Middle Ages was replaced by another goal - to collect, translate, translate and republish Eastern sources (in the original language). Thus, linguistic research has been replaced by geographical sciences. This can also be explained by the increase in the number of colonies in Europe and the predominance of the tourist itinerary in research.

The French have begun to study geographical sources in Arabic, Persian, Turkish and other Eastern languages in order to expand their knowledge of world geography. French Orientalists were the first to

translate into French the fundamental works of geographers such as *Ibn Hordadbeh* (820–912), *Ibn Haukal* (died 922), *Idrisy* (1100–1175) and *Abulfeda* (1273–1331), who later became the founders of geographical knowledge. The works of Russian, English, German and Hungarian tourists were also studied and introduced into scientific circulation.

"*The Geography*" by Idrisse [1] was published in Paris in 1836–1840, and "*The Geography*" by Abulfad [2] was published in French in Paris in 1848–1883. Barthelemy d'Herbelo used Abulfédé's geography as a source in his 17th-century Eastern Library. During this period, the source was delivered to readers in French.

"*The Travel of the Fake Dervish in Central Asia*" by J. Wamberi was published in French in Paris in 1882. "*Ibn Battuta's Journey*" [3] was translated into French by Defrimeri. In Paris in 1835, Alexander Burns' work "*The Indus River, the journey to Lahore, Kabul, Balkh and Bukhara*" [4] was translated into French. In 1904, in Paris, Hungarian tourist S. Hedin wrote "*Unknown Asia. In the Sands of Asia*" [5] was translated into French by Charles Rabot.

Consequently, during this period French sources focused on the study of nature, climate, mountain ranges and geology. There was an increased need to study natural areas rather than social orientation in order to have large colonies, and the natural value of resources was also analysed. Thus, in addition to works of art, there is a need to study geographical, ethnographic and scientific works.

In Paris, in addition to the works of Arab and European tourists, the works of Russian scientists and researchers are studied with great interest. For example, "*Journey to Turkmens and Khiva in 1819–1820*" Nikolay Muravyov [6] was published in French in 1823 in Paris (Lecoant, Edrie, Klaprot).



The famous Russian geologist Y. Mushketov studied the volcanic condition of the region [7] and its geology. His work *"Rich Minerals of Turkestan"* [8], reflecting the results of his research, was published in 1878 in Paris in French. The source consists of 32 pages and includes a geological map of Turkestan. The book *Rich Minerals of Turkestan* provides detailed information on natural rocks in the region such as gold, silver, lead, copper, iron, manganese, arsenic, turquoise, graphite, coal, oil, salt and clay.

French translations of materials by A. Khoroshkhin [9] and Radlof [10] were used to study and analyse existing roads in the region. The history of individual regions and khanates was also studied from a socio-economic point of view [11].

The work of Russian scientist A. Voyekov *"Turkestan"* [12] is rich in materials on the region's climate, nature, geology and mineralogy. Separate chapters were devoted to history, geography and ethnography. With this in mind, this source is published in French.

Warm diplomatic relations and friendship between Russia and France have also led to the emergence of French-speaking publications in Russia. During this period, learning French, which speaks this language, had a kind of aristocratic position among representatives of Russian society. In connection with similar issues, the number of works published in French in Russia increased.

One of the most important sources created during this period was the *"Catalogue of Turkestan"* [13]. This catalogue was published in 1873 in St. Petersburg and also includes topographic records.

At the time, the following information was published in the press about the publication of the **Catalogue de la section du Turkestan brochure:** *"It contains a detailed geographical description of the Turkestan region and maps. The Turkestan section of the exhibition was created to describe the various items presented in the region's culture, for which Maev and Bunyakovsky materials were widely used. Unfortunately, there are no historical essays about the Russian invasion in the book"*[14].

So, this catalogue was a special project created to present Turkestan objects at the exhibition. It provides detailed data on cross sections. For example, its description includes the following sections: Notes on the topography of Turkestan, Ettisuv Province, Syrdarya Region and the Aral Sea.

A section entitled *"Topographical notes on Turkestan"* serves as an introduction to the catalogue, which provides information on the formation of the Governor-General of Turkestan and his composition. For example, *"Governor-General of Turkestan was established in 1867 and divided into two regions: Ettisuva and Syrdarya. The Kurogotha River has an*

outlet in both provinces. The Syrdarya region is divided into 7 districts: Kazalinsky, Perovsky, Shymkent, Kuraminsky (together with Tashkent), Avliya-Ota, Khojand and Jizzak. Ettisuva Oblast is divided into several districts: Tokmak, Issyk-Kul, Verny, Kopal and Sergiopol. The Zarafshan district is divided into such districts as Samarkand, Kattakurgan and Nagorno-Karabakh"[15].

Information about the district and population is also provided. The territory bordering the Russian Empire is 15,000 square kilometres and its population is about 1,565,000 settled and nomadic. It was noted that the population of the Zarafshan district is very dense. The two main rivers, the Amu Darya (l'Oxus) and the Syr Darya (l'Iaxarte) are described, with an emphasis on the Central Asian irrigation system. Ancient civilizations have emerged along these rivers. The Syrdarya basin includes Kokand, Namangan, Andijan, Khojand, Tashkent, Shymkent, Perovsk, Kazalinsk and other ancient cities. Along the Amu Darya and its basins - Khiva, Bukhara, Karshi, Kitab, Samarkand, Gissar, Balkh, Badakhshan and other areas of the Khanate.

"When we talk about the Aral Sea basin, its territory is 400 versts from north to south, 200-270 versts wide, with a total area of 1,100,000 geographic regions. Its height is 48 steps above sea level"[16].

At the end of the brochure, special attention was paid to the population of Turkestan, noting that *"the total population of Turkestan is 1,565,000, of which 550,000 live in Ettisuv, 850,000 in the Syr Darya and 165,000 in Zarafshan"*.

In addition, the composition of the local population is analysed, and in addition to the local population there are many Tatars, Persians, Israelis (Jews), Indians and Afghans in Samarkand and Tashkent.

There are many such publications in French on the history, culture and climate of Turkestan [17], including details of travels and visits by Boris Pazukhin [18] and Barb Dukhovskiy [19] to Turkestan.

This means that before the French researchers came to Central Asia to conduct their research, they had carefully studied all the works and sources written about the region. After learning about the region's routes, mountains and terrain, they visited the region in the 70-80s and carried out research. In particular, before conducting research in Turkestan, the leaders of scientific expeditions such as *Újfalvy von Mezökövesd* (1878–1880) studied the nature, climate and history of our country with the help of sources published in their native language (French) by Arabian, Persian, Turkish, Russian, Hungarian, English and German tourists. They studied with great interest in Paris. This has greatly contributed to the practical establishment of research by foreign scientists in our



region. Therefore, based on needs, sources on the history, culture, geography and ethnography of Central Asia were translated into French, which to some extent helped to increase knowledge about the region.

3.CONCLUSION

In conclusion, it should be noted that the Central Asian region in the 19th and beginning of the 20th centuries was the largest region in the world. It was studied more than ever in world source science, and the works created and translated during this period became a universal material and spiritual heritage. Such sources are still being studied as a rare pearl of the Central Asian region and enriched with new information.

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