



TRADE ROUTES OF THE KHIVA KHANATE AND THEIR CARTOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS (17TH–19TH CENTURIES)

Erimmatova Guloza Azimboy qizi, Researcher at Urgench State University named after Abu Rayhan Beruni
gulnozaerimmatova48@mail.com

Article history:	Abstract:
Received: 10 th February 2026 Accepted: 8 th March 2026	This article is focused on the topic "Pedagogical foundations of improving the philosophical foundations of the formation of eco-culture in primary school students", and it is important to highlight the development of eco-culture in students from a scientific and pedagogical perspective. The article provides an analysis and suggestions on the philosophical and pedagogical foundations of the concept of eco-culture, as well as effective ways of forming eco-culture in the minds of primary school students.
Keywords: Primary, students, ecoculture, formation, philosophical foundations, pedagogical foundations, ecological culture, respect for nature, ecological awareness, ecological skills, respect for nature.	

Abstract: The article provides valuable information about the cartography of trade routes of the Khiva Khanate.

Keywords: Amu Darya, Karakum, Kyzylkum, Shurakhan, Sultan Uvays, Qoshkopir, Pitnak, Qiyot, Shabbaz, Hazarasp, Gurlan, Khonqa, Old Urgench, Kungrat dynasty, Inoq

INTRODUCTION: The diversity of the territory of Uzbekistan, including agricultural oases such as Tashkent, Fergana, Surkhandarya, Zarafshan, Ustyurt, and Khorezm, is related to the results of geological development. Each historical-geographical region has an integral geographical location; however, its geomorphology, climatic conditions, natural resource reserves, patterns of human settlement, and the cartographic distribution of settlements are not located within a single geographical coordinate. One such natural-economic region is the Khorezm oasis, whose formation—situated between the Aral Sea to the north, the Karakum Desert to the west, and the Kyzylkum Desert to the east—was the result of tectonic movements beneath the earth's surface.

In order to understand the formation of the Khiva Khanate in the 16th–19th centuries, it is appropriate to analyse the changes that occurred in the geographical condition of the Khorezm oasis during this period [1].

LITERATURE REVIEW: According to the conclusions of V.V. Akulov, at the stage when the Khorezm plain had fully formed, approximately 2 million hectares out of 4.5 million hectares were suitable for agricultural activities in the daily life of the population [2]. As a result of archaeological and geomorphological research conducted by the Khorezm expedition since the mid-1930s, it was determined that the Khorezm plain (dating back approximately 22,000 years) consisted of right and left bank territories formed due to the movement of the Amu Darya from the Karakum desert [3].

During the study of ancient irrigation systems of the Khorezm oasis, B.V. Andrianov noted that the geographical conditions of the right-bank territory were suitable for sustaining the livelihood of a population over an area of 150,000 hectares. As a result, irrigation canals were drawn from the Amu Darya, and settlements were established along its banks, transforming the region—particularly the territories of Sultan Uvays and Shurakhan Island—into a prosperous and flourishing land [3].

Thus, the right-bank territory under the desert conditions of the Kyzylkum was divided into two parts:

1. The Shurakhan–Sultan Uvays mountain area, characterized by moist and fertile land.
2. The territory between the Sultan Uvays mountain and the coast of the Aral Sea.

The socio-economic characteristics of these regions continued to develop until later periods. The inclusion of Khorezm into the sphere of the Achaemenid Empire in the 6th–5th centuries BCE is also reflected in historical sources [4]. Researchers have noted that during the Achaemenid period, certain territories of Khorezm were incorporated into the empire, although precise information about the exact regions remains limited.

According to the researcher A.S. Balakhvansev, by the end of this period, the newly incorporated territories were influenced by Khorezm's administrative and economic systems [5]. This suggests that Khorezm played an active role in regional integration processes.



The period of Khorezm's independence is associated with the rule of Abu Rayhan Beruni, who mentioned that the young Khorezm state expanded its territory toward the left bank and formed a centralised state structure [5]. This centralised political system continued for a certain period.

In later historical developments, the expansion of Khorezm toward the left-bank territories led to the formation of distinct administrative and territorial units. By 995 CE, the region had developed a complex political landscape. Subsequently, Khorezm was conquered by the Mongol Empire, which resulted in the establishment of a unified imperial system in the region [7].

After the Mongol conquest led by Genghis Khan, the territory was divided for administrative purposes. As a result, Khorezm was split into different parts, with some areas incorporated into the Chagatai Khanate for governance.

In 1361, taking advantage of the political situation in the Golden Horde, the Kungrat tribe, under the Sufi dynasty, established independent rule over Khorezm. Between 1372 and 1405, as a result of the military campaigns of Timur, the northern and southern regions were unified. Although Khorezm was incorporated into the Timurid state, it retained a certain degree of autonomy.

Despite falling under the influence of the Shaybanid dynasty, the territorial integrity of Khorezm was preserved, and this situation continued until 1512. Thus, although the Khorezm oasis was geographically separated from neighboring regions by the Kyzylkum Desert in the southeast, historical processes led the region to alternate between fragmentation and unity until the 16th century.

In 1510, near Merv, a battle took place between the forces of Muhammad Shaybani Khan and Shah Ismail I, which resulted in the death of Shaybani Khan. Consequently, between 1510 and 1512, the region was governed by Safavid representatives, although its territorial unity remained intact.

In 1512, the population of Vazir city, led by Shaykh Umar, revolted and gained independence from Safavid control. In order to govern the region, they invited Berka Sultan, a descendant of Berka, to take power. As a result, the Khorezm state was restored [9].

Between 1512 and 1763, the internal and external policies of the Shaybanid state shaped the region significantly. During the rule of Elbars Khan, Khorezm expanded its territory by conquering areas such as southern Turkmenistan, the Serakhs region in northern Iran, Mangyshlak, and Durun.

After the Russian Empire conquered the Khiva Khanate, administrative reforms led to the establishment of the Amu Darya division on the right bank, resulting in a reduction of the khanate's territory. The area of this division was approximately 76,000 square kilometers and included regions such as Shurakhan and Chimbay [10].

There is no precise data regarding the administrative boundaries of the Khiva Khanate. During the reign of Eltuzar Khan, the northern boundary extended to the Aral-Kungrat region, while the southern boundary reached Dargan-ata.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

The following methods were employed in the study: scientific objectivity, historical-chronological analysis, theoretical-comparative analysis, generalization, discussion, and conclusion.

ANALYSIS AND RESULTS:

By the mid-19th century, Russian sources indicate that the boundaries of the khanate extended westward to the Caspian Sea, southward to Iran through the Merv oasis, and northward as far as the Ural River.

In the 16th-18th centuries, the administrative divisions of the Khiva Khanate were organized into provinces, while by the late 18th and early 20th centuries they were referred to as bekliks. The khanate included 16 beklík units and 2 deputy governorships, such as Hazarasp, Gurlan, Khonqa, Old Urgench, Qoshkopir, Pitnak, Qiyot, Shabbaz, Shovot, Tashhovuz, Anbar-Manoq, Urgench, Khojayli, Shumanay, Kungrat, and others. These were governed by beks and deputies.

During the reign of Muhammad Rahim Khan I, administrative reforms were introduced: initially 15, later 11 administrative units (hokimliks) were established. These included Hazarasp, Ostona, Urgench, Kat, Tashhovuz, Qoshkopirlik, Oqdarband, Gurlan, Kok Qashqa, Kungrat, Old Urgench, Ilonli, Taxta, Khonqa, Shabbaz, Manoq, Ghaziabad, Shaykh, Mangit, Khojayli, Shumanay, Torchi, Oqtepa, Qoragon, and Khitoy. These units were further divided into smaller communities (masjid-qavm). No systematic population census was conducted in the khanate [11].

The ruler of the Khiva Khanate governed the state in cooperation with palace officials, similar to the administrative systems of neighboring khanates such as Bukhara Emirate. The khan held absolute authority, possessing administrative, political, military, and religious powers. Governance was carried out through a council (Devon), which functioned as a decision-making body.



According to researchers, during the Shaybanid period, certain territories were administered under the title "Inoq." Later, under the Kungrat dynasty, particularly during the rule of Muhammad Amin Khan, administrative-territorial reforms were implemented [12].

When Muhammad Rahim Khan I ascended the throne (1762–1790), he faced major challenges: eliminating political instability inherited from the Shaybanid era, overcoming economic decline, managing relations with Bukhara, and dealing with tribute obligations to Russia. One of his first actions was a military campaign against uprisings in the Aral region. According to Q. Munirov, he successfully overcame resistance from Bukhara [13].

By decree of Muhammad Rahim Khan I, a Supreme Council was established, land reforms were carried out, and a regular army was formed. According to N. Veselovsky, by the end of the 18th century, conflicts in the Aral–Kungrat region created a "second front" for the khanate in addition to Bukhara.

Researcher M.Y. Yuldoshev notes that in the 19th century, a centralized state with Khiva as its capital was formed [14]. N. Allayeva's monograph shows the territorial boundaries of the Khiva Khanate on maps of Central Asia during the late medieval period, particularly in the 17th–18th centuries and the first half of the 19th century [15].

Muhammad Rahim Khan I also focused on territorial expansion. In 1811, the Aral–Kungrat region was incorporated, extending the khanate's borders northwestward. Between 1812–1813, campaigns were conducted against Kazakh and Karakalpak nomadic groups along the Syr Darya, expanding the territory northeastward.

Attempts were also made to expand southward at the expense of Bukhara. In 1817, near Chorjuy, Khivan forces were defeated, and the campaign failed. Nevertheless, further campaigns were launched in 1820, 1823, and 1824. These military efforts continued under his successors Allakuli Khan and Rahimquli Khan. For example, during the reign of Allakuli Khan (until 1842), five campaigns were carried out into southern Turkmenistan and northern Iran. In 1826, Khivan forces captured Oqdarband, and in 1828–1829, the Jalqon fortress was taken. Control over the Merv oasis was also contested with Bukhara, extending Khiva's borders to that region.

During the rule of Rahimquli Khan (1842–1845), attempts to capture Chorjuy were unsuccessful. He later died during a campaign against northern Iran, after which Muhammad Amin Khan (1845–1855) came to power.

During Muhammad Amin Khan's reign, uprisings frequently occurred in Merv and Serakhs (in southern Turkmenistan, within the Murghab and Tejen river systems). To suppress these revolts, he launched ten campaigns and eventually succeeded in suppressing the Merv uprising in 1854.

CONCLUSION / RECOMMENDATIONS:

In conclusion, the cartography of the Khiva Khanate reflects a territorial state adapted to natural-geographical conditions, based on irrigated oases and interconnected through trade routes. Maps show that its boundaries, economic foundations, and political significance became increasingly well-defined over time. In the first half of the 19th century, during the reigns of Allakuli Khan and Muhammad Amin Khan, the khanate not only conducted military campaigns but also paid special attention to developing trade relations with the Russian Empire. These economic ties were of great importance for Khiva: raw materials such as cotton, wool, and leather were exported, while industrial goods, metal products, and manufactured items were imported. Trade caravans played a key role in strengthening economic interdependence between the two regions.

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