



## LIGHTING SIGNIFICANCE OF WALL PAINTINGS INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OF CENTRAL ASIA EARLY MIDDLE AGES

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**Abstract:** *The article discusses current issues: The history of international relations in the Central Asian region and neighboring regions indicates interstate interactions. It should be noted that a large amount of archaeological work has been carried out in Central Asia, and one of the main goals of such research was to determine the level of influence of the culture and ideology of different peoples.*

**Key words:** *archaeological material, Central Asian region, study the culture, art, politics, religion, language of the region, as well as the history of international relations through frescoes, the Great Silk Road, literature and science, religion.*

The history of international relations in the Central Asian region in the early Middle Ages can be revealed, first of all, on the basis of various written sources of this period. There is also a large amount of archaeological material from the early Middle Ages, which not only complements written sources, but also visually confirms them. In particular, various artifacts found in Central Asia and neighboring regions indicate interstate interactions.

The written sources of the early Middle Ages are quite extensive and can be divided into groups according to language (for example, Chinese, Turkish, Greek, Iranian, Arabic) and writing style (for example, historical works and chronicles, travel notes, documents, epigraphic monuments).

It is known that the peoples of the Central Asian region left behind not only rich written monuments, but also hundreds of material objects created over the past centuries. In particular, in the course of archaeological research carried out in such historical regions of Central Asia as Khorezm, Bactria-Tokharistan, Sogdian, Ustrushon, Choch,

Fergana and neighboring regions, materials were discovered on the lands of Northern Afghanistan, Southern Kazakhstan, Ettisuwa, Eastern Turkestan, testifying to the rich and colorful material culture of the region. An important role was played in the international relations of Central Asia in the early Middle Ages, which affected its material culture.

Among such materials, the value of wall paintings is unique, which, along with their real artistic value, also illuminate the socio-political and spiritual ideological



aspects of that period. The reason is that there is an opportunity to study the culture, art, politics, religion, language of the region, as well as the history of international relations through murals. Until now, most scientists identify the remains of Afrosiab (Samarkand), Tavkatapa (Surkhandarya region), Kafirkali (Samarkand), Varakhshi (Bukhara), Penjikent, Bundzhikat, Ajinatepa, Kalai Kafirnikhan (Tajikistan) as wall paintings. conduct research on image interpretation.

Many art historians and archaeologists emphasize that from these frescoes discovered in Central Asia one can observe the influence of Indian, Hellenic, Iranian and Chinese cultures.

One example is the Chaganian ambassadors in the wall painting of Afrosiab. As Sogdian artists represented the Chagan ambassadors, their clothing, appearance, hairstyle, jewelry and very detailed insignia correspond to the characters in the paintings. These signs accurately reflect the true image of historical figures active in the 7th century, and accordingly they can be considered a historical source.

It should be noted that a large amount of archaeological work has been carried out in Central Asia, and one of the main goals of such research was to determine the level of influence of the culture and ideology of different peoples.

In particular, the establishment of close ties between the Turkish Khanate and the Byzantine Empire served as the basis for the “Northern Route”, and along this route, amazing material traces of trade ties with Byzantium have been preserved. For example, Byzantine gold coins of the 6<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> centuries and coins issued in imitation of them were found in the ancient cities of Samarkand, Marv, Taros and Tashkent in Central.

At the same time, in the 6<sup>th</sup> century in Kansu, in northwestern China, with the consent of the authorities, Sassanid silver coins-drachmas, - which at that time served as the special international currency of Asia, were in wide circulation.

Each of the states, such as Choch, Fergana, Ustrushona, Sogd, Bukhara, Tokhoristan and Khorezm, had its own coinage as one of the symbols of statehood. By the middle of the first millennium AD, the establishment of coinage in almost all states of Central Asia was due not only to economic necessity, but the introduction of a coinage system also meant, in a sense, the independence of the state.

That is why, in the early Middle Ages, coins minted in Central Asia contained a unique symbol of a certain dynasty under the authority of each state – stamps. At the same time, it should be noted that the influence of the coins of the



Iranian Sassanids, Byzantine and Chinese dynasties on the monetary system of the countries of Central Asia is also significant. After all, it is known that the rulers of the countries of Fergana, Chocha, Sogd, and Bukhara issued coins with a hole in the middle in imitation of Chinese coins. It appears that the rulers of Takharistan minted coins in imitation of the Sassanians of Iran. Numismatic researchers have already noticed that the coins of Central Asia have iconographic and other similarities with coins of neighboring empires. However, despite this, the significance<sup>8</sup> of numismatic materials as a separate historical source in the study of international relations of the Central Asian region has not received due attention.

Foreign policy, which is one of the main features of statehood, is determined primarily by economic and political interests. The goal of any country's foreign policy is to strengthen<sup>9</sup> its economic position through trade. In the early Middle Ages, the Central Asian Sogdians, like other peoples, occupied a dominant position in international trade relation. Already in the 3rd century AD, Sogdian settlements appeared in the oases of Koshgar, Liangzhou and even in the interior of China. By the 6th century, Sogdian trade with China flourished at the highest level, and Sogdian the language became the generally accepted lingua franca from Marw to the Mongolian steppes. Trade along the Silk Road allowed for the distribution and exchange of large quantities of highly valuable goods between China<sup>11</sup>, Central Asia and the Mediter-ranean states, especially Byzantium. This trade involved not only individual mer-chants or trade guilds, but also states, since the rulers were interested in making a profit from it. Diplomatic relations are often determined by trade and economic interests. This is best illustrated by the conflict between the Sogdians and Western Turks with the Sassanids<sup>12</sup> of Iran over the passage of silk through Iranian territory. This led to the creation of a military-political alliance against the Sassanids bet-ween the Western Turks and Byzantium, which used routes through the North Caucasus. People, works of literature, works of art, ideas and concepts were also exchanged through these channels. From the countries of Central Asia to various neigh-boring countries<sup>13</sup>, they exported from luxurious dishes and precious metals to various weapons, from metal raw materials to metal products - bows and arrows, swords and armor, leather goods, textiles and fabrics.

Along the Silk Road, in addition to samples and samples of applied art, architectural traditions and wall paintings, the art of music and dance, as well as performances considered a special “variety” of the Middle Ages, leather goods, textiles and fabrics spread across countries. East and West. Performances by musicians and dancers, wild animal trainers, acrobats, puppeteers – all this did not



require translation. In conclusion, it should be noted that the countries bordering Central Asia (especially Iran and China) have served as powerful generators of military-political power. Large centralized states and powerful empires arose on their territories, which played a decisive role in the destinies, diplomatic and economic history of the various peoples of Central Asia. Indian, Iranian and Chinese civilizations played an incomparable role in the development of the entire Central Asian civilization, contributing to material culture, weapons and city design and construction, science, philosophy, literature and science, religion.

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