



## SOME COMMENTS ABOUT THE ADMINISTRATIVE CENTERS OF THE WEST TURKIC KHANATE IN THE TASHKENT OASIS

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### ABOUT ARTICLE

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**Abstract:** This article talks about the centers that performed the function of the administrative management system during the period of the Western Turkic Khanate, in particular, the large cities in the Choch oasis and their activities. The information provided in the article is covered by mutual analysis of the information provided in the archaeological and written sources.

### INTRODUCTION

It is known from history that when a dynasty was organizing its administration, some central cities were definitely established there. In particular, we can cite the Khionites, Kidarites, Hephthalites, and the Turkic Khanate. Among them, the main problem of our scientific research can be determined by talking about the administrative centers of the Western Turkic Khaganate. However, until now, this is one of the issues that is waiting for its solution. There are different views among researchers regarding the study of the administrative centers of the Western Khaganate period. One of these centers is Choch, and we can talk about it separately.

The Tashkent oasis is an oasis located in a favorable region due to its geographical location, and the ancient caravan trade routes that passed through its territory were the main impetus for the development of urban planning culture. That is why this land culture spread to other neighboring regions. In this regard, the capture of the land by the Western Turkic Khanate in the early Middle Ages did not fail to directly affect the urbanization of the oasis. Especially during this period, urban planning flourished.

### THE MAIN FINDINGS AND RESULTS

The number of dozens of cities and large villages that began to form in the middle of the first millennium AD in the Khang Sultanate and its central rulership, Choch, increased even more during the Turkic Khanate. Urban culture reached its peak in the Tashkent oasis and South Kazakhstan in the VI-VIII centuries [1.134]. In particular, Ibn Havqal recorded a total of 52 cities in Choch, while a number of Arab and Persian geographers emphasized that there were several dozen cities in the oasis. Of the 32 urban ruins in the Tashkent oasis, 1 is a Qanga large (150 ha), 5 are medium (from 25 to 75 ha) and 26 are

small (up to 25 ha) cities, experts claim that during this period, the urbanization in Choch progressed at the expense of small towns [2.140]. In South Kazakhstan, there are more city ruins with a layer belonging to the first half of the VI-IX centuries than the number of cities given in the sources. More precisely, 30 cities of this period have been identified by archaeologists, of which only the names of 6 are found in written sources [3.66]. The increase in the number of cities in both regions is a result of the Turkic Khanate and the activities of the Sugdians, and we can testify that some of them are Turkic-Sugdian based or mixed [4.80].

Some of the existing monuments in the Tashkent oasis, such as Qanga, Mingorik, Khanabad and Kolota, have been well researched from an archaeological point of view. In particular, as a result of their study, the processes of urbanization that differ from each other in their own way have arisen, and we can observe that the owners of culture have been living permanently in their territory [5.124]. The Sugdian toponyms, which make up a certain part of the place names of the VI-VIII centuries, are found throughout the oasis, which in turn indicates that the Sugdians lived in the Choch lands for a long time. In particular, toponyms ending with the Sugdian -kat topoforment are widespread in Choch [6.105]. Interestingly, this topoforment is often preceded by ancient Turkic words (for example, Tunkat, Barskat, Khotunkat, Jabgukat, Ardlonkat), which indicates that the Tashkent oasis was an active area of Turkic-Sugdian symbiosis in its time.

There are also quite a few cities associated with titles in Choch. According to research, city names made from both Turkic and Sugdian-based titles are more common in the oasis than in other regions [7.206]. The reason for this is based on the fact that Sugdian merchants moved to cities and settlements in the Ettisuv and Choch regions in connection with trade relations and trade centers established here [7.208]. However, we should not forget that the cities and settlements in these regions were founded not only by the Sugdians, but also by the Turks. This is also shown by the fact that a large number of toponyms there are of Turkic or Turkic and Sugdian origin [9.113-114]. During this period, toponyms such as Sobliq (Soyliq), Abriq, Namudliq (Yag'uzliq), Nekaliq (Yaqaliq), Almaliq, Otlig (Itliq), Ajig' (Achig') ending with the Turkic -liq/liq' topoforment are widely spread in the Tashkent oasis. In particular, the size of the area of cities such as Abriq (80 ha), Kabarna (75 ha), Namudliq (70 ha), Chinanchkat (50 ha) indicates that a large number of people lived in them. Abriq and Namudliq can be included among the cities that made a name for themselves as large craft and metallurgical centers [10.64].

Experts who have studied the archaeological materials and written sources found in the Tashkent oasis have shown that in the early middle centuries, the Turks penetrated not only into the villages, but also among the inhabitants of the cities of the oasis. Also, the appearance, broad beardless face, flat nose, eye structure and clothes of the heroes in the image of the charred patterned board found in the hall of the Quyruqtoba (Kadar) city ruin called "Engagement Scene" show that they are Turks [11.62-63]. Similar human figures are also found on coins minted in the Choch oasis during the Turkic khanate. It is also reflected in the images of a round-faced, beardless ruler on the coins of the Western Turkic Khanate, Choch Tegins and Choch Tuduns [12.53]. If we compare the images on these coins with the image of the ruler on the Choch coins of the Qang era, we can see that there is a big difference between them. Most of the ancient coins of Choch depict the ruler with a thin face and a beard [13.91].

By the early Middle Ages, determining which city was the main center of Choch was considered one of the main issues of the work. In this regard, the following conclusions were made in historiography regarding the location of the centers of the rulers of the Turkic dynasties in the oasis in the VII-VIII centuries.

1) It is possible that the ruins of the city of Qanga in the Akkurgan district and the ruins of the city of Mingorik in the city of Tashkent were also the capital of Choch. Perhaps earlier, Qanga, and later Mingorik served as the capital.

2) The ruins of the city of Qanga, which was the capital of the Khang Sultanate, continued to serve as the capital of one of the Choch dynasties even during the Turkic khanate. Mingorik was one of the defense fortresses of Choch during this period [14.35].

3) The ruins of the city of Kanga were the center of the Choch Tegins, Mingorik, Tarband, and Tunkat were the center of the Choch Tuduns, and the Yunusabad Oktepassi fortress served as their headquarters on the outskirts of the city.

The study of two cities located in Choch during the period of the Western Turkic Khanate is of particular importance. The cities of Jabgukat and Hatunkat, we can get the first information about these cities through the information provided by Arab authors and others. In particular, Al-Istakhri (XX century) mentioned it in the east of the road leading from Choch to Ilaq, that is, in the valley of the Turk (Chirchik) river among the cities inside the wall, and indicated the distance from Binkat to Jabgukat on the bank of the Turk river as 2 farsakhs (about 16 km) [15.330]. Another important source, in the work "Hudud ul-Olam" (XX century), the unknown author also noted that Jabgukat, located 2 farsakhs away from Binkat, was "a beautiful city, and it is recognized that it served as a military camp of Choch in ancient times" [16.357]. Qudama ibn Ja'far and al-Muqaddasi (10th century) also described it as a "military camp with an internal defense wall" [17.522]. During the period of the Turkish khanate, such residential cities served as military garrisons, and in one of the first capital cities of the Western Turkic khanate - Beshbaliq (Eastern Turkestan around Turfon), the khagans also kept a special army to keep their vassals under control.

The ruins of Jabgukat, which means "City of Jabgu", were located on the site of the Aq-ota city ruin, near the village of Dormon, in the northeast of Tashkent [19.75]. Its total area is 18 ha, but archaeologists have not conducted extensive excavations at this location. Stratigraphic investigations from there yielded materials of the VII-VIII, X-XII and XV centuries [20.81]. The monument's arch dating back to the early Middle Ages is clearly distinguished. As a result of archaeological investigations, a pile of straw buildings and a smaller amount of unglazed pottery were found in its lower part. Therefore, despite the fact that some archaeologists have evaluated Ak-ota not as a city, but as a settlement, Yu.F. Buryakov found that there is no doubt that it was a town [19.75].

According to some researchers, Jabgukat was built for the first military purposes (storage of troops, military training of troops, etc.). Because the results of archaeological excavations confirm that it was founded after the second half of the VI century. Moreover, if it is taken into account that in the same period Istami and his descendants were called "jabgu" [21.158-159], it turns out that shahar does not simply mean "city of Jabgu". In general, the first periods of the formation of the Western wing of the Jabgukat Khaganate - the Yabgu period (60s of the VI century [22.24] and the last quarter). Later, Khagans like Sheguy, Tun Yabgu must have used Jabgukat as a winter residence.

## CONCLUSION

Most of the coins of the Western Turkic Khaganate minted in Choch show the image of the ruler - Yabgu, Yabgu-Khagan, or the Queen - Wife together with the Khagan. This tradition related to the ancient Turkish statehood was also reflected in the urbanism of that time.

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