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# The Role of The Jizzakh Oasis in The Economic Relations of The Great Silk Road

Javohir Saidov

Doctor of philosophy in historical sciences (PhD), Teacher of the department of General history, Jizzakh state pedagogical university, Uzbekistan

**Abstract:** This article analyzes the position of the Jizzakh oasis in trade and economic relations along the Great Silk Road. The Jizzakh oasis in the northwest of the Ustrushan state is of great importance due to its production potential in such areas as agriculture, animal husbandry, and blacksmithing, and its transit role in the trade of various products along the Silk Road.

**Keywords:** Jizzakh oasis, Khotan, Yorkent, "Nephrite road", "Golden road", "TRASEKA", silk, Dizak, Zomin, Marsmand, Mink, Munchoghtepa, Sabot.

**Introduction:** It is known from the history of mankind that in ancient times there were various long and short trade and caravan routes. For example, in the pre-Christian era, especially during the Han Empire (206 BC - 220 AD), the trade caravan route connecting the cities of Khotan and Yorkent in Turkestan with the lands of northern China was called the "Jade Road". Because the demand for jade stone, which was mined and specially processed in Khotan and Yorkent, was very high in China [1, 9]. During the Achaemenid period (558–330 BC), and perhaps even earlier, a transregional communication route known as the "Golden Road" operated. This route, which began in the gold mines of the Altai Mountains and extended through Central Asia to India and Iran, was considered one of the most important political and strategic routes of ancient times [2, 94]. The history of these roads is considered an important and integral part of the economic and political processes of the ancient world, and their study is a pressing scientific problem today.

The study of the factors of formation and development of socio-economic, political, and cultural relations in the

Central Asian region, one of the regions of key importance on the Great Silk Road, which played an important role in the lives of the peoples of the world, is among the current research topics. By the beginning of the third millennium, the restoration of the ancient Great Silk Road on the basis of mutually beneficial relations and the search for new areas of cooperation have become an important task. A number of works are being carried out in this direction. In particular, along with the development of the "TRACECA" program, the main goal is to develop new mechanisms for economic partnership between the countries of the region through the "Europe-Caucasus-Asia" corridor and the "One Belt, One Road" program initiated by China, to develop the economic well-being of the participating countries within the framework of these programs, and to strengthen cooperation and ties between the countries in all areas. In the implementation of the above programs, the place and status of the Central Asian region plays an important role on historical grounds. In recent years, the fact that the first human settlements in the territory of Central Asia belong to the ancestors of all peoples living in the region, and that they should be studied together, has become an agenda item. New archaeological monuments dating back to the most ancient times have been discovered, and the centers of the first civilizations have begun to be studied.

Located in the heart of Central Asia, Uzbekistan has an integral history of the Silk Road, with its cities on trade routes and its geographical and economic potential. As an important transit area along the main routes of the Silk Road, Uzbekistan is still an important link. Through this route, Uzbekistan strengthens transport links between China and Europe. The Silk Road passed through historical regions of Uzbekistan - Khorezm, Navoi, Samarkand, Jizzakh, Syrdarya, Tashkent, Fergana, etc. The Great Silk Road is also of great importance in the tourism sector, and many historical cities serve as a means of attracting tourists. The Silk Road is one of the most important transport projects in Uzbekistan and has the potential to further develop regional cooperation.

Therefore, it is important to determine the place of the country's historical regions in the Silk Road system. Among them, the study of the history of the Jizzakh oasis is becoming increasingly important today. According to medieval written sources, Ustrushon, and in particular the ancient Jizzakh oasis, was famous for its prosperous oases with rabota and caravanserai, and formed an important link of the Great Silk Road connecting the East and the West.

The most frequented caravan route was Baghdad - Tabriz - Koshan - Merv - Chorjuy - Bukhara - Samarkand

- Kharakana - Dizak. After Dizak, the route split into two, or even three, and in all cases it connected the routes through the Eurasian steppes, to China and the Far East, with the Arab and Persian countries. This situation increased the importance of the Jizzakh oasis on the Great Silk Road. The service infrastructure and transit status of the region on the Great Silk Road were preserved even in the Middle Ages, and the study of these processes is important in studying the history of the region and is relevant today.

Sources indicate that since the time of the emergence of the Great Silk Road, silk was the main means of trade. It is known that the silk trade also served as an effective political tool for successive dynasties in China. Silk became a symbol of a powerful civilization in East Asia at that time. When Chinese ambassadors traveled to Western regions and even other countries, they often used silk products as a tool in their diplomacy. The price of silk and porcelain, which spread from the West to Constantinople, was so high that many considered China and even East Asia to be a country of abundant products. This idea is reinforced by the fact that once upon a time, heads of state and nobles wore Chinese silks dyed Phoenician red as a symbol of prestige, and used porcelain as a wealth in their homes. In addition to silk being the main means of trade, merchants actively traded various rare and valuable goods via the caravan route. Historical sources also reflect the active participation of the inhabitants of the Jizzakh oasis in these trade relations.

In ancient times, transit trade routes operated from India to the Urals and Siberia through Central Asia. Through the Silk Road, Indian products, primarily various jewelry and ornaments, reached the pastoral tribes living in the Urals and Siberia, while from these places, mainly various metal products and raw materials, furs and leather products were exported to India [3, 558].

Various types of textiles and carpets, valuable goods such as metals, glass, jewelry, precious stones and medicines, camels from Bactria and the Dovan region and horses described as heavenly were the main products of constant trade. Through this route, China's trade and foreign relations with the countries of Central Asia and the Middle East expanded significantly as early as the 1st-2nd centuries AD. Huge trade caravans from China constantly set off towards the West, and at one time caravans loaded with goods from the West also moved in the opposite direction [4, 93]. Since ancient times, Ustrushona has been a major center for the production of metal and ceramic products, as well as glassware, thanks to its natural resources.

During the developed Middle Ages, the northwestern

Ustrushona region, located on important routes of the Silk Road, in particular the Jizzakh oasis, had many types of handicrafts, and sources indicate that centers specializing in some of these industries operated in cities such as Dizak, Zamin, Marsmand, Mink, Munchaktepa, and Sabot [5, 191]. Each of these trade and production centers is characterized by economic interdependence due to specific resource needs.

## **CONCLUSION**

To summarize, the Jizzakh oasis in the northwestern part of the Ustrushona state union, due to its natural and geographical location, has a place in important economic relations in the Great Silk Road system. In particular, the Jizzakh oasis has been an active participant in the trade relations of the Great Silk Road through its natural resources and production sectors, playing the role of a transit region for export products from China and other eastern countries.

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