



CAPTURE OF FERGHANA VALLEY BY SHAIBANIKHAN

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Annotation

The article examines the history of the termination of Ahmad Tanbal's power in Ferghana and the inclusion of the valley into the state of Sheibanikhan.

Keywords: Sheibaniykhon, Zahiriddin Muhammad Babur Mirzo, Mongol khans, Ahmad Tanbel, "Baburname", "Tarikhi Rashidi", "Sheibaniname", Ferghana Valley, battle of Archayon, Margilan fortress, troops.

In our historiography, the issue of the termination of the Timurid state and the establishment of the rule of the Shaibani dynasty in Movarounnahr has been studied to some extent [5; 8; 9; 10; 11; 16]. How this process took place in the Ferghana Valley is partially explained in the works on the life and statecraft of Zahiriddin Muhammad Babur [1; 2; 3; 4; 7; 13; 14; 15; 17]. The issue of inclusion of the Ferghana Valley into Shaybani Khan's state was not fully researched because they mainly focused on the activities of Babur Mirza. This situation has led to the promotion of incorrect opinions in some scientific literature that Shaibani Khan took the Ferghana Valley from Babur Mirza [6: 22-27 b]. We can observe such thoughts in foreign historiography. Cambridge University professors Branko Soucek, Swat Soucek's work entitled "A history of inner Asia" ("History of Central Asia") concludes that Shaybani Khan conquered the Ferghana Valley by defeating Babur Mirza [18: 161-p. Also, in Rene Grousset's work "The Empire of the Steppes a History of Central Asia" ("The History of the Nomadic Empire in Central Asia"), the conclusion that Shaibani Khan took the Ferghana Valley from the Mongol Khans Sultan Mahmud and his brother Olacha Khan was put forward [19: 481 - 482 b].

We think that it is necessary to study the inclusion of the Ferghana Valley into the Shaibani state in three stages. The first stage took place in 1503. In the same year, Shaybani Khan started marching against the Mongol khans Sultan Mahmud Khan, Ahmad Khan and the Timurid ruler Babur Mirza in order to help Ahmad Tanbal. Having defeated the allies, Shaibani Khan returned to Samarkand, leaving Fargana at the hands of Ahmed Tanbal. Ahmal Tanbal also recognized him as a supreme leader. In the second stage, in 1504, the power of Ahmal Tanbal in Fergana was terminated and the Fergana valley was included in the Shaibani state. The third stage took place in 1510-1514. After the death of Shaybani Khan, the Uzbek sultans ended the state of



Said Khan, who took power in Fergana, and included the valley in the Shaibani state [12: 50-53 b]. Below we have tried to analyze the historical processes of the first and second stages in detail.

It is known that in May 1500, when Babur left Fergana to take the throne of Samarkand, Ahmad Tanbal took power here on behalf of his brother Jakhongir Mirza. In order to strengthen his power, Ahmad Tanbal divided the valley cities among his brothers. In particular, Andijan was ruled by Sultan Muhammad Qalpuk, Akhsi Sheikh Bayazid, Uzgan Khalilbek, and Margilan was ruled by Bek Telba [5: 92–107 b]. After Mirza Babur lost Samarkand to Shaibani Khan, he tried to restore his power in Ferghana with the help of his uncles Sultan Mahmud Khan of Tashkent and Sultan Ahmad Khan of Mongolia. Ahmad Tanbal sent his brother Bek Telba to Shaibani Khan and asked him for help in order to preserve his rule. "Tanbal," Babur mirza writes, "sent Bek Telba, the master of Shaybakkhana, to express his obedience and beg. On this occasion, Shaybak Khan's badges arrived: he said, "I will walk" [5: 100-b]. For Shaybani Khan, who aimed to conquer the whole of Mavorunnahr, it was time to ask Ahmad Tanbal for help. Because the transfer of Fergana to the hands of Babur Mirza and Mongol Khans would lead to the emergence of a serious rival for Shaibani Khan in the eastern part of Movarounnahr. In order to prevent this danger, Shaibani Khan decided to start marching immediately. Muhammad Salih states that the Mongol khans sent an ambassador to Shaibani Khan as soon as they heard about Bek Telba's embassy and tried to prevent this march. According to the historian, the Mongol khans hoped to gain time by exchanging ambassadors. They also believed that the Mongolian troops left in Oratepa and Tashkent would be enough to resist Shaibani Khan. Although the sources do not provide information about the number of the Mongolian army remaining in Tashkent, it is stated that the number of the Mongolian army stationed in Oratepa is five thousand [10: 176–181 b]. The same information of Muhammad Salih is confirmed by Mirza Haydar in his work "History of Rashidi" [9: 233-234 b]. But the hopes of the khans were not justified. Shaibani Khan took the ambassador of the khans with him and started marching to Oratepa. The armies of Shaybani, who captured Oratepa without difficulty, entered Ferghana. At this time, Babur Mirza and his uncles, who were fighting against Ahmad Tanbal in Ferghana, had to turn their attention to Shaibani Khan.

When the Mongol khans besieging Andijan heard about Shaibani Khan's march to Khojand, they headed towards Margilon to protect the western regions of Ferghana. As Mongolian soldiers plundered the people of Osh and Margilan regions, the inhabitants of the valley also raised an uprising against them [5: 100-b]. At this time, Shaibani Khan, who captured Khojand, arrives in Konibodom. The Mongol khans,





who did not like to stay in Margilon, moved to the north of Syrdarya in a situation where the discontent of the people of the valley was growing. Their goal was to retreat to Tashkent through the pass. Because only a few small fortresses in the north of the valley were left in the hands of the Mongols, and the main city, Akhsi, was in the hands of Ahmed Tanbal's younger brother Sheikh Bayazid.

According to Muhammad Salih, Shaibani Khan also marched towards Akhsi with his army, crossing the Syrdarya near Khokhani Orchin [10: 187-188 b]. The army used 4 ships and many rafts to cross the Syrdarya. Shaibani Khan's swift action forced the Mongol khans to engage in battle on the Arkhayon steppe. Muhammad Salih states that there are thirty thousand troops under the Mongol Khans, and one thousand under Zahiruddin Muhammad Babur [10: 194-b]. Mirza Haydar stated that the allied army consisted of fifteen thousand people [9: 234-b]. In "Boburnoma" it was recorded that the Mongol khans came to Ferghana with an army of thirty thousand people [5: 94-b]. Taking into account that the Khans fought against Ahmad Tanbal for almost a year in Ferghana, we can assume that they had less than thirty thousand soldiers at their disposal in the Arkhiyan battle. Accordingly, we believe that the information given by Muhammad Saleh is close to the truth. Shaibani Khan, who won the battle, included Tashkent in his state. Ahmad Tanbal, who recognized Fergana as his ruler, returned to Samarkand. However, although it is not specified in the sources, we think that Shaibani Khan left the city of Khojand as part of his possessions. Sources would have noted that this city, captured by battle, was re-gifted to Ahmad Tanbal. Also, the fact that the city of Khojand was designated as the place where the army of the Shayban sultans gathered during the march to Fergana in 1504 is the basis for expressing such an opinion.

Ahmed Tanbal did not want to rule as Shaibani Khan's deputy and began to pursue an independent policy. The fact that Shaibani Khan was busy with the siege of Balkh allowed Ahmad Tanbal to attack the Tashkent territories belonging to Jonibek Sultan with Ferghana's army. According to Mirza Haydar, Ahmed Tanbal marched to Tashkent with his brother Sheikh Bayazid [9: 243-b]. Babur Mirza mentioned in Baburnama that Ahmad Tanbal marched to Piskant [5: 86-b]. Historian scientist S. Jalilov emphasizes that Ahmad Tanbal besieged Tashkent with his army. In our opinion, Ahmad Tanbal did not reach the city of Tashkent, he returned from Piskant. There were a number of reasons why Ahmad Tanbal went to Tashkent region. First of all, after the defeat in the Battle of Arkhion, the Mongol khans went to Mongolia, but most of their army remained in Fergana and joined the service of Ahmad Tanbal. Therefore, Muhammad Salih stated that the Mongol army made up a large part of Tanbal's army [10: 234-b]. Mirza Haydar also noted that many Mongols who were in



the service of Timurid mirzas gathered in Fergana after the majority of Movarounnahr fell into the hands of Shaibani Khan [9: 242-247 b]. The increase in military power of Ahmed Tanbal allowed him to march to Tashkent region. Secondly, the Mongols, who formed the basis of Ahmad Tanbal's troops, were motivated to march to this region because of their desire to recapture Tashkent, which belonged to them until recently. After Shaibani Khan returned from the Balkh campaign, he ordered the governors of Karmana and Kesh to start marching towards Fergana. Jonibek Sultan and Kochkunchikhans from Tashkent and Turkestan will also march towards Ferghana. After all the forces of the Shaybani sultans gathered in Khojand, they marched through Konibodom to Margilon. At first, Shaibani Khan faced strong resistance in Margilon. Ahmad Tanbal, who knew the danger of an attack by Shaibani Khan, had greatly fortified all the cities of Fergana, including Margilan. It should be mentioned here that at that time the city of Margilan had a fortress protected by a wall [5: 57–58 b]. Muhammad Salih also emphasizes the strength of the Margilan city fortress, saying, "Kelgoch ul shaharga khan a'azam, Kordi ul ka'alani is so strong" [10: 233-b]. Seeing that Margilan was strongly defended, Shaibani Khan did not prefer to attack the city. At the time, Hamza, who was in the service of the Fergana state during the reign of Mirza Babur, continues to march towards Andijan with the advice of Sultan. According to Mirza Haidar, Ahmad Tanbal Shaibani Khan was in the Turuksharan Gorge when he started to march to Fergana, busy subduing the Chakrak tribes living in the mountains between Andijan and Kashghar [9: 244-b]. He quickly returned to Andijan and took defensive measures. Shaibani Khan's immediate departure from Margilan was caused by Ahmed Tanbal's gathering of troops from all the fortresses of Ferghana to Andijan. Unable to assess his own strength, Ahmad Tanbal decides to conduct a long-distance fight with Shaibani Khan outside the city. Although Muhammad Salih Ahmad stated that Tanbal's army consisted of thirty thousand warriors [10: 232-242 b], we think that Mirza Haydar's statement that Farghana's army consisted of ten thousand men is much closer to the truth [9: 244-b]. Mirza Haidar Shaibani Khan's goal was to return after looting the Ferghana Valley, and organize a new campaign to conquer this land. According to him, Shaibani Khan was afraid of the great loss of the army of Shaibani as a result of Ahmad Tanbal's defensive war inside the fortress instead of fighting in the open field. That is why Ahmed Tanbal's going out of Andijan with his army to fight was a matter for him [9: 244-245 b].

S. Jalilov concludes that the battle between the armies of Shaibani Khan and Ahmad Tanbal took place in May 1504 near the present city of Asaka [13: 90-p.]. Ahmad Tanbal is defeated in the battle and retreats to Andijan fortress and strengthens the





fortress. According to Haidar Mirza, Shaibani Khan besieged the fortress for forty days. As a result of the siege, famine begins in the city. After Shaibani Khan's soldiers captured the fortress by battle, Ahmad Tanbal retreated to the arch with his relatives and continued resistance. But soon Ahmad Tanbal Mirza Haidar's father, Muhammad Husain Mirza, surrendered. Shaibani Khan ordered the execution of Ahmad Tanbal and his relatives who betrayed him [9: 245-b].

Shaybani Khan gave the Fergana Valley as a vassal to Jonibek Sultan. Muhammadyar ibn Arab Qatagan wrote in his work "Musaxhir al-bilad" that Andijan was handed over to Mahmudshah Sultan, and Akhsi was handed over to Jonibek Sultan [11: 88-p. However, it is known from the works of Muhammad Salih and Haydar mirzas that the entire Ferghana Valley was given to Jonibek Sultan [9: 245-b; 10: p. 243]. Also, in the account of events related to the life of the Mongol Khan Said Khan, Haydar Mirza states that Andijan was ruled by Khoja Ali Bahadir on behalf of Jonibek Sultan [9: 332-b]. Based on the above, we think that the information that Muhammadyar ibn Arab Qatagan gave Andijan to Mahmudshah Sultan is incorrect [11: 90-p.]. It should be noted here that S. Jalilov describes Jonibek Sultan as the son of Shaibani Khan in "Thoughts about Babur" [15: 22-b]. In fact, Jonibek Sultan is the son of Khoja Muhammad Sultan, the uncle of Shaibani Khan, that is, his cousin [11: 142-b].

As a conclusion, we can say that Shaibani Khan, who initially stood on the side of Ahmad Tanbal and fought against the Mongol Khans Sultan Mahmud Khan, Sultan Ahmad Khan and Timurid ruler Zahiruddin Muhammad Babur, later ended Ahmad Tanbal's rule in Ferghana and included it in his state.

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