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The Late 16th And Early 17th Centuries. The Rise to Power of The Ashtar Khanate Dynasty

Barotov Sirojiddin

Researcher, National University of Uzbekistan, Uzbekistan

Abstract: The article covers the political crisis that occurred in the Bukhara Khanate in the late 16th - early 17th centuries, the collapse of the Shaybanid dynasty and the rise to power of the Asharkhanid (Janid) dynasty based on historical analysis. The study provides a detailed analysis of the state of anarchy that arose in the Bukhara Khanate as a result of the weakening of the central government, internal conflicts and attacks by external enemies. The origin of the Asharkhanid dynasty and the history of their entry into the political life of the khanate are also described based on sources.

Keywords: Shaybanids, Ashtarkhanids (Janids), "builder khan", Golden Horde, Astrakhan, "Haji Tarkhan", Dashti Kipchak, Tokai Timurid dynasty, Khazar Khaganate.

Introduction: The history of our homeland during the years of independence began to be comprehensively and scientifically covered. In particular, special attention was paid to the study of the history of Uzbek statehood. The study of the era of the khanates that ruled in Central Asia and their place in the processes of development of world civilization rose to the level of politics. The history of the era of the Bukhara Khanate that ruled in Central Asia was not sufficiently studied for a long time and remained outside of scientific research. The analysis of sources related to the history of the khanate was not carried out to a sufficient extent. Thanks to independence, scientific works on the era of the khanates that ruled in our country, including the Ashtar Khanate dynasty that ruled the throne after the Shaybanids in the Bukhara Khanate, began to be analyzed and studied.

The first president of Uzbekistan said about the need to learn from the rich history of our country and draw conclusions: " Living by learning from history , knowing the truths of history gives a person strength, arms him

with the truth of life. When writing history, one should never deviate either to the right or to the left, but only from the point of view of truth and justice. ... One should learn from history and live. First of all, I would like to say to our youth: read, study history, a person who knows his history, his past, will not be mistaken in the future."

Therefore, it is important to study and illuminate the true history. The era of the khanates is considered an important period in the history and development of Uzbek statehood. The khanates formed in the Central Asian region had important geopolitical advantages in conducting trade and diplomatic relations with Russia, East Turkestan and China in the north and east, the Caspian Sea in the west, and Afghanistan, India and Iran in the south. In the article, we tried to shed light on the political crisis of the Shaybanid dynasty in the Bukhara Khanate and the rise to power of the Ashtar Khans. As a result of the fierce struggles to strengthen state power in the last years of the reign of the Shaybanid dynasty, political disunity in the country intensified, and the struggle between claimants to power intensified. The last years of the reign of Abdulla Khan II, whom the Central Asian historian Muhammadyar ibn Arab Qataghan, who lived and worked in the second half of the 15th century and worked in the first quarter of the 16th century, called him the "builder khan" in his work "Musakkhir al-bilad", were a period of failure in the foreign policy of the Bukhara Khanate. While the Kazakh Sultan Tawakkal became active in the north, the Iranian Shah Abbas I began to claim Khorasan in the south. After the death of Shaybani Abdulla Khan II in early 1598, his son Abdulmu'min ascended the throne of the Bukhara Khanate. However, his reign did not last long. This was due to the fact that he did not hesitate to strengthen his position. After the death of his father, Abdulmu'min arrested the Ashtar Khan Janibek. In such circumstances, the son of Janibek, Din Muhammad Sultan, marched on the city of Herat with the support of the Iranians. But he could not capture the city. Abdulmu'min executed most of the officials who were on his father's side. This, in turn, caused other emirs to turn against him. According to historians, his reign lasted six months. An assassination attempt was made against Abdulmu'min, who had begun a military campaign in Khorasan. The former ayins of Abdullah Khan II, Abdusamad Bahadir Mirokhor and Muhammadqul Bahadir Tirandoz, were at the head of the conspiracy. Thus, Abdulmu'min became a victim of a conspiracy between Uratapa and Zamin. This event occurred in mid-1598. When Hajibiy Otalik, who was the governor of Herat at that time, learned of this event, he handed over the city to Dinmu'min. At this

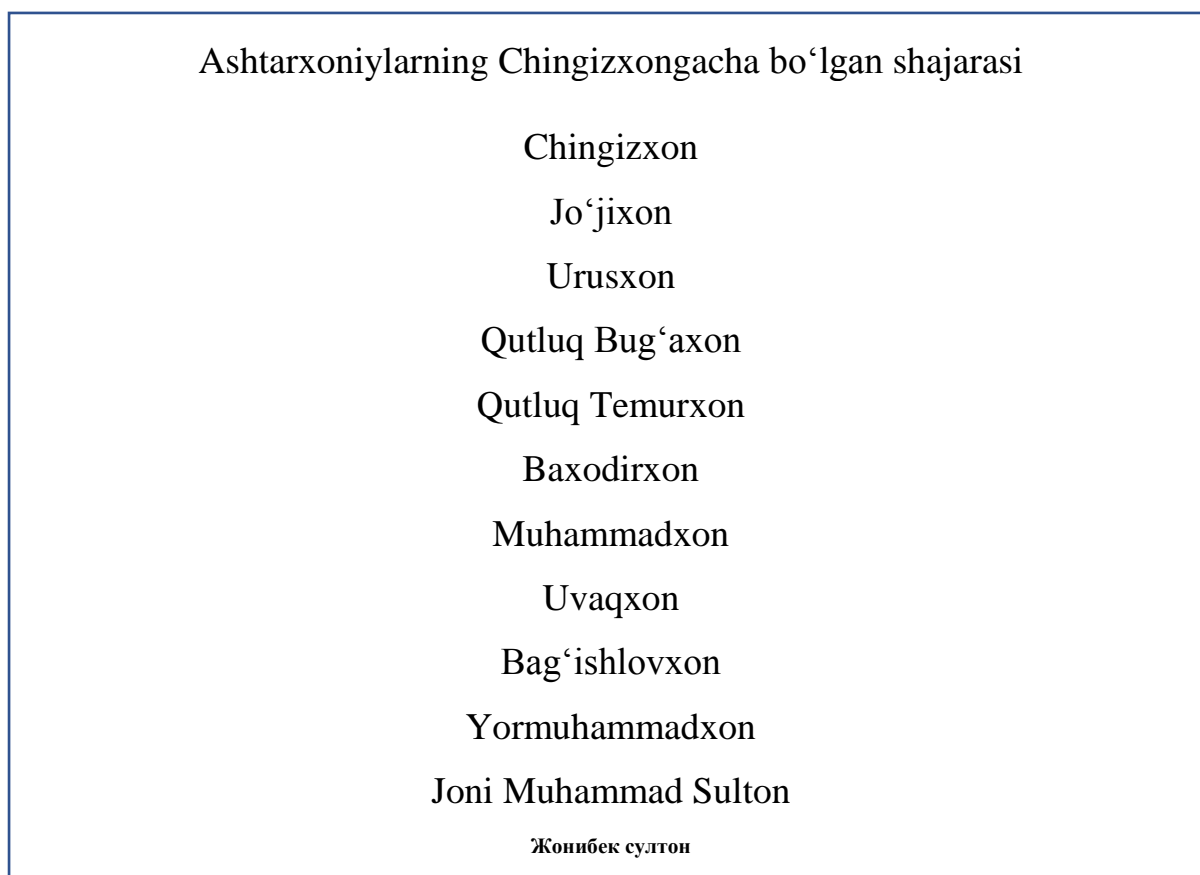
time, Pirmuhammad, a representative of the Shaybanid dynasty, was elevated to the position of khan in Bukhara. This situation did not please Dinmuhammad. He proclaimed his grandfather Yormuhammad, who had just returned from the pilgrimage, as khan. However, Dinmuhammad himself was killed in battle in July 1599 while defending the city of Herat from the Iranian Shah Abbas. Upon learning of this event, Yormuhammad and Dinmuhammad's brother Boqimuhammad fled to Bukhara to Pirmuhammad Khan and announced their obedience to him. After a short time, in October of the same year, Boqimuhammad was appointed governor of Samarkand. However, Boqi Muhammad, who had taken the throne of Samarkand, refused to obey the elderly Pirmuhammad Khan. Historians Muhammad Yusuf Munshi in his works "History of Mukimkhan" and Abulgazi Bahodirkhan "Shajarayi Turk" describe Abdulmu'min as the last Shaybani ruler in Transoxiana. The conspiracy against Abdulmu'min was a sign of the weakening of the central power in the khanate and the growing position of large officials. After the death of Abdulmu'minkhan, no candidate was found among the representatives of the Shaybani dynasty to occupy the supreme power. The political situation in the country became complicated and anarchy reached its peak. No one wanted to obey each other. After Abdulmu'minkhan, a group of officials installed Pirmuhammad II (1598-1601), a cousin of Abdulmu'minkhan II, on the khanate throne. Pirmuhammad II was considered a khan in name only, and real power passed into the hands of large landowners who had their own influence in the country. His reign did not last long. In such a situation, maintaining power and strengthening the position of the central government largely depended on the ruler himself. However, Pirmuhammad Khan did not have such qualities and abilities. After the death of Abdullah Khan II, the internal and external enemies of the khanate tried to take advantage of the weakening of the central government and the chaos in the country. Pir Muhammad Khan was powerless to get out of this situation. At the same time, Boqi Muhammad, who was the governor of Samarkand, entered into a war with Pir Muhammad Khan near Samarkand at the end of 1601. Pir Muhammad Khan was killed in the battle. Thus, Boqi Muhammad ascended the throne of Bukhara. The Safavids of Iran tried to take advantage of this difficult situation. They captured cities such as Mashhad, Sabzavor and Herat, which had been occupied by the Shaybanids. With the support of the Safavid ruler Abbas I, Muhammad Ibrahim, who had been educated under the Shah in Iran, became the ruler of Balkh, and power in the southern borders of the country passed from the Shaybanids. At this time, the invasion campaigns of the Kazakh sultan Tawakkal, who was located on the

northeastern border of the khanate, began. He conquered territories as far as Akhsi, Andijan, Tashkent, Samarkand and Miyanqal. However, Tawakkal's attempt to capture Bukhara ended in defeat, and he himself was wounded in battle. He died of his wounds in Tashkent in 1599. This put an end to further Kazakh conquests. Khorezm, the northwestern part of the country, which had been conquered with great difficulty by Abdulla Khan II, and the territories inhabited by the Turkmens also regained their independence with the support of the Safavid Shah Abbas. According to the author of the work "History of Mukimkhan", Muhammad Yusuf Munshi, "In Transoxiana itself, as in the entire country, chaos and strife broke out, and no one wanted to obey anyone." The Shaybanid dynasty held power until 1601. At a time when the internal and external situation was aggravated, a group of officials, tribal chieftains and

influential scholars in the political life of the country installed Din Muhammad Sultan, the son of Jani Muhammad Sultan, a relative of the Shaybanids, on the throne of the Bukhara Khanate. At that time, Din Muhammad ruled the southwestern regions of the Khanate. From this event, the reign of the Ashtar Khani (Jani) dynasty began in the Bukhara Khanate. The Ashtar Khani (Jani) dynasty was a dynasty that held supreme power in the Bukhara Khanate for more than 150 years (1601-1756). The Ashtarkhans are originally from the descendants of Chingizxongacha Joji Khan, and the work "History of Mukimkhan" provides information about their genealogy up to Genghis Khan. (Table 1) Jonibek Sultan was a descendant of Tokai Temur, the thirteenth son of Joji Khan, and from the 80s of the 14th century he ruled the Volga River, including Astrakhan (Khoji Tarkhan) and the adjacent territories.

Table 1

Ashtar Khan family tree



In 1556, when Astrakhan was conquered by the Moscow prince Ivan the Terrible and declared a Russian possession, Yormuhammad Khan's family, his wife and children, Jani Muhammad Sultan, Abbas Sultan, Tursun Muhammad Sultan, and Pir Muhammad Sultan, were forced to move to Bukhara. Yormuhammad Khan's family established ties of kinship with the ruling dynasty of the Bukhara Khanate. His son, Janibek Sultan, married Zuhra Khanum, the

daughter of Bukhara Khan Iskandar Khan (1563-1583). Abdulla Khan II also entrusted him with the administration of some districts. Three sons (Din Muhammad, Boqi Muhammad, Vali Muhammad) were born in this family. They ruled Merv, Nisa, and Obivard during the reign of Abdulla Khan II (1583-1598). After the assassination attempt on Abdulmo'min Khan in 1598, officials and religious scholars tried to install Janibek Sultan on the state throne. However, Janibek

Sultan would not agree to this. In such a situation, they preached a sermon in the name of his eldest son, Din Muhammad Khan. However, Din Muhammad Khan died in a clash with the Iranian army on the way to Bukhara. After that, Janibek Sultan's middle son, Boqi Muhammad, was installed on the khanate throne. Vali Muhammad was declared the heir and sent by the ruler to Balkh, the center of Islam, as a governor. Thus, power in the Bukhara Khanate passed completely into the hands of representatives of the Ashtar Khan dynasty. In Transoxiana, the period of rule of the dynasty, which in historical sources is called the Ashtarkhanids (rulers of Khoji Tarkhan) or the Janids (after the name of Janibek Sultan), began. Scientific literature emphasizes that the first ruler of this dynasty was Boqi Muhammad. However, numismatic data indicate that coins were minted in the name of Janibek Sultan in the capital of the khanate, Bukhara, as well as in the cities of Samarkand and Tashkent in 1600-1601. Based on this, it can be said that the first ruler of the Ashtarkhanid dynasty was Janibek Sultan. Although the coins minted in the state in the early period were minted in the name of Janibek Sultan, in practice the country was ruled by Boqi Muhammad. Therefore, in historical literature, Boqi Muhammad is interpreted as the first ruler of the Ashtarkhanids. The coming to power of Boqi Muhammad in the Bukhara Khanate and the beginning of the rule of the new dynasty did not bring any major changes in practice. The death of Abdulla Khan II and the internal struggles and political discord between the representatives of the last Shaybanid dynasty had intensified. Therefore, one of the important tasks facing the ruler of the new dynasty was to strengthen the central government and ensure the territorial integrity of the country. The influence of the Kazakh sultans was still strong in Samarkand and Tashkent. Having seized power, Boqi Muhammad, seeking to put an end to the political disunity in the country, first of all attacked Khorezm. Because after the death of Abdulla Khan II, Khorezm gained independence. In this region, the representative of the local dynasty, Haji Muhammad Khan (1559-1602), in a short time managed to occupy the territories from the Amu Darya to Mangishlok and establish his rule. Of course, Boqi Muhammad could not stand by and watch this. However, with the intervention of respected elders and scholars, an agreement was reached between Boqi Muhammad and Haji Muhammad Khan. Khorezm's dependence on Bukhara was recognized. Having strengthened his power in the western part of the country's borders, Boqi Muhammad now turned his attention to the south. During the Janid dynasty, the capital of the country was Bukhara, as it had been during the Shaybanid period. However, in the 17th century, the importance and prestige of Balkh

increased. Balkh was governed by the crown prince. At some intervals, Balkh and its province functioned as an independent principality from the Bukhara Khanate. However, at the same time, a large part of Balkh province was under the control of the Iranian Safavids. Therefore, Boqi Muhammad tried to quickly capture Balkh. At that time, Muhammad Ibrahim Sultan, a Shaybanid, ruled in Balkh. With the help of Shah Abbas, he occupied Balkh and the surrounding areas. He was the son of the Shaybanid Suyunch Muhammad Sultan, who was raised in the Safavid Abbas court and lived in the capital, Isfahan. During his short reign, Muhammad Ibrahim Sultan oppressed the common people and officials. Historian Muhammad Yusuf Munshi wrote dark pages about the era of Ibrahim Sultan in his work "History of Mukimkhan". According to him, many injustices occurred during Ibrahim Sultan's short reign. Innocent Muslims were killed in the markets and streets. Such atrocities continued to occur every day, everywhere. However, it remained unknown who was responsible for such murders and riots. In the end, it became clear that Ibrahim Sultan and his associates were at the top of these affairs. In addition, his support for customs characteristic of the Shiite sect also caused discontent among the population, most of whom were Sunni. These factors turned the people and officials against him. They asked for help from the governor of Samarkand, Vali Muhammad Khan. Vali Muhammad Khan, on the other hand, made relentless campaigns to capture Balkh. The appearance of the Ashtar Khan army around Balkh confused Muhammad Ibrahim Sultan and his allies. Even the trusted emirs of Ibrahim Sultan turned away from him and preferred to unite with the Bukhara army. In such a situation, the emirs, who wanted to save their dear lives and deeds, did not spare Ibrahim Sultan either. They encountered the Bukhara troops led by Vali Muhammad Khan in the village of Siyakhjird, located north of Balkh. In the same place, Ibrahim Sultan was captured, his head cut off from his body, and Vali Muhammad Khan threw it under the feet of his horse. Thus, Vali Muhammad Khan captured the city of Balkh. All the emirs and military commanders of the city entered the service of Vali Muhammad Khan. Thus, at the end of 1601, the city of Balkh was captured by the Ashtar Khans. A sermon was read in the name of Jani Muhammad Khan here, and Vali Muhammad was appointed governor of the city.

In short, after the death of Shaybani Abdullakhan II at the end of the 16th century, power struggles and internal political conflicts flared up among the representatives of the ruling dynasty. As a result, the crisis of central power accelerated. The unrest in the country strained the political situation. Internal and external enemies of the Bukhara Khanate tried to take

advantage of this situation. As a result, in such difficult conditions, a new dynasty came to power - the Ashtar Khanate.

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