

The Great Silk Road – The Road of Culture and Diplomatic Relations

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Abstract: The article talks about the history of the Great Silk Road, the history and place of large-scale cultural contacts and trade relations between the peoples of the East and West. In particular, issues such as the fact that this history is one of mutual cooperation, exchange and enrichment of cultures that form the basis of peace and development are highlighted.

Keywords: Peace and development, the Great Silk Road, Ancient Fergana, migration processes, population, trade, Khorezm, Samarkand, Bukhara, science and culture.

The history of the Great Silk Road is a history of large-scale cultural contacts and trade exchanges between the peoples of the East and West. This history is one of mutual cooperation, exchange and enrichment of cultures that formed the basis of peace and development.

“When we look at the history of the Great Silk Road, we see that this road was a means of inter-territorial communication of the development of society, starting from the Bronze Age. In past history, during the Achaemenid rule of Iran in the 6th-4th centuries BC, a “royal road” passed through its territory. Prior to this, Badakhshan's need for lapis lazuli in the Near and Middle East led to the creation of the "lapis lazuli road". The term "Great Silk Road" was not used in ancient times. The scientific study of the historical, geographical and cultural aspects of the Great Silk Road was begun by scientists from many countries in the second half of the 19th century. Scientists from Western Europe, Russia and Japan made significant contributions to his research. In particular, in connection with this, the “Encyclopedia of the Great Silk Road” was published in Japan.

This road was introduced into science under the name “Silk Road” only in the 70s of the 19th century by the German scientist Ferdinand von Richthofen.

The cities of Fergana, Khorezm, Samarkand, Bukhara and Nasaf were of great importance in the integration of science and culture into the system of the Great Silk Road.

The Fergana Valley, the pearl of Central Asia, has been one of the cradles of civilization for thousands of years. Ancient Fergana is considered one of the largest historical and cultural centers of the Turan land, like Bactria, Sogd, Khorezm, and entered world history under the name “Fergana civilization” thanks to its significant contribution to the culture of the world. For example, A. Toynbee notes that this is one of the 20 civilizations of the world, and writes: “Ancient Fergana is one of the important centers of world civilization.” Since ancient times, the valley, located at an important strategic point, had trade, economic and cultural ties with its closest neighbors and distant countries. Archeology and ethnography are of great importance in analyzing the influence and direction of cultural and economic ties. Because these processes are reflected in material culture. In particular, some archaeological complexes identified in the Fergana Valley region, which the Chinese defined as the Western Lands, are compared with materials from Western China, and opinions and conclusions are drawn on their basis.

Today's written sources and archaeological finds confirm that the Great Silk Road also passed through the Khorezm region and diplomatic relations were established with China, India, Iran, Iraq, the Caucasus, as well as with neighboring countries to the north.

In connection with the great geographical discoveries of the 16th and 17th centuries, the importance of the ancient overland trade routes that connected European and Asian countries, including the Great Silk Road, decreased. In particular, the political events that took place in the khanates in the 15th-18th centuries, feudal fragmentation and internal strife led to a weakening of international ties. Despite such drastic changes, the economic and cultural ties of the Uzbek khanates with neighboring countries did not completely cease. At that time, trade caravans of Khiva, Bukhara and Balkh could be found in India, in the cities of Iran, Kashkar, Kazakhstan, along the Volga and in Siberia. The significance of the Great Silk Road in the history of peoples and nations is incomparable. Because a trade route is a process that includes migration and emigration of not only trade caravans, but also thousands of people. Study the democratic situation in the Khanate of Khiva, the history of the Great Silk Road, its routes with which countries established trade and diplomatic relations, changes in the national composition of the peoples living in the territory of the Khanate, migration and processes of urbanization, employment and a more in-depth analysis are considered important tasks lifestyle issues. Based on this, we clearly see the influence of the Great Silk Road on the demography of the Khanate.

Firstly, the Great Silk Road is a means of establishing important diplomatic relations between countries;

Secondly, revenues received through customs and taxes on the market lead to an increase in economic indicators in the khanate.

Thirdly, the opportunity to enter the world market for products supplied by local artisans, farmers and cattle breeders.

Fourthly, it will lead to the exchange of cultures, improvement and general exchange of lifestyle and living conditions of the local population through the Silk Road.

In general, along the cities of the Great Silk Road, the various historical and cultural regions of Central Asia have been in close cultural ties with each other and neighboring peoples since the most ancient period of history. These cultural ties include cooperation in various spheres of socio-economic life, large-scale mutual exchange of various technological achievements, trade and diplomatic relations, interaction in the field of crafts, architecture, sculpture, fine arts and other areas of culture. -philosophical views and moral standards, dissemination of information, news and technological innovations in various fields of science, written and numismatic processes and other forms were carried out. In this regard, the importance of cultural communication carried out along the ancient roads of the region, especially the Great Silk Road, was extremely important. Trade caravans on the main caravan routes of the region included artisans, scientists, poets and musicians.

In this regard, researchers note that in the early Middle Ages, the peoples of the region, in particular the Sogdians, played a large role in the spread and introduction of various cultural traditions and religions across the vast territory of the East, while these interactions were one-sided. In addition, it is important that cultural influence spread from East to West - from China to Central Asia, Iran and Ancient Asia. In the developed Middle Ages, the development of cultural ties in the region was based on the emergence of centralized states, the achievements of material and spiritual life in various fields of science.

The historical significance of the Great Silk Road, which served as the main factor in the wide dissemination of ideas serving goodness, creativity and universal development in the cultural ties of the peoples of the East and West in past historical periods, is becoming increasingly obvious. . This is reason to note that it still operates in practice today as the main idea of Central Asian civilization, and that the immortal ideas laid down by our ancestors continue. We can see this in

the example of foreign cultural relations of Uzbekistan and the development of culture in our country.

At the same time, the restoration of the history and values of our ancestors is a wonderful result of our independence. What adds joy is the fact that works reflecting the past, history and life of our people are published in our native language. Now many pages, documents, handwritten materials of our past are illuminated on the basis of primary sources. Historical values and truths are restored on the basis of primary sources. All of them are a celebration of the great victory of historical justice. High culture and scientific discoveries created by our great ancestors are of great importance in the formation and development of the human worldview, which is the highest value of our society. As President Sh. Mirziyoyev said: “Nothing in great history passes without a trace. It is preserved in the blood and historical memory of peoples, manifested in their practical activities. That's why he is powerful. “The preservation, study and transmission of historical heritage from generation to generation is one of the most important policy priorities of our state.”

Thus, the Great Silk Road played an important role in the political, economic, cultural and commercial life of the peoples of Central Asia. In a word, the Great Silk Road occupies an extremely important and historical place in the life of the peoples of the East and West. It not only connected peoples in the political, economic, trade and cultural spheres, but at the same time this road was also the path of peace, tranquility, good neighborliness, friendship and brotherhood between the peoples of the world.

President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sh.M. Mirziyoyev in his speech at the International Forum “One Place, One Road” (May 14-15, 2017) in Beijing, the capital of the People’s Republic of China: “Chairman of the Initiative of the People’s Republic of China Xi Jinping to create an “Economic Route” Silk Road”, which is an integral part of the concept of "One Place, One Road", in our opinion, is not only enriched with the historical spirit, but also has a long-term perspective. It is a comprehensive initiative.... The implementation of the "Economic Direction of the Silk Road" initiative should be focused not only on expanding economic cooperation, but also on the active use of the existing huge tourism potential. On the Great Silk Road, which we are restoring, there are cities with thousands of years of history and rich culture, such as Samarkand, Bukhara, Khiva.

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