

## **Kudzula Kadfiz from the Title of “Yabgu” To “King of Kings”**

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**Abstract:** It is known from history that the political importance of a country is determined by the honorary title of the ruler or the honorary status of the person who leads this country, in addition to various factors. These titles are inherited from the ruler to his son or acquired during the struggle for power with other equal claimants to the throne. In the process of the expansion of the state and further growth of its power, the personality of the first ruler who had a simple name (title) and his title of rulership grew accordingly and became deified. In some cases, they went as far as considering the rulers of the state as relatives of the gods, for example, the Egyptians called the ruler "son of Ra", in China they were called "son of God" or "child of heaven", in Hindus they were called "devaputra, (son of God), and in Bactrians "bagopoiro" (son of God). and accordingly, in Assyria, the kings with the titles of "Sar-sarani" and "Lugal" further deified themselves<sup>1</sup>.

**Keywords:** Kushan, "Yabgu", "king", "king of kings", "Maharadja", "Rajatiradja", Jobu, "Yaviga", "si-hou" or "xi-hou", "vasilevs" or "vasilevs vasileon".

### **INTRODUCTION.**

In the study of the titles of the kings of the Yueji-Kushan kingdom, we cover the topic of the article mainly by studying ancient Chinese written sources and numismatic sources minted by Kushan rulers, as well as epigraphic sources related to the Kushan era.

The history of the Kushan dynasty has been studied through written sources and numismatic studies. Coins are a key source in illuminating the history of any country. Through them, information such as the geography of the territorial distribution of the state, the rulers who ruled it, their titles (honorary status), and, in turn, the economic potential of the state are revealed. The first coins issued during the Kushan era have on one side the image of the last king of Greco-Bactria, Hermey, and on the other side the words "Kujula Kadphiz, Yabgu Kushan, firm in faith." So, initially Kushan governors did not associate their names with the concepts of "king" and "king". Initially, the Kushan rulers adopted the simple title of Yabgu. Some scientists (for example, D. Sircar, A. Simonetta, V. M. Masson)<sup>2</sup> it is believed that these coins originally reflected the situation after Kadphis I moved to the highlands of Central Afghanistan and was forced to temporarily recognize Greek rule. However, along with the expansion of the territory of the Kushan state, the political and military importance of the state increased, the title of "Yabgu" was replaced by the title of "king", "king of kings" on coins.

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<sup>1</sup> Ртвеладзе Э.В. История государственности Узбекистана. Ташкент. Ўзбекистон нашриёти. 2009. 330-б.

<sup>2</sup> угли Исаров, У. И. (2023). ОСОБЕННОСТИ МАТЕРИАЛЬНОЙ КУЛЬТУРЫ ДРЕВНИХ КОЧЕВНИКОВ СРЕДНЕЙ АЗИИ. *ITALY" ACTUAL PROBLEMS OF SCIENCE AND EDUCATION IN THE FACE OF MODERN CHALLENGES*., 14(1).

E. Pulleyblank accepts the title yabghu as a peculiar affinity with the previously mentioned title yavuga on early Kushan coins, which was later adopted by the Turks in the form of yabghu<sup>3</sup> believes that.

## MAIN PART.

Kushan rulers initially received the modest title of "Yaviga". Yavig means leader, leader and prince. G. Pulleyblanc believes that the Turks received the title Yaviga from the Kushans in the form of "Yabgu"<sup>4</sup>. This is also confirmed by the numismatic analysis of coins found as a result of archaeological research. For example, coins minted during the reign of Kudzula Kadphiz and Vima Kadphiz have the title "Yabgu" (Chinese: Chhaou)<sup>5</sup>. Later, coins were minted with the honorary name "Ruler Kadfiz"<sup>6</sup>. Coins minted during the second reign of Kadphiz I also appear with titles such as "Maharadja" (great king) and "Rajatiradja" (king of kings), which are considered titles of Indian kings<sup>7</sup>. The minting of this title may be due to the fact that Kadphiz I also conquered the Indian territories.

Kudzula Kadfiz is also represented by the title "Kushana Yavugasa" i.e. "Yabghu Kushan" in the texts of the Kharoshtkhi script on all four oldest coins<sup>8</sup>. The same title in Greek script was minted on his coins in the Greek forms Zooi (Zorçc), Iobyo (Bactrian), and this title meant the leader or leader of the nomadic tribes<sup>9</sup>.

Chinese written sources testify that the Sogd oasis was ruled by the rulers of the Zhaowu dynasty, i.e. the Yuezhi, so we can consider the origin of their titles to be related to the Yuezhi. E. V. According to Rtveldze, the rulers who minted coins in the Sogdian region, especially Girkod, who minted coins with the image of an archer, agreed that the title of the leaders of the nomadic tribes, like the nomadic Yuechji ruler Kudzula Kadfiz, may have had the title of "Yabgyu", arguing that the origin of this title is related to Yuechjila. we can do it. In any case, the same title appears for the first time on the coins of leaders of nomadic tribes, on the coins of Kudzulla Kadphiz<sup>10</sup>.

Well-known toponymist scientist T. Nafasov, in the scientific literature devoted to the explanation and definition of toponyms of the region of Southern Uzbekistan, connected the origin of the name of the village of Jobu with the name of one of the titles of the supreme ruler - the term Yabgu. T. Nafasov According to, this title was a title given to the head of a tribe and a union of tribes in the ancient Turks<sup>11</sup>.

In the historical and archaeological literature known to us, the name of the place in the term "Jobu" (Yabgu, Yabgu) is not found in any other region of our country except Surkhandarya region, or it has not reached our time<sup>12</sup>. Another aspect of the fact that the term Jobu (Yabgu) has been preserved precisely in the ancient land of Surkhan is that the ethnos with the title of "Yabgu" in the state administration system first lived in this area (according to its geographical location "Northern -

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<sup>3</sup> ЗОКИРОВИЧ С. А. (2023). ЭВОЛЮЦИЯ ТИТУЛОВ КУШАНСКОГО ПРАВИТЕЛЯ. *Пересечения веры и культуры: Американский журнал религиозных и культурных исследований* (2993-2599), 1(9), 110-117.

<sup>4</sup> Yuldoshev, I. B. (2023). URBANIZATION PROCESSES IN THE SOUTHERN REGIONS OF CENTRAL ASIA DURING THE BRONZE AGE. *GOLDEN BRAIN*, 1(34), 4-8.

<sup>5</sup> Зиёдулла Мукимов. Ўзбекистон давлати ва ҳуқуқи тарихи. Т. Адолат нашриёти. 2003й.144-б.

<sup>6</sup> И.Исоков М., Пардаев К. Узбекистон тарихи Ўқув қўлланма. Тошкент нашриёти.2009 йил.32-б.

<sup>7</sup> Ртвеладзе.Э.В. Титулы правителей государств и владений в Средней Азии в начале I тыс. до н.э. – III-IV вв. н.э 2009 г.Ўзбекистон нашриёти.346-б.

<sup>8</sup> Chattopadhyay B. The age of the Kushanas: A Numismatic study- Calcutta,1967. P. 22-28; Mukherjee. The Rise and Fall...P. 30-39.

<sup>9</sup> Ртвеладзе.Э.В. Титулы правителей государств и владений в Средней Азии в начале I тыс. до н.э. – III-IV вв. н.э.2009 г. Ўзбекистон нашриёти.342-бет.

<sup>10</sup> Verma T.P. The Evolution of Kushana Titles // Journal of the Numismatic Society of India. Vol. LII. Parts I-II. Varanasy, 1990. P. 58-60.

<sup>11</sup> Насафов Т. Ўзбекистон топонимларининг изоҳли луғати. Тошкент. “Ўқитувчи” 1988. 74-бет.

<sup>12</sup>Т.АННАЙЕВ, К.Д.АРЗИЙЕВ. ЖОБУ-ЯБГУ (ЙАБГУ) – ДЕМАҚДИР. БРОНЗА ВА ИЛК ТЕМИР АСРИДА МАРКАЗИЙ ОСИЁ ХАЛҚЛАРИ МОДДИЙ МАДАНИЯТИ. (Республика илмий-амалий конференция материаллари). Самарқанд, 3 ноябрь, 2023 йил.135-137- бетлар.

Western Bactria"), later on the entire Oks - on the north side of the Amudarya ( "Northern Bactria") where the migration of the "Great or Great Yuechi" took place.

Thus, in the fourth quarter of the 2nd century BC, the term "Yabgu" began to spread in Bactria, first in its northern part, and then among the population of the entire country, and the rulers of this name began to control separate properties and the entire state of "Great or Great Yuechjis". It should be noted that historians, orientalists, linguists, and archaeologists have given different facts about the historical origin of the Yabgu term and title. The introduction of this term in the form of "si-hou" or "xi-hou" into the science of Russian historiography was carried out in the middle of the 19th century, and this was directly attributed to the Chinese scholar N.Ya. Related to the name Bichurin<sup>13</sup>.

Studying the images of deities depicted on Kushan coins shows that the Kushan kingdom paid attention to the religious freedom of the peoples and the issues of tolerance between religions.

Significantly, Kudzulla did not accept the title of king or king of kings during the early period of Kadphiz's reign, because his lineage was not of the line of kings. That is why the yabgu or yavig given at the congress of the nomadic tribes express the fact that they are the elected leader through their minted coins. During the time of his successors, no ruler is found with this title either in written or material sources.

The Greek titles "vasilevs" or "vasilevs vasileon" replaced the title "yabgu" on the coins of the Kushan kings, which indicates the rise of the political and military power of the state.

According to Zhang Tsjian', the Yuechji tribes, who were crushed by the Huns, now moved southward, occupied Dahya (Bactria) and settled on the northern side of Gui-shui (Amu Darya). After a certain period of time, the Yuechi confederation split into five parts, each of which was headed by a nomadic tribal elder - a tribal chief with the title of Yabgu<sup>14</sup>. The titles of the rulers are king of kings, son of god: Maharajasya Mahatasya Kushanasa Kaphasya devaputrasya<sup>15</sup> shows that he was raised to the title, this title indicates the existence of lands belonging to the Indian ethnos in the Kushan Empire. Titles of Kushan rulers include those of Iranian, Indian, and Greek kings.

According to ancient Chinese sources, the Kushan rulers, who united the five Yueji tribes, were recorded in the Chinese titles "si-hou" and "xi-hou" used by other nomadic tribes of Central Asia<sup>16</sup>. These titles were given by the well-known numismatist scientist A. N. Zograf suggests that the title is equivalent to the title "shan'yuy" used by the rulers of the Huns and other nomadic tribes of Central Asia. However, many scholars consider the title "Shan'yuy" equivalent to "Yabgu" - the title of the rulers of nomadic tribes<sup>17</sup>.

There are different views on the interpretation of the ethnic origin of this title. Some scholars believe that the title "Yabghu" has a Turkic origin, while others believe that it refers to the Sak-Khotan language, that is, the eastern Iranians who later became Turkic<sup>18</sup>. English scientist G. Bailey also stated in his scientific research that this title is etymologically derived from the Iranian language and means "leader"<sup>19</sup>.

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<sup>13</sup> Бичурин Н.Я. Собрание сведений о народах, обитавших в Средней Азии в древние времена.Т.II.М.-Л., Наука. 1954. С – 151-152; С – 227-228.

<sup>14</sup> Ртвеладзе Э.В. Древние монеты Средней Азии. Из литературы. Г. Гусьяма нашриёти. Тошкент.1987 г.10-бет.

<sup>15</sup> Abduxoliq ogli, F. A. ILK SIVILIZATSIYALARDA DEHQONCHILIKNING ORNI XUSUSIDA AYRIM MULOHAZALAR. "ЎЗБЕКИСТОН ТАРИХИ ВА МАНБАШУНОСЛИК" КАФЕДРАСИНИНГ "ЖАНУБИЙ ЎРТА ОСИЁ БРОНЗА ДАВРИ АРХЕОЛОГИЯСИ" МАВЗУИДАГИ МАҚОЛАЛАР ВА ТЕЗИСЛАР ТЎПЛАМИ, 163.

<sup>16</sup> Э.В.Ртвеладзе. История государственности Узбекистана.Т. Ўзбекистон нашриёти.2009 й.338-бет.

<sup>17</sup> Narain A.K. The Five Yabgus of the Yechehah // India. History and Thought. P. 176-177; Verma T.P. The Evolution... P. 58-60. O`sha manbada ushbu masalaga doir ilmiy adabiyotlar keltirilgan.

<sup>18</sup> Bailey H.W. Languages of the Saka // Handbuch der Orientalistik. Bd. 4. Leiden, 1958. P. 136; Кляшторный С.Г. Древнетюркский рунические...С. 111; Frye R.N. Some Early Iranian Titles // Oricus. V. 15. Leiden, 1962. P. 356-358.

<sup>19</sup> Litvinsky B.A.,1967 b, p. 36.

A.N. According to Zograf, this is the ancient Chinese title "shanyuy" itself<sup>20</sup>. A. K. Narain points out that a "Yabghu" (Yabghu) is a leader of a nomadic tribe. In turn, a group of historians and archaeologists (A. Khojaev, A. Askarov, T. Annev, etc.) consider the title of Yabgu to be a title specific to the ancient Turkic world. Well-known historian, Chinese scientist A. Khojaev, based on an in-depth analysis of ancient Chinese sources, came to the conclusion that "in ancient times, in the states of the Huns, Kangjui, Asuen (Usun), Ruzii (later the "Great Yuechjis"), tribal chiefs and leaders were called Yabgu"<sup>21</sup>. In the historical and archaeological literature of Western Europe and the Russian Federation, the title "Yabgu" is denied as being typical of the ancient Turkic peoples, and the origin of this title is associated with the ancient Eastern Iranian-speaking population. X. Bailey<sup>22</sup> and R. Frye<sup>23</sup> the title of Yabgu is Sak-Kho'ton, that is, Eastern Iranian term, and later this term was changed to G.S. According to Klyashtorny, he puts forward the idea that it was adopted by the ancient Turks in his scientific works<sup>24</sup>.

## CONCLUSION.

E.V. Rtveladze in his works devoted to the issues of the history of the Kushan state, including the "Great Yuechis"<sup>25</sup> directly considered the Yuechjis as Tokhars and included them among the Eastern Persian-speaking ethnos. N. Ya. The term "xu-xeu" introduced into the science of history by Bichurin E.V. According to Rtveladze, it is the Chinese equivalent of the title Yavuga. This, in turn, is considered a title of Turkic Yabgu. N. Ya. In the comments written by Bichurin, A. Khojaev is wrongly classified as "xu-xeu" a Chinese title of the princely category. "Sie hou" (shi hou) is hieroglyphically pronounced "sienhu" (shiep-hu) and is a Chinese transcription of the Turkic word "yabgu". The Chinese princely title is "xou"<sup>26</sup>. A. Khojaev deeply analyzed the ancient Chinese written sources related to the "Big Yuechjis", i.e. the Kushans, and the works of historians and archaeologists of the People's Republic of China on the issue of the same titles, and concluded that the Da-yuechjis (Dayruzis), who founded the Kushan state, are one of the ancient Turkic ethnic groups, the Oghiz, and "the Yabgu We agree with the opinion that the term proved to be a special title in the state administration. In turn, since 2017 J. of the Uzbek-Chinese archaeological expedition, which has been jointly studying the ancient burial mounds left by the "Great Yuechjis" in the Surkhan oasis. A group of Chinese archaeologists led by Wang also came to the reasonable conclusion that "Great Yuechji" means "Oguz".

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<sup>20</sup> Зограф А.Н. Монеты "Герая". Ташкент. 1937. С. 5.

<sup>21</sup> Аблат Ходжаев. Из истории древних тюрков. Ташкент. Tafakkur, 2010. С. 156.

<sup>22</sup> Beiley H.W. Languages of the Saka // Handbuch der Orientalistik. Bd.4,- Leiden.1958. P. 136.

<sup>23</sup> Frye R.N. Some early Iranian Titles // *Oricus*. V.15.-Leiden.1962. P. 356-358.

<sup>24</sup> Кляшторный Г.С. Древнетюркские рунические памятники как источник по истории Средней Азии. М. Наука. 1964. С. 111.

<sup>25</sup> Ртвеладзе Э.В. Юэджийско-кушанское государство Северный Бактрия в составе Кушанское государство. 2009 // История государственности Узбекистана. Ташкент. "Ўзбекистон". 2009.

<sup>26</sup> Аблат Ходжаев. Из истории древних тюрков. Ташкент. Tafakkur, 2010. С. 156.

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