ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, MONETARY CIRCULATION, SOCIAL STRATA, AND LAND OWNERSHIP IN THE KARAKHANID STATE

Toshtemirova Sevinch Student of KarSU

Abstract: This article analyzes the economic development of the Karakhanid State, the system of monetary circulation, the forms of land ownership, and the social strata of society. It examines the development of agriculture, handicrafts, and trade, as well as the role of coin minting and monetary circulation in the economic life of the state. Furthermore, the forms of land ownership such as iqta, waqf, and private property, together with the contribution of social groups consisting of rulers, military personnel, religious scholars, peasants, and craftsmen to the development of the state, are analyzed on the basis of scholarly sources.

Keywords: Karakhanid State, economic development, monetary circulation, coin minting, land ownership, iqta, waqf, private property, social strata, agriculture, handicrafts, domestic and foreign trade.

Attention has also been paid to the study of the economic development and land ownership issues of the Karakhanid Khanate. According to the conclusions put forward in this regard, the territory of this khanate "extended from the Karakum Desert in the west to Lake Lop Nor in the east, and from Lake Balkhash in the north to the Amu Darya in the south. The khanate existed from 840 to 1212. The ethnic composition of the population was also complex: one part was Turkic, while another component spoke Persian and Arabic. In addition, their social life was not uniform. The geographical conditions, economic foundations, and legal systems of the places where they lived differed from one another. This situation complicated the economic development of the khanate. During the rule of the Karakhanids, migration processes in Turkestan intensified significantly. Many Turkic tribes that had previously engaged in animal husbandry and had belonged to the tribal union known as the Uyghurs migrated from the pastures around Jetisu, the Tian Shan, and the Altai

Mountains to the cities and agricultural regions of Turkestan. As a result, a transition from pastoralism to agriculture took place among them, and consequently a new form of property ownership entered their social life. This change was directly connected not only with acquiring territories suitable for agriculture but also with the improvement of their social standard of living. While they lived in Jetisu, the production relations and lifestyle based on agriculture in the southern regions had penetrated every sphere of their social life. Above all, the advantages characteristic of agriculture attracted the Turkic tribes living west of the Pamirs. In particular, they were interested in important agricultural products, a settled and prosperous way of life, and a favorable natural environment. These factors influenced the thinking, mentality, and customs of the Turkic tribes. West of the Pamirs, the land ownership system that had existed before the establishment of the Karakhanid State was preserved. The Karakhanids granted part of the land to members of the khan's community as hereditary estates. Those who possessed such lands were called ilikkhans. The remaining lands, according to the system of the Samanid Khanate, were granted for life to Uyghur nobles and the leaders of other pastoral tribes under the name iqta. Those who possessed hereditary and suyurghal lands could enjoy their estates only after fulfilling certain conditions, namely assuming political, economic, and military obligations. The difference between them was that the lands granted to the ilikkhans could be inherited by their descendants, and within the boundaries of their hereditary estates they had the right to collect taxes and conduct inquiries. However, they were not allowed to organize military forces or establish administrative institutions within their territories. The descendants of those who possessed iqta lands could not automatically inherit them. Under certain circumstances, government permission was required to obtain inheritance rights over such lands1. Since a large part of the population of the Karakhanid State was engaged

1 . Негматов Н. Давлати Сомониён ва Қарахониён. — Душанбе: Ирфон, 1997.

in animal husbandry, not only land and water but also pastures were distributed among the officials of the Khagan's community. From this, it can be concluded that the ilikkhan and iqta systems of land distribution remained the principal forms of ownership of land, water, and pastures in the pastures of Central Asia and the territory of Transoxiana under the Karakhanid Khaganate. The ilikkhans, who possessed hereditary lands, together with the officials who held iqta lands, formed the class of property owners in society, while independent peasants and tenant farmers constituted the poorer class. The first group included the Khagan's community of the Karakhanid State, Uyghur and Qarluq officials, and other landowners. The second group consisted of working people from all sections of the population, tribes, and clans. The economy of the Karakhanid Khaganate was based not only on agriculture but also on trade, mining, and handicrafts.[2]

The fact that a large number of metal coins were minted during the Karakhanid Khaganate indicates that trade had reached a very high level at that time. The discovery of these coins in many parts of the world, including along the Volga River, the Black Sea region, and the Nile River, demonstrates that trade caravans regularly departed from the territory of the Karakhanid Khaganate and that commercial relations were well developed with the Song Dynasty of China, the Kara-Khitai State known as Liao, the Shazhou Uyghur Kingdom, Persia, the Eastern Roman Empire, the Rus' principalities, and even Egypt. The role of trade in the social life of the Karakhanid Khaganate is also reflected in Yusuf Khass Hajib's Kutadgu Bilig. While expressing respect for merchants, the author encouraged people to maintain good relations with them and to open their doors to them generously. The development of

---

2 Маҳмуд Кошғарий. Девону луғотит турк. — Тошкент: Ғафур Ғулом номидаги нашриёт, 2017.

trade and industry became the main factor in the establishment of cities. For officials accustomed to a pastoral lifestyle, cities represented a symbol of a new way of life. The number of people moving from pastures to cities gradually increased. This contributed to the rapid growth of the urban population and stimulated construction activities. The further flourishing of trade enriched and revitalized the material and spiritual life of the cities. Cities such as Kashgar, Yarkand, and Khotan in the Tarim Basin, as well as Bukhara, Samarkand, and Fergana, which had been devastated by wars during the later period of the Samanid Khanate, were restored and continued to develop. In order to support the growth of trade, new caravanserais and houses were built along the ancient trade routes connecting these cities. During the Karakhanid Khaganate, cotton cultivation, textile production, mining, metallurgy, urban construction, and handicrafts reached a high level of development. This strengthened the state's position in international trade. During this period, patterned cotton fabrics were exported to China. According to Wei Linytao, jewelry making, textile production, glassmaking, pottery, saddle and harness production, papermaking, and carpet weaving flourished in the handicraft sector of the Karakhanid Khaganate. The "Samarkand paper" produced in Samarkand became especially famous. In the mining sector, the upper reaches of the Zarafshan River were renowned for gold extraction. Mining was carried out by digging deep shafts to extract ore from underground. Some of these shafts reached a depth of 156 meters.[3]

Conclusion: In conclusion, the Karakhanid State was one of the most economically developed states of the medieval period. The foundation of its economy consisted of agriculture, animal husbandry, handicrafts, and domestic as well as foreign trade. Trade conducted through the Great Silk Road served to strengthen the country's economic power. The development of monetary circulation, the minting of coins of various denominations, and their widespread use in

3 Негматов Н. Давлати Сомониён ва Қарахониён. — Душанбе: Ирфон, 1997.

commercial transactions ensured economic stability. During the Karakhanid period, forms of land ownership such as iqta, private property, and waqf became widespread and played an important role in the development of state administration and the economic system. This system of land ownership not only encouraged agricultural production but also strengthened the financial and military foundations of the state. Society was divided into social groups consisting of rulers, officials, military personnel, religious scholars, merchants, craftsmen, and peasants, each of which performed its own specific function in the life of the state. This system served to preserve political stability and ensure economic development throughout the country.

References

1. Аҳмад ибн Маҳмуд. Тарихи Мулуки Туркистон. — Тошкент: Фан, 1992.
2. Маҳмуд Кошғарий. Девону луғотит турк. — Тошкент: Ғафур Ғулом номидаги нашриёт, 2017.
3. Негматов Н. Давлати Сомониён ва Қарахониён. — Душанбе: Ирфон, 1997.
4. Бўриев О. Ўзбекистон тарихи (Қорахонийлар даври). — Тошкент: Ўқитувчи, 2010.