FACTORS OF TRANSITION FROM THE PRIMITIVE SOCIETY TO THE STATEHOOD SYSTEM IN CENTRAL ASIA

Abstract: In the article, there were observed the reasons of the collapse of the primitive community in Central Asia and the factors and causes in the appearance of the first statehood.

Key words: Central Asia, statehood system, society, archaeological data, community.

Language: English


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Introduction

It is well known that in the history of the world, the statehood was formed only in regions where production economy was developed. No state was originated in communities of hunters, fishermen, or harvesters. So, on the contrary, statehood was peculiarly developed in communities based on agriculture and livestock breeding.

Social-economic characteristics are often taken into consideration when explaining the main causes and factors of transition from the primitive society to the statehood system. In this point, the ethnographical and archeological data are of great importance.

Materials and methods

According to this information, one of the main reasons for the collapse of the primitive regime was the emergence of surplus products as a result of the development of agriculture and livestock and the discovery of metallurgy [1, P.88-89]. This kind of news, reflected in historical periods, radically changed life, material and spiritual culture of ancient societies, provided the stability of economy and expanded the range of crafts and exchanges. Thus, surplus products radically increased more and more and as a result of this, there appeared private ownership. Large patriarchal families, which had become more and more productive and economically advanced in settled farming societies, had a high socio-economic status and started to separate from it [2, P.160-161].

In the context of lifestyle and socio-economic characteristics of large families of the last phase of the primitive community, the following are explained: 1) joint production and consumption; 2) production objects and ownership of other property together; 3) obeying the old traditions of the family and the principles of primitive societies; 4) to include members (servants, slaves) who didn’t have full rights into the composition of family production community [1, P.108]. Therefore, a new regional organization – a regional neighborhood society emerged. However, land, water resources, pastures and raw materials were widely used in public. Community management, cooperation and mutual aid, as well as ideological (religious) unity peculiar to the primitive era kept their importance.

Researchers pointed out the importance of social labor division of the transition from the primitive society to the statehood system and discovered it as an important factor [3-4]. But this issue is of great discussion. According to archaeological information, the first statehood period was characterized by the fact that specialized craftsmanship (ceramics, metalworking, textile) and separation of trade from craftsmanship were typical for the production process.

The emergence of statehood in the community of livestock breeders is described in the commentaries of the causes of strife among the steppe tribes, struggle for pastures, the acquisition of wealth by means of violence (property, livestock) [5, P. 11-12, 6]. In such circumstances migrations surged, tribal associations emerged and various tribes mixed, i.e., the old social system developed on a new basis.
Such views are still maintained. They are based not only on ethnographic information, but also on written sources of information about the social structure of the nomadic tribes, lifestyle and management system. In this regard, it is also probable that opinions and conclusions are relative.

In previous years, the reasons for the separation of professional (profession) management were studied in connection with the development of social inequality and social stratification in society. The subject matter of this issue was analyzed by ethnographers and archeologists [7-9]. The concept of “professional governance” is connected with the separation of people involved in planning, organizing, controlling and managing in the production process in the transition to the first statehood system and the acquisition of administrative positions by them i.e. becoming of management of society as their professional activity. Individuals who held posts and positions did not participate in the production process themselves.

The acquisition of social positions was connected with the increase of the role and status of individuals in society and their aspiration for the acquisition of a community product. A high social place in society was the foundation for material prosperity [10-12].

As a result of the development of social labor division, organizational management activity was separated from production and in the process of distributing society’s product, there was created a basis for the development of a large part of the product distribution for them who were not always engaged with production and who managed social and economic life [1, P. 111].

This approach is linked to the purpose of analyzing the causes of property disparity and social stratification. According to conclusions in historical sciences, the reason for the selection of ruling people was their personal moral traits, knowledge and influence [13, P. 61]. So, at first, the social rank could be occupied by an experienced person (hunter, blacksmith, warrior). However, the initial social beneficial activity of a manager, features and laws of turning into professional management, have not been fully studied in the history of the past.

The issue of the existence of professional governance in this period was interpreted in connection with the subject of development of wars of “tribal aristocrats”, “military democracy” and “aggression”. This approach, as a general theory, has been superior in studying the ancient history of the population of different regions.

According to this theory, the emergence of “tribal aristocrats” and “leaders kin tribes” led to the emergence of wealthy families and managing and taking social positions up began to pass from father to son as heritage [14, P. 241-261]. The need to achieve this goal was determined by social and economic reasons because officials were financially motivated for their position.

In the period of the collapse of the primitive society and transition to statehood system, territorial location of the mixture of various kin and tribes terminated the foundations of the social influence of tribal aristocrats and the solidarity of tribal traditions instead of society based on kin-tribal factors. This was one of the main conventional indicators of transition to state system.

During the study of the issue of the separation of governing based on military political factors, F. Engels’s work “Family, Origin of Private Property, and State” served as a source till the beginning of the 90s of the 20th century. In literatures, there was appeared a conclusion that wars became as a profession or permanent professional occupation of warriors and military leaders in condition of constant military conflicts [1, P. 123].

I.M. Dyakonov, E.A. Grantovsky and other scholars drew their attention to the “social-professional” groups mentioned in Avesto. These are priests, warriors, farmers, and craftsmen [15-16]. The source also contains information about the continuing aggressions between tribes and lootings. The prestige of the warriors and military commanders was high in these conditions.

V.M. Masson, A.A. Askarov, V.I. Sarabnidi, I.S. Masimov, T.Sh. Shirinov and other scholars studied the Bronze Age memorials of Central Asia and noted the rapid development of socio-economic relations during that period. During the Bronze Age, specialized craftmanship was established [17-21]. The remains of ancient potters were found on 2.5 hectares in Oltintepa, South Turkmenistan and were investigated. V.M. Masson noted that defining socio-economic role and significance of the “Center of Pottery” was important [22-23].

According to archaeological evidence, inhabitants of Oltintepa were divided into groups of craftsmen, peasant urban people and aristocrats, who lived in separate houses with an area of 90-50-100 sq/m [24, P. 101-104]. Here, specialized craftmanship (pottery, metalworking, textile, jeweler), farming and artificial irrigated agriculture are the evidence of the activity of various production [24, P. 98-100]. On the other hand, the different production process required different management principles and objectives. For example, during the Bronze Age, average 50-75 hectares of land around the villages of farmers (mainly barley and wheat) in Surkhan oasis was cultivated [25, P. 130-131]. The management requirement was connected with the tasks of farming, the organization of production, distribution of land and water in collective farms and the implementation of irrigation [13, P. 61].

V.M. Masson analyzed ancient East sources to study the processes of organization and management of production. According to their notes, there were

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professional managements in various fields of craftsmanship i.e. there were appeared such positions as “chief of the blacksmiths”, “chief of weavers” etc [26, P. 69].

At that time, it is possible to assume that there were traditions peculiar to in system in social relations of the society. Large family members lived in a common house and such houses organized settlements belonging to kin in locations. According to A.A. Askarov’s researches, ruins of houses belonging to 8 eight separate guzars (busy residence place) peculiar to the Bronze Age in southern Uzbekistan were investigated in Sopollitepa. Houses consisted of dwelling places, household rooms and housekeeping rooms [27, P. 16-27]. One of the main features of the kin system is the fact that the majority of family members were engaged in economic activities, preserving the characteristics of the breeding regime and the distribution of the collective food products as a common property.

According to archaeological sources peculiar to the Bronze Age in Central Asia, proprietary and social stratification was not rapidly developed at first in the region. This idea can be confirmed by not so different homes of separate families, weaponry, number and quality of the household items.

Quantitative and qualitative indicators of the findings in graves are different and metal instruments, adornment items were found together with ceramic dishes in lots of graves of the Bronze Age in the Southern Uzbekistan whereas only ceramic dishes were found from other graves [27, P. 151-152; 28, P. 54]. We think that all of these items could be the property of the family community.

As a result of the Bronze Age metallurgy, pottery, jewelry and textile became a special profession, various products and commodities were produced for sharing and trade. V.M. Masson wrote that the production relationships rapidly developed and it influenced socio-economic processes and the complication of material production had an impact on the economic system of the society and required new forms of management in production [26, P. 70-71]. It is possible to agree with V.M. Masson’s approach, because the development of bronze metallurgy resulted in a great variety of labor tools, which increased labor productivity, expanded craftsmanship, and surplus products were gathered in the hands of priests or military elders, who had economic, legal and political status.

During the Bronze Age, major central domiciles had city views and architectural planning was followed in the process of building them (streets, squares, busy places and large communal buildings) [24, P. 35]. The building requires practical knowledge and specialization. Management was of great importance when planning, organizing, and implementing construction affairs.

V.I. Sarianidi analyzed family and society i.e. the processes of socio-economic relations in ancient Bactria, as a result of studying Bronze Age monuments located in northern Afghanistan [29-32].

V.I. Sarianidi writes that farming in the 2nd millennium BC was the main branch of housekeeping of the local tribes and about 150-200 people lived in the Dashtli 3 temple complex. They were mainly busy with farming and craftsmanship [33, P. 138].

According to the researcher, in the Bronze Age, there were developed the following forms of husbandry as private and belonging to temples; a leader-priest and his administrative apparatus controlled and coordinated the daily lives and relationships of Dashtli oasis. Due to the distribution of land and water, keeping internal order and performing religious rites, the management became a professional activity [33, P. 138]. According to the ideas of B.A. Kolchin, E.V. Sayko, the appearance of professional governance was related to the need for production organization and the process of complicated economic relations [34, P. 9-34].

V.I. Sarianidi drew attention to the emergence of special craftsmanship, the emergence of potter and blacksmith specialists during the Bronze Age. The scholar stated that “At that time, the formation of classes began in Bactria and the carrying out religious-ideological functions became professional activity of some people: there were appeared aristocrats of society and military” [33, P. 152].

A.A. Askarov critically analyzed the above conclusions of V.I. Sarianid, emphasized that the palace and temple, which were discovered in the Dashtli 3 memorial, were actually simple farming zones [27, P. 132-134] and compared them with Bronze Age Sopollitepa in Surkhan oasis. As you know, in Sopollitepa there were found remains of housings, household and housekeeping rooms and craft workshops. A.A. Askarov noted that in the social life of the Bactrian population of the Bronze Age, much change didn’t occur as V.I. Sarianidi described [27, P. 135].

A.A. Askarov’s conclusions towards the ideas of V.I. Sarianidi changed later on. This approach was based on the results of the archaeological investigation carried on in Jarkuton, a city of Bronze Age, near the present-day Sherabad. In Jarkutan, there was found a palace and a temple connected with praying for fire [35-37].

Similarly, the ruins of such temple were found in the lower reaches of the Murgab River in South Turkmenistan in the place of the Togolok-21 memorial [38, P. 102].

According to V.I. Sarianid’s conclusions, Togolok-21 was a central temple of the agricultural oasis of Marghiana in the Bronze Age, where main religious rituals were carried out. As a result of studying this memorial, V.I. Sarianidi tried to analyze
the problems on the motherland of Zardusht and Zoroastrianism [38, P. 151].

According to the information provided in the literature, during the Bronze Age, religious beliefs in the southern provinces of Central Asia played an important role in the lives of the people and a special group of priests appeared. As a result, professionalism of managing was also established in this area.

Analyzing social issues and the emergence of governance, A.S. Sagdullaev emphasized that the emergence of governance came from the need for production, social division of labor, protection against external aggression and the resolution of social issues [39]. All of this required the management of internal and external relationships, creating tasks for planning, organizing, putting in order, monitoring. As a result of the expansion of functions in the management system, the first social beneficial management became a professional activity [40].

A.S. Sagdullaev also explained the nature of these functions. According to the researcher, organizing agriculture and production, distribution of land and water in collective farms, organizing irrigation affairs, producing agricultural and handicraft products, handicrafts, commodity turnover, trade relations played an important role in the field of economic functions [41, P. 5]. The existence of organizational and production elements and principles related to the economic functions of the management were noted as follows:

1) management and control of economic relations in various industries;
2) creation and implementation of technological innovations;
3) provision of products with the necessary equipment and supplies;
4) implementation of innovations in the organizational spheres of the economy [41, P. 5/22].

At the same time, special comments were given to the social, military, political and territorial functions of the administration. According to the researcher, “social functions were linked with tasks such as regulating and coordinating community engagement, solving disputable issues”. “Military-political functions were developed on the basis of defense from external military attacks, production of military weapons, the organization of armed forces, carrying out defense affairs in the territories of locations and districts, establishment of communication between regions and districts and the resolution of disputable issues” [41, P. 5-6].

According to the information available in the literature, the process of transition to professional management in Central Asia began in the Bronze Age. This is due to the fact that craftsmanship developed in the field of economics. The existence of new economic relationships required the production of new types of goods in metallurgy, ceramics, textile and other industries. In this point, the planning and organizational functions had a crucial role and influenced to the development of the organizational and management system of the economy.

The occurrence of professional management was connected with the appearance of the first cities in Central Asia in the historical sciences of the 20th century. It’s known that, the first cities carried out various socio-economic, military-political and cultural functions (city-production, economic and military center, location where main temples, major constructions – palaces and castles were situated) [42-45]. The implementation of these functions required professional management.

E.V. Sayko linked the issue of the origin of professional management with the separation of labor division and appearance of social stratification. According to the researcher, this historical situation required carrying out a variety of management functions [46].

V.M. Masson drew attention to the existence of houses where people of higher class lived (“house of leaders”, “house of priests”) and busy places of craftsmen in the first cities in the example of Oltintepa, in southern Turkmenistan [26, P. 145-147]. Governance played a crucial role in the implementation of various functions of the cities (economic, social, administrative and military). This situation occurred during the formation of the first states.

Based on written sources, E.V. Rtveladze linked the management to the honorary titles of the rulers in Central Asia before Ahamanides, from the military the political point of view. These titles were revealed in Avesto as “kavi” (governor king), “dakhiyupati” (governor of region), “sastar” (military leader and governor of region), “dakhiyupasti” (governor of territorial union of all regions), in the works of Greek historians as “basilevs” that is, the King (Amorg – king of the Saks, Oksiart – the ruler of Bactria) [47, P. 58-61].

According to the ideas of E.V. Rtveladze, the origin of the title “kavi” was also local and it come across in the coins of Bukhara rulers – buharakhudats of the 6th and 7th centuries AD. Thus, this rank was of primary importance since “Avesta” and even in the Early Middle Ages [47, P. 61].

Opinions expressed on the subject point to the fact that the history of administrative and territorial governance began as soon as professional management was formed, i.e. there appeared heads of districts, governors of regions and rulers of states. Political power was formed instead of the primitive-social management.

From the 50s and 60s of the 20th century, information peculiar to the history of nomadic cattle breeder tribes of the Bronze Age and the Early Iron Age in Central Asia expanded because of archeological investigations. They were used in
studying the history of economic and social relations of livestock farmers [48–52].

According to researchers, the Bronze Age was explained with the development of production forces. As a result of the development of metallurgy and livestock farming, the importance of patriarchal families grew in the economic and social life, the number of people in the steppes increased and territories of large pastures were owned by cattle-breeders. The livestock breeders consisted of families, kin and tribes and joined the tribal association. Such associations were formed in the Aral Sea region, in the North-West of Turkmenistan and in the southern parts of Tajikistan [53, P. 233/240].

During the analysis of economic relations, researchers examined issues related to traditional property stratification and social inequality. As a result of cattle ownership became a private property of patriarchal families and accumulation of wealth by some rich families, the process of inequality in property began in kin societies [53, P. 229]. In the lower stream of the Syrdarya region, the mausoleums of the Northern Tagisk cattle breeders were found and investigated [54, P. 151-175]. As a result of these investigations, S.P. Tolstov came to the conclusion that slavery relations were formed within the primitive society regime [55, P. 80-86].

The conditions, factors and causes of transition from the primitive society to the statehood system were different. In the areas where settled cultivated farming cultures developed, the first states developed due to the high level of production capacities, on the basis of urban and specialized craftsmanship, the need to meet the vital interests of people living in the oasis – surrounding areas and to coordinate the social relations of the communities [56, P. 61-62].

In our opinion, it is necessary to take into account the religious factors that united the communities. The construction of large temples in Marghiana and Bactria during the Bronze Age [57, P. 69-78], their turning into complexes of large farms, is an indication of the supreme position of priests not only in worship, but also in the management system. It is likely that they were carrying out organizational tasks, like the priests in the ancient cities of the East. For agrarian people, beliefs were considered as an essential part of everyday life. Thus, priests and temples became centers of government and power.

The development of each society is characterized by its specific, internal socio-economic and cultural characteristics, external relations and influences. The reasons for the transition to the statehood system among the cereal farmer societies and livestock breeder tribes on steppes were different. As a result of increasing military functions in the former livestock community, the military leaders, who were distinguished by their authority, led the tribes. That’s why in the 10th-8th centuries BC, as a result of the appearance of nomadic cattle-breeding farming in the various territories of steppes, the kin-tribal power organization was complicated. The emergence of aristocrats of kin-tribes and the development of their military functions were reflected in archaeological materials found at the mausoleums of cattle breeders in the North Tagisken [58, P. 96].

**Conclusion**

Based on the foregoing arguments, the following points can be summarized as follows:

- The history of transition from primitive society to statehood system have been studied on the basis of written sources, ethnography and archeology and socio-economic characteristics of the subject have been taken into account. These important factors such as social division of labor, development of private property, economic and handicap industries, exchange and expansion of foreign cultural-economic relations have been explained;

- Although researchers have made important conclusions about the problem in their research, the issue hasn’t been entirely elaborated in terms of historiography;

- The emergence of professional management based on socio-economic and military-political factors in Central Asia during the Bronze Age, happened in the second half of the 3rd millennium BC;

- The causes and factors of the professional management activity have been analyzed in the historical literature in connection with the need for agricultural production, social division of labor, the emergence of specialized craftsmanship, and the need for religious-ideological issues.

In the society of Central Asian farmers, the basis of the statehood system was based on the need to implement the vital economic, social, cultural and territorial interests of the settled population. The economic, military and religious factors were of great importance in this point. Territorial-neighborhood communities in the agricultural oasis – regions contained agricultural communities and the demands for pasture-lands, fertile land, using water system and irrigation systems and the need for community service management led to the appearance of the need for uniting population. Here a large-scale new governance activity emerged over the time of the primitive kin society. As a result of its development, government was legally established.


