THE NATURAL AND HISTORICAL-GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION OF THE YAKKABOGH BEKDOM

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Abstract: *This thesis analyzes the natural and geographical location, historical formation, and administrative structure of the Yakkabogh Bekdom, one of the important principalities of the Kashkadarya oasis.*

Keywords: *Yakkabogh Bekdom, Kashkadarya oasis, Shahrisabz, Avaqli tribe, Qosimbiy, Emirate of Bukhara, amlok, Qushbegi Archive, Old Yakkabogh Fortress, the bek's citadel, Qizildaryo, archaeological excavations.*

Introduction. Yakkabogh, one of the bekdoms of the Kashkadarya oasis, was historically and geographically bordered by Shahrisabz to the north, Qamashi to the south, and Chiroqchi to the west, covering an area of approximately 1,100 square kilometers. The southwestern spurs of the Hisar Mountain Range are located in the easternmost part of the Yakkabogh district, reaching an elevation of 2,500 meters. These mountain spurs are known as Beshnov, Chaqchar, and Khontaxta. Moving westward, the mountain ranges gradually decrease in elevation and merge into the plains.

An examination of the period in which Yakkabogh emerged as an administrative region indicates that its formation as a distinct territorial unit dates back to the Ashtarkhanid period, specifically the first half of the eighteenth century. When representatives of the Kenagas and Manghit tribes settled in the Shahrisabz region, members of the Avaqli tribe assumed control over the Taka, Yakkabogh, and Surkhob

areas of the region. In some historical sources, the Avaqli tribe is described as a branch of the Kenagas tribal confederation.

Main Part. Yakkabogh (also spelled Yakkabog‘ in publications) is a toponym referring to a region located in the Kashkadarya Valley. Morphologically, the name consists of two elements: yak, meaning “one,” “single,” or “sole,” and bog‘, meaning “garden.” The formation of the Yakkabogh region is directly associated with the activities of Qosimbiy, a determined leader from the Chaghar branch of the Avaqli tribe. Qosimbiy governed Yakkabogh until the period when Muhammad Rahim Khan Manghit (1715–1759) brought the Shahrisabz region under his control. Around 1755, Qosimbiy moved toward Hisor with several members of his tribe. By that time, authority had passed to Muhammad Amin. The Avaqli group led by Qosimbiy did not remain in Hisor for long. Following disagreements among the tribal leaders, they returned to their ancestral homeland of Yakkabogh, where Qosimbiy restored relations among the tribal groups and re-established his influence.

Following the death of Muhammad Rahim Khan Manghit, the central administration of the Bukhara state once again weakened. In Shahrisabz, a new and energetic ruler, the renowned Beknazar Devonbegi, emerged on the political scene. He sought to pursue an independent policy rather than submit to the central authority, which had fallen into the hands of his relatives, the Manghits, who had become his uncompromising rivals.

By this time, Yakkabogh had already developed into an administrative region with a governing system headed by Qosimbiy Avaqli and his descendants. Since the Avaqli constituted a major branch of the Kenagas tribal confederation, the leaders of Yakkabogh and the Shahrisabz Bekdom often sought to maintain a political alliance. Although Yakkabogh was weaker than Shahrisabz, it had nevertheless developed into an independent administrative region.

From this period onward, the Yakkabogh fortress, which served as the center of the bekdom, occupied an important position as a strategically significant settlement within the Emirate of Bukhara. Its importance stemmed from the fact that the shortest route connecting the Shahrisabz oasis with the Hisor region passed through it via the Tashqorgon Pass.

According to records preserved in the Qushbegi Archive, the territory of Yakkabogh was divided into ten _amlokliks_ (administrative districts): Bobo Shodi, Beshariq, Bo‘zariq, Imom Yoqub, Qorabog‘, Qorayog‘och, Samoq, Toshqo‘rg‘on, Hazrati Langar, and Yakkabogh. More specifically, Beshariq consisted of 10 settlements, Bo‘zariq of 19, Bobo Shodi of 10, Diyo‘l of 5, Imom Yoqub of 13, Samoq of 13, Qorabog‘ of 10, Qorayog‘och of 8, Hazrati Langar of 12, and Toshqo‘rg‘on of 2 settlements, namely Zarmast and Toshqo‘rg‘on. In turn, these administrative districts were subdivided into several villages and localities.

Conclusion. The Yakkabogh Bekdom was one of the historically and geographically significant territories of the Kashkadarya oasis. Owing to its advantageous geographical location, it developed as an independent administrative region during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Its formation was closely associated with the Avaqli tribe, particularly the activities of Qosimbiy. During the period when the central authority of the Emirate of Bukhara weakened, the region strengthened its political position. Kinship ties between the Avaqli and Kenagas tribes facilitated the establishment of a political alliance between the rulers of Yakkabogh and Shahrisabz.

The strategic importance of the Yakkabogh fortress, which served as the center of the bekdom, lay in its location along the shortest route connecting the Shahrisabz oasis with the Hisor region. According to records preserved in the Qushbegi Archive, the territory was divided into ten _amlok_ administrative districts, indicating the existence of a developed administrative system. Fortified with high walls, an inner

citadel, and gates, the Yakkabogh fortress served as the military and political center of the bekdom. Furthermore, archaeological excavation findings confirm that the area had been inhabited and developed since the Early Middle Ages.

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