

## Central and Local Features of Early Medieval SUGHD Governance

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Researchers refer to the pre-Islamic dynasty as the ikhshid dynasty because the Sughd Confederation, which arose in the early Middle Ages, was ruled by “Ikhshid monarchs”. Sughd is most commonly referred to as a political affiliation with various statehood foundations by researchers. To grasp the substance of this law, one must examine all of its phases in depth, particularly its state in the early Middle Ages. Because in the early Middle Ages, new types of land tenure evolved and took on a personality that favored administration. The land, which had previously been the property of the entire kingdom, was transferred to the nobility. Each landowner had social property connections at the heart of his domain, such as the construction of castles and the maintenance of private armed units. The landowners were now in charge of the kingdom's governance. It should be mentioned that revealing the substance of this governance is a critical and timely subject in the study of Uzbekistan's statehood processes<sup>1</sup>.

If we divide the power in Sughd conditionally into central and local parts, its following features are noticeable. Relations between the central government and local governments were governed by a "Council of Elders" formed by large landowners, wealthy merchants, and urban nobility, and "ikhshid" rulers had limited authority based on the "Council of Elders" [7.67]. They are the ones who choose the ruler. Each kingdom had military commanders and combat-ready troops known as chokars. The majority of the troops were Turks [12.36-38].

In the early Middle Ages, Sughd was one of the countries with a sedentary lifestyle, in which the political-territorial and administrative system was formed as a result of the proper use of vital resources and the development of land ownership. Governing bodies between the center and the territorial units began to emerge. According to the reports, there were managers between the center of authority and the property in this case. The Mount Mugh in Sogdian texts, for example, the title *ky'βs'yws* - katiyabshauz, which means "village elder," is referenced in the B-1 document [10.177]. Village administration by elders had formerly existed in Sughd. This demonstrates that the ancient rural communal administration has a place in our statehood history, and in the case of the Sughd confederation, it is a continuation.

A number of features of the monarchical-type dynastic system of government were reflected in the central system of government in Sughd. Muslim authors refer to the titles of the Movarounnahr rulers, who are called ikhshid in Samarkand, ikhrid in Kesh, and bukharkhudot in Bukhara. In the post-kings' rule, the "landlords" who were the largest landowners were the "liberators" [8.23-27].

This information is specific to the Sogdian confederation and its constituent administrations, as evidenced by the Sogdian documents. The main category of nobility consisted of aristocratic peasants (azims and peasants), representatives of the ruling dynasties and landowners, followed by a large number of freedmen (free people, nations), the highest class of whom consisted of titular aristocrats. The freedmen will always be in the service of the nobles, and the exemption from taxes is also mentioned in the sources [8.38].

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<sup>1</sup> This article was widely used in the article by Sogd scholar B. Goyibov "On the system of central and local government in the Sogdian confederation" (Scientific Bulletin of Andijan State University, 2015. №1. - P. 60-65). In this regard, the author thanks B. Goyibov.

The category of nobles in Sughd was as follows. Ikhshid was a king, an official called MLK' in the Aramaic ideogram. Sogdian "ixshid" is an adjective form of the Avesto word "xshay" meaning "radiant" [5.347-514]. MLK' writing form is refers to Tarkhun king in the documents Nov.3 and Nov.4, in the documents V-8, V-4, A-14, A-20, Nov. 2, V-10, V-17, V-17, A-18, A-2, A-3, A-16 are used in relation to Devastich as "King of Sughd".

Ikhshid was the central title. Medieval sources state that the title of ikhshid was used not only refers to the rulers of the Sughd confederation but also the rulers of Fergana [2.129]. Number V-17 of the Sogdian documents also mentions the title of *ikhshid* in relation to the rulers of Fergana [10.125-123].

It is obvious that the use of the Sogdian word "ixshid" outside of Sughd is reflected in the example of Fergana, which can be explained by the above. It should be noted that the word "ixshid" is written in the Sogdian script in the same way in Fergana. This reinforces the view that the Sogdian script was a Fergana variant as well as the Bukhara version.

*Aakhvirpat*, found in Sogdian documents, means "head of the stable". In the 10th line of the B-9 document of the Mug archive, the Sogdian word *xrw* [6.184-185] formed the core of the original word and meant "stable" [10.162]. The word "stall" at the root of the word also means "horse-feeding equipment" in Uzbek and Tajik.

As a result, he was given the position of chief of the stable in Sughd, and the holder of this title was the palace stable manager. Later on, the chief of the cavalry elevated to the position of ruler. Several types of coins produced at Kesh (Shahrisabz) in the VII-VIII centuries include the phrase "Akhurpat, the ruler of Kesh," and Chinese histories mention Xubido (Akhurpat), the ruler of Shy (Kesh), who sent an embassy to China in 727 [9.426]. This suggests that Ahurpat was the name of the ruler of Kesh. The Kultuba texts mention the fact that the monarchs of Kesh reigned at the central level.

The title MR'Y, known from Sogdian documents, is associated with the rulers of Sughd in the Kultuba inscriptions of the 3rd century AD in the form of битикларида *symrkntč* MR'Y (ruler of Samarkand), *kšynk* MR'Y (ruler of Kesh), *nxšpyk* MR'Y (ruler of Nakhshab). The text tells about the struggle of these rulers against the steppe nomads [1.5-15]. The rulers who obeyed Sogdiana were called by this title.

According to experts, al-Ashkand was mentioned in Arabic sources in the 730s as the ruler of Nasaf - ispahbodi. Al-Ashkand ruled Nasaf from 734-737. According to Tabari, this person was an ally of the Sughd ruler Ghurak against the Arabs [4.225]. Al-Ashkand is mentioned as a loyal follower of the Turkish khan, and Nasaf is referred to as "ispahbod." The main titles of the heads of all the small administrations of the Sogdian confederation were different (in Kesh - *ikhrid*, in Nakhshab - *ispahbod*, in Panj - *afshin*, etc.), and in this respect they differed slightly from the titles of the small administrations of Bukhara and Tokharistan confederations. Another issue that needs to be addressed is that in Nakhshab, as in Kesh, the military-ispahbods were at the top of the administration.

The primary source of information on the Sogdian system of governance in Jugd is the Sughd documents, which list a number of central and local titles and positions.

Another high-ranking official mentioned in the Sogdian documents is the *khutav*, which also means "ruler", "Mr. Highness", "king". Mug Mountain is recorded in documents of Sogdian Documents Collection Nov.6, B-7, B-17. The Aramaic form of writing, which ideogram is MR'Y // MRY' is recorded in documents such as V-8, V-4, A-13, V-3, A-14, A-20, A-9, Nov. 2, B-10, A-2, A-16. The Aramaic form of this word is also preserved from the Achaemenid period, as mentioned above.

The ideogram of MARAY has been used in the same way in Sogdian texts and means "king, lord, governor" [3.20].

*Farmondor* (commander) Avat is one of the high-ranking officials found in several of Mount Mog documents. *Farmondor* - this term is written in all Mug documents as *framandar* or *farmandor*, and researchers have read this title in Sogdian, which literally means "commander, commandership", as "framandar". It was found necessary to give in the text in the "farmondor" version.

In the palace of the ruler of Panch, after Devastich, stood the commander Avat in economic affairs. *Framandar* - exercised control over the orders, decrees, instructions and assignments of the ruler. B-13, B-11, A-18, A-2, A-9, A-3, A-18, A-16, A-6, A-1, B-15, B-19, B-18 documents provide information about him. In the first editions of these documents, publishers (e.g., A.A. Freiman, V.A. Livshits) read the name of this person ('wtt) as Utt (Ot), considered it an ancient Turkish title, and interpreted the official as a Turk. . This interpretation was widespread and remained valid for many years. However, V.A. Livshits in his new editions found it necessary to read it as Avat (from Sogdian 'wt from "hope, confidence") [6.149]. Researchers believe there is life in his latest interpretation. The reason is that in ancient Turkish, that is, during the Turkish Khanate, the word name (grass) was not a specific title, but an epithet (adjective - a nickname), which did not come separately.

Sughd was a region with developed agriculture. Agriculture and artificial irrigation are the factors that have ensured the development of the country. In this regard, the country has a separate management system. 'w'zypt - aavazipat, was the manager of all works related to irrigation (canal cleaning, hashar...). His task corresponds to the task of "mirab" in later periods. According to B. Goyibov, the second part of the word *pt* - "pat" means "guardian", "manager". "Avazipat" - the root of the word "aviz" - corresponds to the word "pool" in Uzbek and Tajik. "Aavazipat" - the title of manager of the ponds in the process of tanning and irrigation officer. Document Nov.6 states that 8 drachmas were taken from Vgashmarik, the holder of this title. 'w'zypt - aavazipat, who was also in control of all water bodies. Similar to the words 'w'z'p in Sogdian-Buddhist texts meaning "water, water basin" and 'w'zyy in Moni texts meaning "water basin, lake" [10.72].

Another administrative title found in the Mug archives was *prδyyp'n-* pardezbon, who controlled the gardens and alleys of the palace [10.208]. He served mainly in the ruler's palace. Pardezbon is a middle class in Sughd. In both Moni and Christian texts, the word *prδyyp*, which forms the core of the word, means "park, garden."

In the early Middle Ages, Sughd paid special attention to economic issues, and a special title was established in this regard. For example, *γwpt* is *gupat*, one of the top titles in charge of finance. V.A. Livshits read the word as "chief of finance," "chief of revenue." This title is one of the highest titles, as evidenced in the A-5 document, which awarded him a salary of 50 drachmas [10.184].

In the Sogdian confederation, financial relations are highly developed. At the same time, the norms of the state legal system were formed, with the management positions specific to the social and administrative system. The fact that the order of payment of court employees according to their position and the issue of its central control was formed in the early Middle Ages shows that the financial system has a special place in the history of our statehood. There is also another position dealing with economic issues, which is called *bozkrom*. The word "boz", which is part of the word "*bozkrom*", the word "boz (dues)" in Uzbek, at least in part, serves to mean a tax. According to the content of the document A-13, in which the word occurs, "*bozkrom*" sent a letter to the tarkhan, indicating the amount of tax collected for the use of the bridge [3.24].

Throughout the study of the Confederate system of government, it can be seen that there were assistants to the rulers who were subordinate to the center. *n'ztyryw-nastigriv*, used in A-14, A-15

documents to express the phrase “assistant to the ruler”, “assistant” [10.86-163]. This means that there were special assistants to the rulers in Sughd. Naztgriv is a term that literally means "helper" (assistant to the ruler). A. Livshits gave it in this sense [10.79-83] and later interpreted it as the name of a person in the form of Azatgryv [6.87].

In the palace of the Panch rulers of Sughd, a devan service was instituted, which dealt with court matters. *dp'yrpt* is dapirpat, a word found in B-17 that translates from Sogdian as "secretary general, chief of staff" [10.176]. The term consists of two parts: dapir - "to write, writing", pat - "chief", i.e. "chief of secretaries". Document A-5 provides information on the salary paid to the holder of this position [3.25]. Dapirpat - as well as being the "secretary general", he was engaged in compiling and arranging documents in the palace.

As a result, the analysis of the titles employed in the administration of Sughd reveals that all roles and positions were developed primarily in response to local circumstances, which were intimately tied to the oasis' natural-geographical location, economic life, and cultural-ideological perspectives. The titles in Sughd, in particular, were dominated by titles that were better appropriate to a sedentary lifestyle than nomadic or military environments. The fact that *aavazipat* - the manager of the pools, *pardezbon* - the manager of the royal gardens, the supervisor of the lanes, and *gupat* - the manager of financial matters - exist attests to this.

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