ABSTRACT

The Choch oasis is one of the regions that have had trade, economic and cultural relations with the countries of the Central Asian region since ancient times. By the VI-VIII centuries, economic relations reached their peak. During this period, Choch’s trade and economic relations with the Chinese dynasties and diplomatic relations took an important place. As early as the III-IV centuries AD, the Choch people had intensive trade relations with the Sughd merchants who had trade colonies in the regions of Eastern Turkestan. The common interests of the Western Turkic Khanate and the upper class of Sughd caused Sughd merchants to take a leading position in trade and economic relations in the eastern direction[21], which created the ground for Choch and Sughd people, who actively participated in these relations, to occupy the international markets of the great Silk Road trade. This article discusses choch trade system.

KEYWORDS

Choch oasis, Central Asian region, Chinese dynasties and diplomatic relations.
INTRODUCTION

The Choch oasis is one of the regions that have had trade, economic and cultural relations with the countries of the Central Asian region since ancient times. By the VI-VIII centuries, economic relations reached their peak. During this period, Choch’s trade and economic relations with the Chinese dynasties and diplomatic relations took an important place.

THE MAIN RESULTS AND FINDINGS

In the development of all-round relations with Eastern countries, the natural and ecological situation is of great importance, along with the processes that took place in the socio-political life of the region in the early Middle Ages. On the eve of this period, the ecological crisis that occurred in Central Asia caused the migration of representatives of various tribes living in these regions. (II-IV centuries AD) and this situation led to the occurrence of socio-economic and general urbanization processes in the middle basin of the Syrdarya. Such a situation caused a mass migration of nomadic tribes from the east to the west, whose main occupation was cattle breeding. In particular, the tribes of the lower Syrdarya region moved to the upper Syrdarya, and from there to the west - Zarafshan and Kashkadarya oases. As a result, By the 3rd century AD, Kang, one of the great ancient states, was in crisis, and separate, independent principalities (dominions) were separated from the Kang union. It was during this period that the Choch property and the capital of the same name appeared on the historical map of the middle Syrdarya basin [1].

The socio-political processes that took place in Central Asia during this period also play a key role in the development of Choch property. In particular, the serious desire of the Chinese Empire to expand its sphere of influence in the western regions was an important factor in the development of trade and economic relations with the west, especially with Central Asia. After achieving a major victory over the Hunnic tribes in 121 AD, the empire began to actively "master" the western lands. To realize this goal, five or six per year were sent by the Chinese emperors to the western countries, in some years, more than ten large (several hundred people) and small (around a hundred people) embassy missions were sent[2]. Such ambassadors were active even in the early Middle Ages, and it is mentioned in the
sources that the visit of the Chinese ambassador to the western lands in 437 and together with him the ambassadors of 16 estates (in the western lands), including Choch, visited China [3]. During this period, the interest of the rulers of the Northern Wei Dynasty (385-534) in Central Asia increased. In the 6th-century "Wei Shu", "Tungdian" and 7th-century "Beishi" chronicles, China’s Choch-Zheshe (Chiachiat) [5] and one of the Chinese sources, "Tundian", mentions the Sui dynasty of the Choch state (581-618). has a great place [6]. no doubt it was an example of one of the most important tasks set before the embassy missions - studying the possibilities of developing trade and economic relations with western countries. This process was one of the most important issues in the north-eastern regions of the region, i.e., the most important intermediary between the inhabitants of the farming oases and the herding tribes - in the basin of the middle stream of the Syrdarya, "the trade and economic relations of the tribes whose main activity is farming and cattle breeding"[7].

The basin of the middle course of the Syrdarya and its right tributaries - Chirchiq and Ohangaron oases are surrounded on three sides by the western ridges of the sky-high Tianshan mountain - Chotkal, the branch of the Kurama ridge extending to the Syrdarya - Karamozor mountains. Geographically, the slopes of Choch Mountain, which have very convenient passes to go to the oases of Fergana and Talas, are also very convenient for raising livestock and thoroughbred horses. Since the 3rd century AD, it has been actively cultivated in the plains and foothills adjacent to the Syrdarya valley. This indicated that the transition to a sedentary lifestyle has increased among the herding population. The intensification of urbanization processes in the region, in turn, led to the emergence of urban and urban-type large craft and trade centers. Including During this period, Ohangaron oasis was considered the economic district of Choch, and many useful minerals were mined from different areas of the oasis - silver in the Lashkarak mining area, gold in Kizilolma, copper in Kokrel, and iron raw materials in Shovgaz. In addition, special metal processing centers - Tunkat (Iloq), Tukkat (Kulota), large production and trade locations such as Nomsiztepa, Kurgantepa and Kindiktepa developed near the present Angren city [8]. Also, in the Choch mountains, in Eastern countries, turquoise is highly valued as a "bringer of happiness and victories" [9] and "a talisman that
protects against eye contact, anger of evil spirits, various poisonous insects and snakes" [10] ("se-se" in Chinese sources). Stone has been mined a lot. According to researchers, the main mine of turquoise is located in the northern part of Karamozor mountain, on the right bank of Ungurlisoy, besides. High-quality turquoise was also mined in Ilok region from several small mines such as Oktepaa, Guldurak, and Feruzakon [11]. Feruza was one of the main products of Choch not only in trade with Eastern countries, but also in trade and economic relations with the cities of Sogd. In particular, it was found that the part of the gold jewelry (pendant) found during the research conducted in the ruins of the Erkurgan city temple (3rd-5th century AD) was decorated with turquoise stone[12].

The mutual relations between Choch and Ferghana, the meeting of various objects related to farming and herding tribes from the tombs of nomadic herders who lived in the area[15] confirm the development of mutual product exchange trade between them in the middle of the 1st millennium BC. "Dasht Yoli" was important in the development of barter trade. According to the researchers, during this process, nomadic pastoral tribes exchanged military weapons and other agricultural products from the settled population in exchange for leather, fur, wool and woolen products, as well as meat and dairy products[16]. Geographers According to the researchers, during this process, nomadic pastoral tribes exchanged military weapons and other agricultural products from the settled population in exchange for leather, fur, wool and woolen products, as well as meat and dairy products[16]. Geographers According to the researchers, during this process, nomadic pastoral tribes exchanged military weapons and other agricultural products from the settled population in exchange for leather, fur, wool and woolen products, as well as meat and dairy products[16]. Geographers according to researches, it is precisely to the regions of Choch adjacent to the nomadic tribes (Turks) that the nomads brought skins unprocessed, and then they were processed by the settled population [17].

The above-mentioned data show that in the development of trade and economic relations of this period, along with Choch, Sughd also had a special position. Sughd - considered to be the ancient urbanized area between the two rivers of Central Asia, Samarkand Sughd, which occupied
agricultural oases in the upper and middle reaches of the Zarafshan River, Bukhara Sughd, which extends to the Qizilkum desert in the north and the Amudarya in the west, in the lower reaches of the river, and is bordered by semi-steppes, as well as Kashkadarya occupied the lands of South Sughd in the oasis. It is referred to under the name of Southern Sughd. The sources provide information about the active participation of the Sughdians in trade and economic relations with the East, especially China, in this period. In particular, Chinese scholar E. Shefer emphasizes that during this period, the international colloquial language of the traders on the Eurasian caravan trade routes was Sughdian, which made it a leader in the international arena [18]. It was not for nothing, because "...in the development of all-round trade and economic relations between the great civilizations that developed in the West and the Far East, "the inhabitants of Central Asia - Bactrians, Parthians, Khorezmians and, of course, first of all, the Sughdians occupy the most important place" [19]. In trade and economic relations, the merchants of Sughd and Choch traded not only with the most sought-after products of their time, but also with various handicrafts made by local craftsmen. After all, "...they (the Sughdians) brought the cultural achievements of the Sughdian civilization to the oases of Eastern Turkestan and the cities of China, who created their civilization in these lands" [20]. Trade with nomadic tribes plays an important role in trade and economic relations with Eastern countries. In this process, the type of product exchange, which was formed in the most ancient times, was widespread. In particular, among the nomadic tribes living in the regions adjacent to the northeastern borders of the region, complex-shaped bows decorated with animal bones or kings[21], high, white woolen (felt) heads, made by Sughd artisans, considered an invention of the Kushan-Sasanian society of Central Asia clothes were expensive. In turn, the Sughdians exchanged boots[22], which were part of the military uniform, from the nomadic tribes. Choch merchants also occupied an important position in these trade relations.

CONCLUSION

In short, by the early Middle Ages, Choch was in the trading systemownrose to the highest stage of development, and the capital became a major center of handicrafts and trade. The location of Choch at the crossroads of international caravan
trade ensured its active participation in trade and economic relations with Eastern countries. As early as the III-IV centuries AD, the Choch people had intensive trade relations with the Sughd merchants who had trade colonies in the regions of Eastern Turkestan. The common interests of the Western Turkic Khanate and the upper class of Sughd caused Sughd merchants to take a leading position in trade and economic relations in the eastern direction[21], which created the ground for Choch and Sughd people, who actively participated in these relations, to occupy the international markets of the great Silk Road trade.

REFERENCES


