



 Research Article

## CHOCH TRADE SYSTEM WITH CHINESE DYNASTIES AND DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS

**Submission Date:** May 01, 2023, **Accepted Date:** May 04, 2023,

**Published Date:** May 08, 2023

**Crossref doi:** <https://doi.org/10.37547/social-fsshj-03-05-02>

**Journal Website:**  
<https://frontlinejournal.s.org/journals/index.php/fsshj>

**Copyright:** Original content from this work may be used under the terms of the creative commons attributes 4.0 licence.

**Yakubdjan Kadirovich Mukhamedov**

**Senior Lecturer, Phd Faculty Of History National University Of Uzbekistan Named After Mirzo Ulugbek, Uzbekistan**

### 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 Oktepa, 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. Sugd - considered to be the ancient urbanized area between the two rivers of Central Asia, Samarkand Sugd, which occupied

agricultural oases in the upper and middle reaches of the Zarafshan River, Bukhara Sugd, 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 Sugd in the oasis. It is referred to under the name of Southern Sughd. The sources provide information about the active participation of the Sugdians 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 Sugdian, 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 Sugdians occupy the most important place" [19] . In trade and economic relations, the merchants of Sugd 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 Sugdians) brought the cultural achievements of the Sugdian 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 Sugdians 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

1. Chavannes E. Documents sur les Toukiue (Turks) occidentaux // Sbornik trudov Orkhonskoy expeditcii. Vyp. 6. – SPb., 1903;. Babayarov G. Ancient Turkic coins of the Chach oasis (VI-VIII centuries AD). Tashkent. National bib A. Navoi, 2007 - S. 40-85.
2. Grenet F., de la Vaissiere E. The last days of Panjikent // Silk Road Art and Archaeology, 8. – Kamakura 2002. – P. 155–196;., Khatamova N. Residences of Turkish khagans in Choch: Jabgukat and Hotunkat. To the 2200th anniversary of Tashkent // Journal of the history of Uzbekistan. No. 2, 2009 – B-3-14.
3. Skaff KJ Western Turk Rule of Turkestan's Oases in the Sixth through Eighth Centuries // TURKS. - Ankara, 2002. - Vol. 2. – P. 364–372;., Ishakov M.M. Unique documents written in Sogdian // Archaeologists tell stories.- Tashkent. Science, 1974.-B. 31-39.
4. Khodjaev A. Naibolee rannie svedeniya kitayskikh istochnikov o gosudarstve Shash (Tashkent) // History of Uzbekistan. - 2005. No. 2. - S. 3-18., Otakhajhaev A. Source coverage of diplomatic relations in ancient and early Middle Ages / From the history of embassy service in Uzbekistan. Tashkent. Literary sparks, 2016.-p.16.
5. Stark S. Die Altürkenzeit in Mittel- und Zentralasien. Archäologische und historische Studien. – Wiesbaden, 2008., Buryakov Yu.F. About the second caravan route from Sogd to Shash // ONU - Tashkent, 1972. No. 3.



6. Schafer EN The golden peaches of Samarkand. A study of Tang exotics. Berkeley and Los Angeles. 1963. - P. 55-56; Rtveladze E.V. Samarkand na Velikom Shelkovom puti // The role of Samarkand city in the history of universal cultural development. Tashkent-Samarkand. 2007. - S. 110-111., Otakhajhaev A. Source coverage of diplomatic relations in ancient and early Middle Ages / From the history of embassy service in Uzbekistan. Tashkent. Literary sparks, 2016.-p.18.
7. Aalto P. The name of Tashkent // CAJ. Vol. XXI. - Wiesbaden, 1977. - P. 193-198., Plates from the history of ancient Central Asia. - Tashkent. Science and technology, 2008.-B.50-60.
8. Esin E. İterish Kagan Tomb Sanılan Shivet Ulan Complex // IX. Turkish History Congress. Notices to Congress. II. Vol. - Ankara, 1988. - S. 575-576., Bichurin N.Ya (Iakinf). Collection of information about the peoples who lived in Central Asia in ancient times. Almaty - Zhalynbaspasy, 1998. -p.162.\
9. Turkestan according to Ekrem E. Hsüan-Tsang Travels. Unpublished doctoral thesis. Hacettepe University, Institute of Social Sciences. - Ankara, 2003. - S. 121-123., Borovkova L.A. West of Central Asia in the II century. BC-VIII century AD-M., 1989.-S.133.
10. Stein AM A journey of geographical and archaeological exploration in Chinese Turkestan. - London: Geographical society, 1902. - 36 p., scenes from the history of ancient Central Asia. Tashkent. Science and technology. 2008. p-50.
11. Otaho'jaev A. Turkish - Sogdian caravan routes - political, economic, cultural and ethnic commonality VShP. Culture and tradition. Proshloe i nastoyashchee: Mater. nauch.-theor. conference. - Tashkent, 2006. - B.145-151.
12. Beruni Abu Rayhan. Collection of information for the knowledge of jewelry (Mineralogy). Per. and approx. A.M. Belenitsky. - L., 1963. - P.158

13. Semenov A.A. From the field of opinions of the Muslims of Central Asia on the quality and significance of some noble stones and minerals // World of Islam. Issue 1. SPb., 1912. -№3.-S.298.
14. Buryakov Yu.F. About the second caravan route from Sogd to Shash // ONU.1972. - No. 3
15. Strabo. Geography in XII book Kh.-M., 1964, X1. -R.8.
16. Suleimanov R.Kh. Ancient Nakhshab. Problems of the civilization of Uzbekistan in the 7th century BC-7th century AD. Samarkand-Tashkent, 2000 - P.95.
17. Scenes from the history of ancient Central Asia. Tashkent. Science and technology. 2008.-p. 66.
18. Ancient authors about Central Asia. (VI century BC-VI century AD). Tashkent. 1940- p.23.
19. Gorbunova N.G. The role of traditional routes of movement of pastoral tribes and seasonal migrations in the composition of trade routes in antiquity // Formation and development of the routes of the Great Silk Road in Central Asia in antiquity and the Middle Ages. Abstracts of reports of the international seminar of UNESCO. Tashkent, 1990. - S.33-35.
20. Mavlanov O'. Ancient roads of Central Asia: stages of formation and development. - Tashkent: Academy, 2008. - B.432.
21. Smirnova O.I. Ocherki iz istorii Sogda. - M., 1970. - P.113-123.
22. Shafer E. The golden Peaches of Samarkand. A Studies of Thang Exotics. - Bearcley - Los Angeles, 1963. Est russkii perevod - Shafer E. Golden peach in Samarkand. There is a Russian translation - Shafer E. Golden Peaches of Samarkand. A book about foreign curiosities of the empire. - M., 1981. - S. 305, 448.
23. Rtveldze E.V. From the history of the Great Silk Road // Moziydan sado. - 1999. - No. 3. - P. 8-13.



24. MUKHAMEDOV, Yo. (2021). HISTORICAL SCIENCE OF POLITICAL-ADMINISTRATIVE ADMINISTRATION OF CHOCH RULE. In Uzbek Conference Publishing Hub (Vol. 1, No. 01, pp. 508-512).
25. Ochildiyev, FB (2022). SOCIO-POLITICAL PROCESSES IN THE BUKHARA EMIRATE IN THE SECOND HALF OF THE XIX-EARLY XX CENTURIES. CURRENT RESEARCH JOURNAL OF HISTORY (2767-472X), 3(03), 13-20.
26. Ochildiev, F. (2021). THE INFLOW OF RUSSIAN CAPITAL AND INDUSTRY INTO THE BUKHARA EMIRATE IN THE LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURIES. CURRENT RESEARCH JOURNAL OF HISTORY (2767-472X), 2(06), 20-26.
27. Ochildiev, F. (2021). Deyatel'nost' rossiiskikh firm i bankov v Bukharskom emirate konets XIX nachalo XX vekov. Society and innovation, 2(10/S), 421-429.
28. Mukhamedov, YQ (2022). CHACH ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER OF THE WESTERN TURKIC KHAGANATE. American Journal Of Social Sciences And Humanities Research, 2(05), 46-52.
29. Muhamedov, Y. K. (2019). THE HISTORY OF COMMERCIAL ECONOMIC-CULTURAL RELATIONS OF TASHKENT OASIS. Theoretical & Applied Science, (10), 579-582.
30. Muhamedov, Y. (2021, November). Chach As The Administrative Center Of The Western Khanate. In International Scientific and Current Research Conferences (pp. 75-79).