

## THE ARAB CALIPHATE'S FIRST MILITARY EXPLOITATION INTO CENTRAL ASIA

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**Annotation:** This article provides information about the early military campaigns carried out by the Arab Caliphate, which was established in the 7th century, in Central Asia, their causes, and their role in the history of our region. To explore the topic, works by Uzbek historians and scientific articles recognized by the global academic community in foreign publications have been used.

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**Introduction:** From the second half of the 7th century, the Caliphate began to expand its territory and worked to expand its borders to the West and East. Arab armies managed to capture the rich regions of the Near and Middle East and began intensive military operations. They simultaneously conducted campaigns against Byzantium and Iran. The last representative of the Sasanian dynasty, the Iranian Shah Yazdighard III (632-651), tried to stand up to the Arabs, but as a result of crushing blows against the Persians in the battles of Qadisiya (636) and Nahavand (642), the Sasanian dynasty came to an end.

As a result of military campaigns against Byzantium, such rich territories as Palestine, Egypt, Syria and Iraq were conquered by the Arabs. During the reign of Caliph Umar ibn al-Khattab (634-644), the Arab conquerors first reached the borders of Khorasan. From the beginning of the 7th century, the Arabs continued to expand their territories to the West and East. Especially after the defeat of the Iranian Sassanids in the Battle of Nahavand in 642. An opportunity was created to attack Central Asia.

In 651, Arab forces led by Ubaydullah ibn Ziyad captured Merv, beginning the first Arab incursions into Central Asia. The area, known as the Transoxiana, was the region north of the Amu Darya (Jayhun) and was given that name by the Arabs. According to the Arab historians and authors Narshahi and Yaqut, the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) considered the subjugation of Transoxiana sacred and called for the conquest of the region in order to spread the Islamic faith.<sup>1</sup>

**Literature review and methodology:** Based on literature review. A. Sagdullayev's "History of Uzbekistan, Part I" (2020) covers the main processes in the history of Uzbekistan, A. Askarov's "History of Uzbekistan, Volume I" (2022) provides analyses of the state system and governance structures. B. Eshov's "History of Statehood and Governance in Uzbekistan" (2012) covers the state The development of governance, A. Ziyov's "History of Uzbek Statehood" (2001) highlights

<sup>1</sup> A. Sagdullayev. History of Uzbekistan, Part I. Tashkent, 2020. p. 317.

the changes in social and political systems, and B. Eshov's "History of State and Local Governance in Uzbekistan" (2019) analyzes local governance systems. The following methodological approaches were used in writing the article. Processes are studied through the analytical method. Periods are analyzed through the historical approach, management systems are compared through the comparative approach, management principles are determined using the analytical method, and political science, economics, and law are combined in an interdisciplinary approach.

**Discussion or results:** In 652, the Arabs who captured Merv, in addition to decisively deciding the fate of the Sassanids, set themselves the goal of invading Turan. In 654, they attacked Maymurg near Nasaf (Karshi). In 667, Arab troops inflicted losses on the Turkish Yabgus in Chaganiyan. In 673, Ubaydullah ibn Ziyad, the viceroy of Khorasan, attacked Bukhara, ruled by Qabaj Khatun. The queen's resistance was in vain. She signed a peace treaty, undertook to pay a large tribute to the enemy and to hand over two thousand archers as prisoners. Sa'id ibn Osman again marched on Baykent and Bukhara. Although the queen again fought against the Arabs with the help of local forces, she could not defeat them. According to the peace treaty, fifty noble youths were given as hostages and were forced to pay a tribute of 300,000 dirhams. In 676, Sa'id ibn Uthman concluded an agreement in Samarkand in exchange for thirty thousand captives and fifty nobles. He did not fulfill the terms of the agreement and took the hostages to Medina. After the prisoners were dressed in rice clothes and engaged in field work, they stormed Sa'id ibn Uthman's camp and killed him and themselves. This incident proves that our people have always been free-spirited, noble and proud. The Bukhara queen united with Tarshun in Harkonrud in 64 AH (683/684 AD) and fought against Muslim ibn Ziyad. But this time she was also forced to conclude an agreement. Another general, Mukhallab Azdi, besieged Kesh in 79 AH (698/699 AD).<sup>2</sup>

In the south, the Arabs capture Khuttalon. Qutayba ibn Muslim turns his plundering campaigns in Turan into a campaign of conquest. He throws all his strength into the conquest of Turan. This is not easy for him, of course. Although he has occupied Bukhara three times, as soon as he leaves the city, the population abandons Islam and returns to their religion and beliefs. Qutayba only managed to subjugate Bukhara to his will at the end of his fourth campaign. He takes the city of Poykand after a 15-day siege. Similarly, the people of Boykent, who surrendered after fighting with the Arab army, destroy the invaders' army left in the city. Upon learning of this, Qutayba returns to Boykent and reduces the city to ruins. The male population is massacred, and the women and children are taken prisoner.

Qutayba, who encountered fierce resistance during his campaign against Bukhara in the Kumushkent and Romitan regions in 88 AH (706/707 AD), continued his campaign against Bukhara two years later. The Ashinali leader Qapagan sent Prince Kultegin to Sogd with 200,000 troops (actually 40,000) accompanied by his chief advisor Bilga Tunvukuk. They joined forces with Tarhun's army. In the fall of 709, these combined forces besieged Qutayba between the villages of Tarab, Khunbun, and Romitan. Qutayba, who was left in a difficult position, called on his army to "repel the Turks" and promised a reward of 100 dirhams for each enemy head. In addition, it is known that he resorted to cunning. For example, he sent his representative Hayya Nabati to Tarhun, in order to arouse his suspicions about the Eastern Turks. Tarhun, deceived by the enemy, left the battlefield. The balance of power shifted in favor of the Arabs. The wounding of Kultegin negatively affected the morale of the united troops. The allies missed another opportunity. In 709, Qutb captured Bukhara in 93 AH (711/712 AD). For example, describing the Arab invasion of Khorezm, Abu Rayhan Beruni wrote: <<(The Arab commander)

<sup>2</sup> A. Askarov. History of Uzbekistan, Volume I. Tashkent, Ma'naviyat, 2022. pp. 121-127.

Qutayba was well-versed in the Khorezm script, and knew their news and He killed and completely destroyed those who studied his narrations (i.e., the history of A. Z.) and taught his knowledge to others. Then he turned his attention to Samarkand. There was also a lack of unity in the center of Sogd. Tarhun's supporters united around Devashtich, a claimant to the throne of Sogd, and were in a mood against Gurak. To get out of this situation, Gurak signed the "Samarkand Treaty" with Qutb in 712. This strengthened Devashtich's claim. According to the peace agreement, Gurak was forced to leave the city. Qutb left his brother and deputy Abdullah ibn Muslim in Samarkand. He himself went to Merv. According to the "Samarkand Treaty", a tribute of 2 million dirhams was paid. It was necessary to hand over 3,000 young men as hostages, to hand over the idols in the temples of the fire, and all their wealth to the Arabs, and to pay an annual indemnity of 200,000 dirhams. A mosque was to be built in Samarkand, and the troops were to leave the city. In return, Qutayba recognized Gurak's rule over "Samarkand and its lands, as well as the cities and fortresses of Kesh and Naxhab."

Dissatisfied with this agreement, the Samarkandites, with the help of the Khaganate troops, attacked the Arab viceroy's army in Samarkand in the fall of 712. Qutayba arrived and defended his army. New forces emerged against the Arab invasion. In 712-713, an alliance was formed consisting of the Ashinali, the Panj region, the political forces of Chach and Fergana. Devashtich headed it. Devashtich sent his ambassador Fatufari to Chach and Fergana, and through them to the Eastern Turkic Khaganate. In 715, Qutayba, who was brutally killed by his own army during his campaign to Fergana and his head was sent to the caliph, was replaced by Yazid ibn Muhallab, who was appointed viceroy of Khorasan in 716. He was supposed to accelerate the Islamization of Turan.<sup>3</sup>

**Conclusion:** The entry of the Arabs into the territory of Central Asia also influenced the subsequent political processes in the region. Political administration in the region was fully adapted to the system of the Arab caliphate by the middle of the 8th century. Military campaigns carried out in the Transoxiana region led to the formation of the population of the region on the basis of Islamic ideology. Although it united, it caused the death of many people and the loss of the country's independence.

#### References:

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<sup>3</sup> A. Zivo. History of Uzbek statehood. Sharq>>> Publishing and Printing Joint Stock Company, Tashkent-2001. p. 91.