From the history of the study of the Chagatai ulus governance system

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Abstract.
This article discusses the history of the study of the Mongols particularly the Chagatai Ulus who ruled Mawarannahr in the 13th century till the first half of the 15th. It contains information from the first studies about the Chagatai Ulus, which is gaining international relevance today, to the scientific informations of modern researchers. Indeed, research on the subject is scarce, and many questions about their policies, social and especially cultural governance systems have yet to be answered.

Keywords:
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The Great Yasa
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Eastern Sources
Management System
Of particular importance in the history of national statehood in Uzbekistan is the history of the Mongols, especially the Chagatai ulus, whose rule lasted 150 years in Mawarannahr (Transoxiana). Indeed, studies show that the period of the Chagatai ulus, which played a major role in the history of Central Asia and Uzbek statehood in the middle of XIII-XIV centuries, in our homeland is covered somewhat vaguely. The information available about it is also sketchy and cannot fill the gaps in the history of this period.

There are, of course, a number of historical and geographical works that provide information about these centuries of our national history. Our ancestors, who lived and worked in the Middle Ages, created in all fields of science and left a universal legacy which has no equal in the world. Studying them and ensuring that they are presented correctly and impartially in all respects is one of the most essential tasks facing researchers. It is difficult to imagine accomplishing this task without oriental written sources (manuscripts). Iran and the regions of Ancient Asia have made considerable progress in the creation of sources relating to this period. However, the same cannot be said for the history of Central Asia. As Barthold argued, political conspiracies among the Chagatai descendants prevented the development of science and literature [3]. Therefore, some stages of the history of the Mongols in Central Asia and the forms of their state are not fully and objectively covered in the available literature.

The study of the history of the Chagatai ulus as part of the history of the Mongol Empire is of great scientific importance. Firstly, it makes it possible to determine the commonality and specificity of Mongol policy in Central Asia. Second, it serves as the main method for determining the specifics of the political, social and economic changes that took place in Central Asia in connection with the formation of the Mongol Ulus. Thirdly, it provides an opportunity to describe Mongolia's relations with Central Asia and determine the place, role and significance of the formation of the Chagatai ulus in the history of this empire and the region as a whole. Fourthly, it creates conditions for analyzing the issue of "legitimacy" of the Mongols' "Golden Clan" type, which has left an indelible trace in the life of Uzbek
The study of the Chagatai ulus in the East, especially in Mawarannahr, has continued since its emergence as a state. Interest in this subject in modern history began in the XIII century. The research carried out on the theme can be summarized and provisionally divided into the following three groups:

Research by European scholars. The first study to cover the history of the Mongols is associated with the French historian Petit de la Croix in the early 18th century. In 1710 he first quoted and commented on fragments of the “Great Yasa”. However, the history of Chagatai is limited to mentioning the names of khans and their reign on the throne. D’Ohsson’s work “Histoire des Mongols” (“History of the Mongols”) [51], which has not lost its importance to this day, is devoted to the history of the formation of the Mongol Empire, and information about the history of Chagatai is partially given. Grousset’s “Empire of the Steppes: History of Central Asia = L’Empire des steppes”, “Le conquérant du monde (vie de Genghis-Khan)” (“Genghis Khan, conqueror of the world”) as the Mongol conquests were considered in natural and climatic conditions, and only the political history of some Khans associated with the Chagatai ulus was reflected [68].

In the studies of John J. Saunders [32], David O. Morgan [20], Bertold Spuler [75], E. Oliver [25], Emil Bretschneider [77], John A. Boyle [49], J. Fletcher [45, 46, 47], P. Brent [63], G. Doerfer [48] and Thomas T. Allsen [61] the Chagatai ulus is of a general nature and considered as part of the Mongol Empire.

The works of Richard N. Frye [65], M. Biran [38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44], Paul D. Buell [45, 46, 47], N. Dalkesen [52], Bruno De Nicol [53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60], P. Jackson [69, 70, 71, 72, 73], P. Jurgen [74] and others are of particular importance in the study of the history of the Mongol Empire, especially legal, religious and gender issues of the Chagatai ulus.

Issues related to the Chagatai ulus’ foreign policy relations can be seen in the works of A. Amir, D. Maidar, M. Sandjorda, Sh. Vira, Ch. Dalaya, B. Shagdaryn and
Ch. Enkhchimeg [7]. Their research is mainly limited to the period of Kebek Khan. In general, as pointed out by Mihal Biran, the issues related to the governance system of the Chagatai ulus period have not been fully resolved and comprehensive work in this direction has not been carried out.

Russian Orientalism. Of great importance in the study and analysis of the problem are also the classical works of Russian Orientalists of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Among them are the places connected with our theme in the studies of scholar Vasily V. Bartold. His main works are devoted to the history of Turkestan, whose territories were part of the Chagatai ulus [2,3]. However, Western researchers believe that this is not a complete description, although there are various details in Barthold’s works [32,33].

Ch.P. Petrushevsky [45], B.D. Grekov and A.Y. Yakubovsky [4] belong to the number of major Russian orientalists, who studied mainly the history of the Hulagu state and the Golden Horde. At the same time, they gave brief descriptions of some issues of the Chagatai ulus.

In general, during the Soviet period, most scholars and writers were able to study the Mongol invasion and its consequences objectively, but until the 70s their history was only partially and one-sidedly studied. Only in the 80s, the history of medieval Mongols started to be covered objectively.

The works of O.D. Chekhovich and E.A. Davidovich, who conducted studies on specific issues of the Chagatai Khanate, are also considered important in this respect. Covering the history of the ulus, O.D. Chekhovich [24] conducted an extensive scientific study based on two archival sources containing information about this period. His research on the basis of historical documents included new information and new views, mainly on the socio-economic history of the Chagatai. E.A. Davidovich drew important conclusions about the economic and political life of the country through his research, including the numismatics of the Chagatai ulus [6].

have also contributed greatly to the study of the history of the Mongol Empire and the Chagatai ulus as a whole. Although legal basis, numismatic data, reasons of origin, development and disintegration of khanate, religious aspects of khanate were described in detail in their works, the study showed that newly identified sources were not included in their studies.

Research by Uzbek scholars. Under the influence of Russian Orientalism in Central Asia, studies, research and analyses pertaining to this period have been revived. For example, the Kyrgyz historian O. Karayev [8] and the Tajik scholar Lukmon Boymatov conducted research in this area. However, the information on chronological and historical processes given in them is somewhat ambiguous.

In the mid-90s, studies of this period also appeared in Uzbekistan. For example, the textbook by A. Sagdullaev and U. Mavlonov “History of the State Administration of Uzbekistan (from ancient times to the mid-XIX century)” provides information on the partial system of governance of the Chagatai ulus. Unfortunately, even here the information is mostly limited to the period of Kebek-khan [19]. Also N. Toshev’s [23] candidate dissertation “Tarih-i Jahankusha of Ala Ad-din Juweyni is an important source for the history of Central Asia of the XII-XIII centuries” and A.A. Raimkulov’s [18] doctoral work “Historical topography of the Southern Sogd in VIII-XIV centuries” analyzed some information on the Chagatai ulus.

One of the latest works on this topic belongs to G.M. Achilova, who provided good information on the history of Chagatai in her candidate dissertation “Political and socioeconomic life of Mawarannahr within the Chagatai ulus (1227-1370)”[1]. However, due to the fact that this work was conducted in the direction of Uzbek history, some sources in Arabic and Persian, not translated into Uzbek, were not included in the work. In 2012, B. Eshov also published a textbook entitled “History of State and Local Government in Uzbekistan” [27]. He used information from the textbook by A. Sagdullaev and U. Mavlanov on the governance of the Chagatai ulus. In 2021, Z. Saidbooev also attempted to present the history of Chagatai governance in his textbook
“The History of State Institutions in Uzbekistan” [80]. However, neither Eshov nor Saidboboev provided new and reliable information, and instead repeated information from 2006.

The above analysis has shown that there are a number of controversial issues relating to the Chagatai ulus, in particular, the system of government is one of the least studied issues in this respect. This, in turn, allows us to conclude that, in the history of Uzbek statehood, the history of the development of the Chagatai ulus and the legal direction of the system of government should be studied on the basis of new Oriental written sources from the 13th to 15th centuries.

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