RESEARCH ON THE HISTORY OF THE GREAT SILK ROAD

Scientists around the world have conducted research on the origins of the Great Silk Road, its branches and the historical environment in which the trade route came into being.

Uzbek scholars have conducted many studies of the Great Silk Road. In particular, academicians A. Askarova and F. Buryakova "On the work of the UNESCO expedition to the Uzbekistan Rural Route", E. Rtveladze "The Great Silk Road: an encyclopedic reference book: antiquity and the early Middle Ages", Professor I. Abdulhamid Abdurasul ogly "The Great Silk Road", Ablat Khodjaev "The Great Silk Road: views and fates" and many other scientific researches. The works of the above mentioned authors contain information on the origins of the Silk Road, the trading status of the countries along the trade route, the history of the Silk Road cities, and inter-religious and inter-cultural communications.

There are many authors engaged in scientific research in the twentieth century such as: A. R. Mukhammadjanov "Caravan Routes between Russia and Bukhara", T. Nigmatov "From the History of Russo-Khiva Relations (20-50 -G. XIX), A. Shishkin "Ancient Cultural Relations of Central Asian Nations with the Chinese People", N. B. Bankova "The Role of Russian-Indian Trade Relations in Central Asia (First Half of the 16th Century to Half of the 18th Century)", I. Nizamutdinov "Dozens of Studies on India and Central Asian Connections", E. Schaefer "The Golden Peaches of Samarkand", E. Lubo Lesnichenko "The Great Silk Road.

The Great Silk Road begins in Xi'an, the ancient capital of China, and reaches Dunhuang via Lanzhou. Here it divides into two:

1. the southwestern network.

2. Northwest network.

The southwestern branch of the Silk Road went through the Taklamakon desert to Khotan (Khotan), from there to Yorkent, through the valleys of the Pamirs to Vohan, and from there to Zariasp (Balkh), the capital of Bactria. The road from Balkh is divided into three sections. The western network goes to Merv, the southern one to India and the northern one through Termez to Darband, Nautaku (Kashkadarya), Samarkand.

In 1987 UNESCO developed an international programme called 'The Silk Road - The Road to Dialogue'. Under this programme, more than a dozen Silk Road expeditions were organised between 1987 and 1998. In particular, in 1987 on the Istanbul-Beijing route "In the footsteps of Marco Polo", in 1990-1991 - "Sea Expedition", in summer 1991 "Along the Central Asian republics", in 1992 "Traces of nomadic cultures", in 1995 "Networks of the Silk Road in Europe" and some other research expeditions were organized. The results of the expeditions were collected in the form of scientific material and published in books and journals.

International scientific conferences on studying the Great Silk Road were held in 1990s. At these conferences scientific conclusions about the history, present and future of the Great Silk Road were made, dozens of proposals and comments were made.
"Formation and Development of the Great Silk Road Networks in Ancient and Medieval Central Asia" (October 1990, Samarkand), "Epic of the Silk Road States" (June 3-7, 1993, Finland) ) "Language and Writings on the Great Silk Road" (September 30-October 1, 1994). Proceedings of such scientific conferences as "The Awakening of the Silk Road: Cultural Journey and the Awakening of Traditions in Uzbekistan" (February 21-22, 1996, Bukhara) were published as a collection. Significant articles and researches were presented to the public through the republican periodicals.

Special scientific centers and institutes specializing in the study of the Great Silk Road have been established in a number of countries. Researchers are conducting research on the history of the Great Silk Road. The first special institute was established in Japan in the 1970s. Currently, similar institutions operate in Japan, India, China, Sri Lanka and Uzbekistan. A special university in Kamakura, Japan, publishes a journal on Archeology and the Art of the Great Silk Road. The journal publishes articles by scientists from around the world four times a year.

The study of the Great Silk Road which played an important role in the history of mankind and the lives of hundreds of peoples, arose an interest to conduct research in international trade both abroad and in Uzbekistan. According to modern scholars, traders, ambassadors, soldiers, scientists and tourists traveling along the branches of the Great Silk Road were equally interested in it.

One of our great ancestors, Abu Rayhan Beruniy’s works dedicated to the description of historical cities built on the trade routes and road networks connecting Central Asia, India and China in the X century are "Monuments of Ancient Peoples" and "India".

Marco Polo, a Venetian merchant, reached China through trade routes across the Orient. Marco Polo, who visited the palace of the Chinese emperor, in his "Book of Marco Polo" provides important information about the geography, ethnography and history of the countries and cities along the trade route.

During the 16th and 20th centuries, people who crossed these roads for various purposes repeatedly mentioned in their memoirs the history of the territories and the importance of trade.

Aurel Stein (1862-1943) was one of the European orientalists who studied the Great Silk Road in the second half of the 19th century. Aurel Stein was originally from Hungary, but he is best known as an English archaeologist and orientalist. He discovered a network of trade routes connecting Taklamakon, Tarain oasis, Hotan, Turfan, Dunhuang in 1906-1909. In 1907, he studied the world-famous "Thousand Buddha" caves in Dunhuang and handed over to the British Museum in 1907 artifacts reflecting the cultural influence of China, India and Central Asia in the IV-XI centuries. In the VII-X centuries, silk was transported in the form of a ball, in the Han period, silk fabrics were 0.5 meters wide and 9 meters long, the place where silk is made in Dunhuang, its size, weight, the price of a ball of silk, silk interesting information about the quality of the pieces was given in his reseaches.

The British, Germans, and French used tourists and traders to achieve their colonial policy goals. The purpose of these paths was different, but they were scholars and intellectuals. In particular, in 1860, on behalf of the British, Muhammad ibn Hamid, originally from India, set out through the Karakum Desert and surveyed the Taklamakan oasis and collected information about the route of a number of cities under the sand.

H. Vamberei from Hungary also joined the trade caravans and entered the territory of Bukhara Emirate. He received instructions from members of the British mission in Mashhad (Iran). H. Vamberei was received by the Amir of Bukhara Amir Muzaffar. H. Vamberei was a member of the Royal Geographical Society of England, crossing the Silk Road trade routes. The society provided
him with a large pension until 1913, when H. Vamberi died. The scholar wrote a book entitled "History of Bukhara or Movarounnahr" dedicated to his travels in Central Asia.

In 1906, the French Chinese scholar Paul Nellio (1878-1945) conducted research in Kucha (East Turkestan) and published the first research work on the history of religions in China and China's first maritime relations with the Western world. He handed over to the National Library of Paris a large archive of manuscripts on the history of the Silk Road found in Xinjiang. As early as 1895, the Swedish geographer Sven Hedin created a map of the deserts of Central Asia. Count Otani of Japan, American Warlers studied the history of the roads connecting East Turkestan and China.

A member of the Berlin Geographical Society, geographer and geologist Wilhelm Richthofen (1833-1905) published a multi-volume monograph entitled “China: Personal Journeys and the Results of Subsequent In-Depth Research” in 1877 at the Rayner Publishing House in Berlin. In this book, he used the term "Great Silk Road" to popularize the name.