

## A STUDY OF THE GREAT SILK ROAD IN EUROPEAN HISTORIOGRAPHY

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### ABSTRACT

*The Great Silk Road contributed to trade between regions, also to the exchange of civilizations between peoples and continents, served as an important tool for the development of cultural values, science and cities, thereby creating conditions for intercultural dialogue. The article provides a comparative analysis of the study of the history of the ancient Great Silk Road, crossing Eurasia, in domestic and foreign historiography. The coverage of all aspects of the emergence and development of the Great Silk Road in domestic and foreign literature is determined using the methodology of comparative analysis. The final part of the article contains an analysis and update of the historical data studied on the topic.*

**KEYWORDS:** *The Great Silk Road, Historiography, Source Studies, China, Samarkand, Europe, Asia, Civilization, Culture, Historical Literature, Comparative Analysis.*

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### INTRODUCTION

The Great Silk Road left an indelible mark on the history of mankind as a path of inter-civilizational dialogue, historically linking the West and East in the field of culture, economy, and social life. Uzbekistan is a unique historical region where West and East meet, and the merit of the Great Silk Road in bringing the two sides of the world closer together and in the integrity of human civilization is invaluable. In the fact that the Silk Road, as a trade, economic and socio-cultural road network, which is important for the history of mankind, does not lose its significance to this day, the role of many ancient peoples of the world with a rich material and cultural heritage plays an important role.

One of such ancient main routes that connected the West and the East for several millennia is the Great Silk Road. This path was introduced into science under the name "Silk Road" by the German scientist Ferdinand von Richthofen from the 70s of the XIX century. This is stated in the work of Richthofen "China". Before him, this road was called "Western meridional road". It should be noted that before the Great Silk Road there were also such roads as the Lalsky way, the Shah way, connecting the peoples of Central Asia and the East.

Historical sources write that the period of the first rise in trade relations on the Great Silk Road - the 3rd century BC - refers to the 3rd century AD. During this period, on the eastern side of the Silk Road was the empire of the Huns, on the western side was the Achaemenid Empire of Iran in 558-330. BC e. In the 3rd century, the state of Kang existed on the territory of modern Southern Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan. During this period, the Achaemenids took control of part

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of the trade route. In the III-IV centuries. BC e. China and Central Asia split into small states that did not remain without influence on road development. The Great Silk Road dates back to another period of its heyday in the 6th-12th centuries AD. This period coincides with the period of strengthening of the Turkic Khaganate. In China, the Silk Road was merged with the Tang Empire (618-907).

The creation of relevant historical methodological foundations for studying the history of cities located on the Great Silk Road is aimed at an in-depth analysis of the level of their study by the scientific community and the application of methods recognized abroad, for which, first of all, it is necessary to determine in which direction the scientific research problem is directed. When conducting scientific research in the field of historiography, one of the priority tasks is, first of all, the selection of selected scientific literature in accordance with its various levels.

The Great Silk Road throughout its vast history of mankind for several millennia was characterized by its special historical character as a path of trade and intercultural communication between various peoples of the East and West.

## **MATERIAL AND METHODS**

In Uzbekistan and foreign historiography, the study of the history of the Great Silk Road is one of the areas of particular importance, and is still being studied by historians as an actual area of historical scientific research. Central network routes run from the ancient cities of Uzbekistan, the most important of which is the Silk Road. Therefore, historians who conducted historical scientific research on the history of these cities will certainly touch on the history of the Silk Road. The relevance of the topic lies in the fact that by studying the past of this historically significant path, we can explore aspects of the relationship between Asian and European states with the valuable information that we know to this day.

On the topic “Comparative analysis of the history of the cities of the Great Silk Road in foreign historiography”, effectively using the scientific methodology of comparative analysis of research works of historians of Asia and Europe, we will present our considerations. Until now, a group of scientists in Uzbekistan has been conducting research work on the historiography of the Great Silk Road. As a result of scientific research, we divided the historiography of the study of the Great Silk Road by region as follows: the study of the historiography of the Great Silk Road in the states of Western Europe; The study of the historiography of the Great Silk Road in Asian states. Study of the history of the Silk Road mainly by historians of China, India, South Korea and Japan; in the states of Central Asia, special attention is paid to the study of the history of the Great Silk Road. Because this area is considered one of the most important on the trade route. In particular, in the work of Mahmud Kashgari “Devonilugotit-Turk” a Japanese is mentioned, who calls him “Yabarka” and is considered a great scientist who first put this country on his map. According to the results of archaeological research, today the spread of the teachings of Buddhism is proven, that existed in the social and spiritual life of ancient Uzbekistan in the 6th century AD, from the territory of the Kushan state along the Great Silk Road to China, Korea and Japan.

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

Let us dwell on some historical studies of individual branches of the Great Silk Road, their place and role in historical eras. In these research topics, A.R. Muhammadjonov, T. Nigmatov, V. A. Shishkin, A. Yu It is believed that Yakubovsky, in his scientific research, thought deeply about

the role of the Great Silk Road in human civilization. Of the domestic scientists involved in the study of the history of the Great Silk Road, academician Edward Rtveldadze, AblatKhodzhaev, O.P. Kobzeva [1], AbdukhalikAbdurasulugli, A.K. Kirgizboev, A. Berdimurodov, A. Anarbaev, G. A. Agzamov, A. Aitboev, O. Mavlonov [3] and several other historians covered some aspects of the topic in their research work. In the scientific research of these authors, such issues as the emergence of the Great Silk Road and its main branches, Trade of individual states, cities built on the Silk Road, mutual intercultural interaction of peoples on the Silk Road are considered.

The book of the famous archaeologist, academician Rtveldadze Edward Vasilievich "The Great Silk Road" tells about the historical places of the Great Silk Road, which passed through the territory of Uzbekistan. The book contains information about the Chinese settlements of the Great Silk Road associated with the activities of ancient Uzbek traders. AblatKhodzhaev's book "The Great Silk Road: Relationships and Destinies" [4] contains a lot of scientific information about the history of the Silk Road. It can be said that AbdurasulogluAbdurasul is the author of "The Great Silk Road" [2], "Chin and Mochin" and other studies of scientific literature. Cooperation of Uzbekistan with the countries of Asia on the restoration of the Great Silk Road A.K. Kirgizboev analysis is given in the monograph "International cooperation of the Republic of Uzbekistan with the countries of Asia".

In the writings of Chinese historians, it is stated that in the 4th century BC, Chinese fabrics appeared in India and European countries. In India, these fabrics were called "Cinapatta", in European countries - "magic". And the country that grew silk was called "Serika". While most Chinese scientists believe that Serika was named after China, another group of scientists - Khori wrote that Serika is Kashgariain the 5th century BC in Greece, long clothes were sewn from silk fabric, which was called - "Amorgiam", since the name of the fabric was considered "Amorgis" [4].

The Chinese scholar Li Minwei argued that the areas connecting the northern provinces of China with the Mediterranean Sea consisted of Mesopotamia, the Iranian Plateau, and the territories of Central Asia to the east of this sea. About the distribution of silk in Central Asia in this place, archaeologist A. Askarov, pointing to the age of the remnants of silk found on the keramolitepe monument in Sukhandar, 3600-3700 years old, previously claimed that silk was created in our country even before China.

Although some opinions have been expressed in studies concerning this topic, but in general, the modern methodological analysis of historiography has not been clearly proven. For this, one should turn to foreign historiography. A large number of scientific studies have been carried out on this topic by historians of developed foreign countries. One of the main objectives of the study is an in-depth scientific analysis of research conducted in foreign countries and the widespread involvement of new historical knowledge in the study of the history of the Great Silk Road in Uzbekistan.

From foreign historians, Peter Frankopan [5], Agnew Neville [6], Valeria Hansen [7], Nils Ambolt [8], Prabodh Chandra [9], Christopher Beckwith [10], Wilfried Blunt [11] participated in the study of the topic, Bonavia Judy [12], Hedin Sven [13], Hopkirk Peter [14], Liu Xingru [15], Nebenzya Kenneth [16], Tucker Jonathan [17], Whitfield Susan [18], Whitlock Monica [19], Wood France [20], Neil Green [21], Jacqueline Moore [22], Bernard Olivier [23] and others, this is reflected in the scientific research of many foreign historians.

Valeria Hansen's scientific paper titled "A New History of the Silk Road" provides a clear explanation of the city of Samarkand with the countries of the West and the East using the method of comparative analysis. V. Dedicated to the fundamental history of this Great Silk Road by Hansen. This literature consists of an introduction, 7 chapters and a final part. Chapter 4 of the work, namely "The Motherland of the Sogdians. The section "Silk Road traders in Samarkand and Sogdiana" is dedicated to Samarkand, one of the main cities of the Great Silk Road. V. Hansen's book, based on scientific facts, tells about the center of the ancient Sogdian country of Samarkand, which is the main branch of the Great Silk Road, and about the Sogdians who have lived here for a long time.

## CONCLUSIONS

The Great Silk Road, having a huge potential, its huge opportunities, serves as an important factor in the periods of historical development of the countries of the East. The Great Silk Road occupies a special place in the history of mankind not only in connection with trade, but also as a way of intercultural exchange between various peoples of the East and West throughout its vast history of several millennia.

Our study is aimed at a comparative analysis of the study of the history of the cities of Central Asia on the Great Silk Road by foreign historians. Start a new direction in the study of foreign historiography, using, first of all, the scientific research of scientists from the most developed foreign universities today, analyzing and implementing as samples brochures published in internationally recognized scientific journals by our experienced specialists in this field. , the introduction of modern historical methods used in world historiography into the historiography of Uzbekistan by summarizing the scientific literature published in the historiography of foreign countries on the history of our country using comparative analytical methods, further clarifying the topic of scientific research in order to determine a specific historical period, an actual historical thematic direction , the historical and geographical region of the chosen topical thematic direction., the result of the study is to determine the main direction of the historiography of the Silk Road in order to unify the historical thematic direction. In the history of Uzbekistan, there is every reason to study the Great Silk Road, as there are sources and literature on the positive impact of the Great Silk Road on the development of science and culture, the development of ancient cities, the development of diplomacy, the establishment of economic and cultural ties. Analyzing the development of the intercultural civilization of the peoples of Eurasia on the Great Silk Road, one can distinguish a separate direction "historiography of the civilization of the cities of the Great Silk Road".

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