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B.AHMEDOV: THE SCHOLAR WHO FOUNDED THE UZBEK SCHOOL OF HISTORIOGRAPHY

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Abstract. This article analyzes the significant scholarly contributions of the prominent historian and academician Bo'riboy Ahmedov to the development of Uzbek historiography. It highlights the scholar's fundamental research on the ethnic history of the Uzbek people, source studies, Timurid studies, and the history of Bukhara and Balkh. Furthermore, it examines his role in introducing historical sources into scholarly discourse and his part in establishing the Uzbek school of historiography. The article also provides a scholarly assessment of his academic legacy, translation work, contributions to mentoring students, and his impact on the advancement of national historical science during the independence period.

Keywords. Buriboy Ahmedov, Uzbek historiography, school of historiography, source studies, ethnic history, history of Bukhara, history of Balkh, Temurid studies, Amir Temur, "Tuzukat-i Timuri," "Abdullanama," historical sources, scholarly heritage, historical research, science of history.

When it comes to the great representatives of the nation, we prefer to mention the names of the fathers of science of the distant past and show their scientific heritage as an example. Indeed, the world knows and recognizes us through them. However, if we take a deep look at recent times, especially the 20th century, we will see that many world-renowned representatives of science, literature, and art have emerged from our nation. Abdurauf Fitrat, Abdulhamid Cho'lpon, Abdulla Qodiriy, Oybek, Shukur Burhonov, Olim Khojaev, Qori Niyoziy, Yahyo Gulomov, Ibrohim Muminov, Obid Sodiqov, Ruzi Choriev, and others. Among them is the famous historian, academician Buribay Akhmedov. He is a scientist who has become the pride of the nation.

Buribay Akhmedov (1924-2002), who entered the field of history in the 1960s, is a sensitive scholar who conducted fundamental research on the ethnic history of the Uzbek people, source studies, and the history of our homeland from the 10th to the 19th centuries based on written sources. In one of his speeches in the press, the People's Writer of Uzbekistan Pirimkul Kadyrov described Buribay Akhmedov as the "Bartholdi of the Uzbeks." Such a definition fully corresponds to the words of the academician Buribay Akhmedov. Because the more extensively Barthold studied the history of Central Asia, the more comprehensive and strongly scientifically grounded are the studies of Buribay Akhmedov.

We would like to dwell a little on the contribution of the multifaceted creator to the theoretical study of the issue of the origin of the Uzbek people based on numerous manuscript sources. It should be noted that this issue is inherently complex and requires extreme caution due to its political and ideological aspects. In the 20s of the 20th century, prominent figures of their time, enlighteners such as Miyon Buzruk and Pulat Soliev, touched upon the topic, and it was this topic that caused them to be accused of nationalism and ultimately subjected to repression. The initial research they conducted can be called an introduction to the topic and its prelude. The scholar who brought the scientific research on the ethnic history of the Uzbek people to a high level is Buribay Akhmedov.

His works "From the History of the Origin of the Uzbek People," "The State of the Nomadic Uzbeks," and "The Uzbek Ulus" are fundamental studies dedicated to the history of the Uzbeks. The work "The State of Nomadic Uzbeks," which introduced the scientist to the general scientific community, was published in Moscow in 1965 by the "Nauka" publishing house. In the former Soviet era, it was courageous to boldly write about the true history of one's people, their antiquity and rich culture, and to put forward well-founded scientific ideas based on manuscript sources. The fact that the work was republished almost thirty years later, during the years of independence, with the name "Uzbek Ulus," testifies to the fact that the scientific and educational need for it has not disappeared. Especially during the years of independence, interest and demand for the work increased.

Not every researcher dares to study the internal and external life, socio-political relations, and economy of an individual state as a whole, from the process of its formation to its crisis. This research by Buriboy Akhmedov was carried out specifically in this direction. It extensively covers the socio-political and economic life of the Uzbek state established during the reign of Abulkhair Khan, as well as issues of state administration, the tax system, trade relations, and ties with the Timurids. In contrast to the prevailing opinion in scientific literature that the population of the state created by Abulkhair Khan was exclusively engaged in nomadic livestock breeding, Buribay Akhmedov proved with irrefutable evidence that the population of this state, along with nomadic livestock breeding, was engaged in sedentary agriculture and even crafts.

As a result of the scientist's long-term scientific research, his major work "Istoriya Balkha" (History of Balkh), published in 1982, was warmly received not only by our republic but also by the global scientific community. I, that is, we, the students, once visited the master's house in Sebzor, and with their permission, I was able to see the manuscript copy of this work. The typewritten work consisted of nearly a thousand pages, equivalent to the volume of four doctoral dissertations. An abridged version of the manuscript was published as a separate book. Part of the discussion and recommendation process for the publication of the book took place at the Faculty of Oriental Studies of Leningrad State University (Sankt-Peterburg). The book provides an in-depth study of issues such as the formation of the Balkh Khanate and its political life in the 16th–18th centuries, socio-economic relations, state

structure, land ownership, taxes and duties, population and occupations, and relations between the Balkh Khanate and India, Iran, and Russia.

Buribay Akhmedov is one of the scholars who conducted serious research on the works of Badriddin Kashmiri's "Ravzat al-Rizwan" and Abulabbos Muhammad Talib's "Matlab ut-Talibin," which include issues of the Bukhara Khanate, especially the history of the Joybor Khojas, who held a high position in the socio-economic and political life of the khanate. The results of the scientist's research in this field have been published in prestigious collections in Moscow.

The renowned historian, Academician Buribay Akhmedov, is a prominent scholar who made an invaluable contribution to the development of our country's Timur studies. Today's generation should not forget the merits of this scientist, who, through hard work, endless patience, and unwavering perseverance, studied the heritage of Amir Temur based on manuscript sources and turned it into the spiritual heritage of our people.

The period of independence and the theme of Amir Temur, which is the product of this period, opened a new page in the life of Buribay Akhmedov and gave him a second life. In the years of independence, in the person of Buribay Akhmedov, timur studies, which had been left behind by the will of time, removed from the sphere of interest, and even subjected to restrictions, rose to a qualitatively new level. Amir Temur's personality was restored to the people. The establishment of the Republican Amir Temur Society and the subsequent establishment of the Amir Temur International Foundation on its basis are directly linked to the name of Buribay Akhmedov.

Speaking of articles and treatises published about Amir Temur, it is necessary to note the scientific activity of Buribay Akhmedov. In particular, the scientist's series of articles titled "Letters to Amir Temur," published in several issues of the "Muloqot" magazine, served to present the truth about Amir Temur in a popular, popular, and unique style. In it, the scientist criticizes some empty articles published on the topic of Amir Temur, tries to reform our weak thoughts, and calls for following the proverb "even if a sparrow is slaughtered, let the butcher slaughter." He tries to explain that the topic of Amir Temur imposes a great scientific responsibility on the researcher who touched it.

"Temur Tuzuklari," published in 1991 under the editorship of Buriboy Akhmedov and translated by Alikhan Soguni and orientalist Habibullo Karomatov, had a great positive impact on the formation and development of scientific Temur studies in our country and was warmly received by the scientific community. The extensive preface written by the scientist to it is a concise study and testifies to the strong scientific potential of Buriboy Akhmedov. This preface still maintains its scientific value. For some reason, we do not encounter this preface in subsequent editions of the "Tuzuklar." Through this preface, we learn about the extent to which the "Temur Tuzuklari" has been studied by the world scientific community and the objective assessment given to it, and about the role of the "Tuzuklari" in the study of the history of Amir Temur. This work was republished several times, even nearly

twenty years after the scientist's death. The work is still considered the most compact guide for studying the heritage of Amir Temur by students.

The textbooks published by the scholar, such as "Amir Temur's Advice" and "Amir Temur's Lessons," serve as a convenient tool for promoting the heritage of Amir Temur among young people, especially schoolchildren.

The great merits of Buribay Akhmedov in studying and popularizing the heritage of Amir Temur and turning it into the spiritual heritage of our people were duly recognized by our government.

The merits of Buribay Akhmedov in the full publication of the work "Abdullanama" in the Uzbek language, which discusses the socio-political and cultural life of Mawarannahr and Khorasan in the 16th century, deserve special praise. The responsible and difficult task of preparing for publication a copy of the work translated into Uzbek by Sodik Mirzaev and Yunusjon Khakimjonov, writing a preface, as well as commentaries on historical and geographical terms and certain events, fell to the shoulders of Buribay Akhmedov. Although both translators of "Abdullanoma" were not fortunate enough to see the full edition of the work carried out by Buribay Akhmedov during the years of independence, through this edition, their services became the scientific and educational heritage of our people, and the names of the translators were re-inscribed on the pages of history.

One of the aspects that adorns the work of Buribay Akhmedov is his extensive scientific reviews of translated works. After all, commentary is a kind of research. By the way, Buribay Akhmedov himself was a skilled translator of historical and literary sources. The scientific-explanatory, academic translation of the geographical part of Mahmud ibn Wali's work "Bahrul Asror" (The Sea of Mysteries) into Russian belongs to Buribay Akhmedov. Buribay Akhmedov also made an explanatory translation of Davlatshah Samarkandi's work "Tazkirat ush-shuaro" into Uzbek, which is one of the literary tazkira. Through the commentary written by the scholar on the text of the work, we become aware of the literary environment and historical processes of the Middle Ages.

Academician Buribay Akhmedov is a scientist who has created his own scientific school. Representatives of his scientific school work not only in our country but also abroad. Timur Beisembiev, a Kazakhstani orientalist (may Allah's mercy be upon him), was formed in the school of Buribay Akhmedov and became a world-renowned and recognized scholar. His scientific works on the history of the Kokand Khanate have been recognized by the world scientific community. Devin Davis, a professor at Indiana University in the USA and a renowned orientalist, is a student of Buribay Akhmedov. In the 1980s, under the guidance of a teacher, he conducted fruitful research on the medieval history of our homeland, primary sources, and examples of hagiographic literature. Representatives of this school, continuing the teacher's work, are making a worthy contribution to the development of history in our country today.

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