

ANNOTATION

dissertation for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in the specialty «6D020300-History» «The Bronze Age of Kazakhstan in the works of national and foreign researchers» by Kukushkin Alexei Igorevich

Relevance of the research topic. During the period of state independence of the Republic of Kazakhstan, there is a rapid increase in national identity. The combination of cultural, spiritual, geopolitical circumstances associated with the positioning of the country at the global and regional levels led to increased interest in the ancient history of the state.

A systematic study of archaeological sites has significantly expanded the source base of the Bronze Age. The non-written period of history systematically begins to be filled with real content. Modern archeology does not become an auxiliary discipline of the material science direction, but it becomes a full-fledged branch of knowledge, which has its own tools for various historical reconstructions of an eventual nature, systemic modeling, and the search for archetypes of ancient myth-making. The primary task of the study is to combine new knowledge into a single picture of the general historical process, which allows to better understand and comprehend the deep-seated social processes that took place on the territory of Kazakhstan in the Bronze Age in the III - early I millennium BC.

Currently, a set of measures is being implemented to realize the ideas and provisions arising from the program document of Yelbasy, the Leader of the nation N.A. Nazarbayev «A look into the future: the modernization of public consciousness» (2017). The publication of the article of the First President of the Republic of Kazakhstan «Seven Facets of the Great Steppe» (2018) served as an impetus for the development of a number of urgent problems. These program articles identified priorities in the study of historical and cultural heritage.

Despite significant achievements in the study of the Bronze Age by historians, archaeologists, anthropologists, and representatives of the natural sciences, there are many unresolved or sharp debate questions. First of all, these are the origin of the Bronze Age tribes and their ethnicity, social ranking criteria of society and the level of its social economic development, the dynamics of religious and mythological representations and their material manifestations. For further progressive and effective development of scientific knowledge about the Bronze Age of Kazakhstan, a comprehensive study of the obtained archaeological sources is necessary, in which historiographic studies of a general nature play a significant role.

An extensive database of sources for the period under study allows to purposefully generalize the scientific knowledge accumulated as a result of many years of research, specify the current state of the problems and reflect the dynamics of the accumulation of historical knowledge on the Bronze Age of the republic.

The object of the dissertation research is the process of accumulating knowledge on the Bronze Age of Kazakhstan by national and foreign scientists.

The subject of the dissertation research is a collection of published and unpublished works devoted to the study of the Bronze Age of Kazakhstan.

The purpose of the dissertation research is to form an integral picture of the conceptual development of the process of historical knowledge of the Bronze Age of Kazakhstan on the basis of historiographic analysis of scientific data and existing theories, from the XVIII century to the present. The goal identified the research objectives:

- to reveal the theoretical and methodological foundations of the study of the Bronze Age, which served as the scientific platform of national and foreign researchers;

- to determine the information capabilities of accumulated archaeological sources;

- to explore the historiography of the ethnocultural attribution of the Bronze Age tribes;

- to consider the problems of periodization and cultural affiliation of a number of supporting monuments of the Bronze Age of Kazakhstan on the basis of scientific publications;

- to identify the fundamental stages in the scientific study of the Bronze Age of Kazakhstan.

The chronological framework of the research covers the period of the XVIII - the beginning of the XXI centuries. A comprehensive analysis of scientific knowledge was undertaken on the basis of published and unpublished works on the Bronze Age of Kazakhstan.

The territorial framework of the research. The dissertation research proposes a review of the historical and cultural process of the III - the beginning of the I millennium BC within the borders of modern Kazakhstan.

The methodological basis of the dissertation is an integrated approach in combination with the fundamental principles of scientific objectivity and historicism. In accordance with the principle of historicism, each phenomenon was analyzed and evaluated in order to form an objective picture of the past. Exhaustive coverage and use as sources of a wide range of scientific publications containing mutual criticism of research corresponds to the principle of objectivity in the process of writing a dissertation research.

The application of the analysis method allowed to consider and characterize the processes of discovery and study of individual monuments, archaeological cultures, as well as the conclusions of researchers. The use of the synthesis method helps to identify common trends in the study of the Bronze Age of Kazakhstan, to generalize the results achieved, to specify the inconsistencies and unresolved problems. The problem-chronological approach was used to reveal the evolution of scientific knowledge about the Bronze Age of Kazakhstan throughout the history of the study.

The scientific novelty of the research is determined by the comprehension of key methodological concepts in the historiography of the Bronze Age and the formation of an objective approach to this historical period as an organic and integral part of the world-historical process. In the research work the following is done:

- the entire available source study base on this issue has been worked out and systematized;
- the process of scientific extraction of cultural formations of the Bronze Age in all regions of the republic has been investigated;
- the main stages are identified and the trends in the development of scientific research in the process of accumulating new knowledge in the Bronze Age are analyzed;
- the theoretical and cognitive significance of archaeological sources on the Bronze Age of Kazakhstan is revealed.

The source base of the study. By source we mean the works of scientists dedicated to the study of the Bronze Age of Kazakhstan, containing general and specific materials on the history of the problem. These are monographs, articles and publications in scientific journals, materials of discussions, conferences, collections of historical and cultural monuments, archival materials, dissertations and reports on the work of expeditionary units. It seems possible to divide the database of used sources into several groups.

The first, most representative group includes collective and individual monographic studies. The second group consists of thematic articles published in scientific collections and issues of conference materials, periodicals. The third group of sources is represented by published volumes of the Code of Monuments of History and Culture of the Republic of Kazakhstan. The fourth group consists of archival materials.

Practical significance. The study of the process of exploration the bronze era of Kazakhstan contributes to the further development of this branch of historical science, as it allows to identify the most promising areas for further study.

The research materials can be used in the creation of generalizing works, in lecture and special courses taught at the historical faculties of universities, as well as reference material for theses and master's theses, aimed at developing a wide range of discussion questions on the Bronze Age of Kazakhstan.

Of great importance, in our opinion, is the understanding of the processes of conservation, restoration and museumification of monuments of the Bronze Age as part of the implementation of the state program «Rukhani zhagyru», which can find practical embodiment in the organization of museum exhibitions, open-air museums and the intensification of the use of bright monuments of the era in historical and cultural tourism in the Republic of Kazakhstan.

The degree of knowledge of the problem. Despite the long history of studying the epoch of the bronze of Kazakhstan, no special research has been carried out so far covering and generalizing this process throughout the republic. In the process of forming scientific ideas about the Bronze Age of Kazakhstan, three stages can be distinguished, reflecting the dynamics of archaeological research: the XVIII - the mid 40s of XX centuries; 1946 - the end of the 80s. of the XX century; the beginning of the 90s of the XX century - the present time.

The period of the XVIII to the beginning of the 20th centuries was the period of primary accumulation of the most part of random information and artifacts obtained not as a result of targeted research, but in parallel with the main area of

activity. In the 30s. of the XX century archaeological study of monuments of the Bronze Age was carried out in the framework of the new political situation. At this stage, targeted field archaeological research began, primarily in the areas of new buildings, the main driving force of which were the expeditions of the State Academy of the History of Material Culture.

The second stage is associated with the formation of the Academy of Sciences of the Kazakh SSR in 1946, which was a kind of «locomotive» for studying the monuments of the Bronze Age of Kazakhstan. During this period, the national cadre of professional historians and archaeologists was fully formed, an organizational basis was formed for studying the monuments of the Bronze Age of Kazakhstan.

During the third stage, in the conditions of the sovereignty of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the nature of the study in national historical science has led to increased interest in the original culture of the Bronze Age population. At the same time, noting the increase in the level of knowledge of the Bronze Age in the works of national and foreign researchers, it is necessary to indicate the presence of only regional works on the history of the study of the Bronze Age of Kazakhstan.

Approbation of work. The main results of the study are reflected in 15 publications, including 3 articles published in publications recommended by the Committee for control in the sphere of education and science of the Ministry of education and science of the Republic of Kazakhstan and 3 scientific papers in foreign journals with non-zero impact factor. The work was tested at 8 international conferences: «Integration of the scientific community before the global problems of our time» (Osaka, Japan 2017), «Materials of the international scientific-practical conference dedicated to the 70th anniversary of S.U. Zhauymbayev» (Karagandy, 2017), «IX Orazbayev readings» (Almaty, 2017), «Actual problems of the historical science of Kazakhstan and Central Asia» (Astana, 2018), «Margulan readings-2018» (Aktobe, 2018), «X Orazbayev readings» (Almaty, 2018), «Modernization of public consciousness and Kazakhstan's new humanities» (Karaganda, 2018), «V (XXI) All-Russian Archaeological Congress» (Belokurikha, 2017). The results of the research are also reflected in collective monographs, such as «The Archaeological Map of the Osakarovsk District of the Karaganda Region» (2013), «The Archaeological Map of the Bukharzhyrau District of the Karaganda Region» (2014), «The Archaeological Map of the Abay District of the Karaganda Region» (2015), «The Archaeological Map of the Nura district of the Karaganda region» (2016), «Archaeological map of the Aktogay district of the Karaganda region» (2017), «Archaeological map of the Shet district of the Karaganda region» (2018).

Personal experience of the author's participation in field archaeological research on the monuments of the Bronze Age of Central Kazakhstan (Ashchisu, Alat, Nura-Taldy, Litvinskoe, Taldy-2, Kyzyltau) and the certification of archeological objects in various areas of the Karaganda region (2011-2019) is of no small importance, as well as an internship in Barnaul (Russian Federation), during which the main trends in modern research of foreign scientists were analyzed.

Defense outcomes:

1 In contrast to the traditional view that has developed in archaeological science, the period of primary accumulation of material on the Bronze Age of Kazakhstan ends in the 40s. of the XX century because until this time, researchers did not have a holistic view of the periodization and chronology of the Bronze Age cultures, which is explained by the lack of large-scale and systematic work in the study area.

2 At the second stage of the research of the Bronze Age, andronology is allocated in a separate direction. The Bronze Age of Kazakhstan receives its conditional periodization and chronology with the allocation of independent genetically related periods, and later cultures: Alakul, Nurinsk-Fedorov and Begaz-Dandybayev / Alekseyev-Sargarinsk ones. Currently, preference is given to the assumption of the coexistence of Alakul and Fedorov antiquities in a single space-time continuum, followed by the cultures of the Late Bronze Age.

3 The development of questions of historiography and the study of the history of the investigation of the monuments of the Bronze Age allows to determine the place of the culture of the ancient tribes of Kazakhstan in the system of archaeological cultures of the steppe Eurasia as one of the centers of the formation and development of civilization in the era of paleometal.

4 Over the past decades, qualitatively new materials have been obtained on paleogenetics, paleoanthropology, and paleozoology, which are used in the study of archaeological material. The use of diverse natural science methods in the study and dating of archaeological sites and artifacts of the Bronze Age allows to fill in the gaps in the study of ethnogenesis, sociogenesis and cultural genesis of the tribes living in Kazakhstan in the III - early I millennium BC.

5 The following issues are key and debatable in the study of the Bronze Age of Kazakhstan: the genesis and formation of ethnocultural entities, the degree of social ranking of society, the problems of chronology and periodization, the semantics of rock art, the level of development of mining, metallurgy and metalworking.

6 Within the framework of the implementation of the state programs «Cultural Heritage», «Rukhani Zhangyru», «Seven Facets of the Great Steppe», as well as the republican competition «Grant Financing of Research Projects of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan», the most promising areas of research were selected, which naturally led to the publication of numerous thematic articles and a number of monographs of a complex nature, covering various areas of material and spiritual culture.

The structure of the research. The dissertation consists of an introduction, three sections, including twelve subsections, a conclusion and a list of sources used.