



## **REVIEW**

### **of the dissertation of Aleksey Igorevich Kukushkin “The Bronze Age of Kazakhstan in the works of national and foreign researchers” for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in specialty 6D020300 - “History”**

The dissertation work by Alexei Igorevich Kukushkin is an independent study performed at a high-quality scientific level using modern methods of processing source material. The author selected a complex and little-studied early problem in the history of Kazakhstan as the research topic. Undoubtedly, the Bronze Age is one of the most significant periods in world history, the time of global changes in many areas of ancient society.

The relevance of the work is quite high, because the Bronze Age is one of the most important periods in world history, the time of global changes in many areas of ancient society, which laid the foundation for all modern civilization.

A significant base of sources for the period studied allows to summarize the accumulated knowledge, reflect the development of researchers' approaches to the study of the Bronze Age, and identify urgent issues. This requires a historiographic analysis of the extensive and informative material presented in the works of national and foreign researchers.

In the structure of the dissertation, the author sequentially considers the whole range of issues that should be investigated - from covering general and specific concepts on the history of the problem to studying the historical and cultural heritage of the Bronze Age of Kazakhstan. The dissertation consists of an introduction, three sections, including twelve subsections, a conclusion and a list of references and literature.

The first section is devoted to the accumulation of first knowledge about the Bronze Age of Kazakhstan and the beginning of archaeological research.

The second section deals with the formation of specialized and regional archaeological expeditions since 1946 and the accumulation of an extensive source base.

The third section is devoted to the modern stage of the formation of new

knowledge on the Bronze Age during the years of independence of the Republic of Kazakhstan, as well as the application of an interdisciplinary approach and natural-scientific methods in research.

In conclusion, the researcher formulated the main conclusions on the study as a whole and sections in particular.

It is worth noting the positive results of this dissertation work, which consist in large-scale coverage of the research source, containing monographs, articles and publications in scientific publications, materials of discussions, conferences, archives of historical and cultural monuments, archival materials, dissertations, reports on the work of expeditionary units.

In the process of writing, the author methodically competently divided the entire available corpus of sources into three consecutive stages, reflecting the dynamics of the study of the bronze era of Kazakhstan: the XVIII century - until the first half of the 40s of the XX century; 1946 - the end of the 80s of the XX century; the beginning of the 90s of the XX century until now.

The author's attention to issues related to the problems of studying mining, metallurgy and metalworking production in the territory under consideration and personal participation in archaeological research on monuments of the Bronze Age, including the settlement of ancient metallurgists Alat, should be noted.

As comments, it is worth paying more attention to the problem of the transition period from the era of the final bronze to the early Iron Age, which is poorly covered in the dissertation research.

Summarizing the analysis of the dissertation, it should be noted that the research topic is certainly relevant, and the work uses an extensive database of sources, which is qualitatively systematized into specific subsections.

In general, the dissertation of Aleksey Igorevich Kukushkin «The Bronze Age in the works of national and foreign researchers» meets the requirements for dissertation works, and its author deserves the conferment of a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree in specialty 6D020300 - «History».

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