

## ANNOTATION

**dissertation work by Zhuzbayeva Uldanay Duysenovna on the topic «Taqwim al-Buldan by Abu al-Fida as a Source for the Historical Geography of Asia», submitted for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) under the educational program 8D02209 – «Oriental Studies»**

**General characteristics of the thesis.** The dissertation examines the scientific heritage of the Syrian scientist and statesman Ismail ibn Ali ibn Mahmud ibn Muhammad ibn Omar ibn Shahinshah ibn Ayyub (Abul-Fida, nicknamed al-Mamun), who was considered one of the intellectuals of his time, held various state and public positions and wrote significant works in various scientific fields. A comprehensive analysis of a number of regions, cities, seas and oceans, such as Mauretannahr, Khorezm, Turkestan, from the point of view of historical geography, is carried out on the example of the work of the scientist «Taqwim al-Buldan» (Arabic: . تقويم البلدان, «Systematization of countries»). At the same time, in order to identify geographical, political, ideological, social and other factors that influenced various processes, the research examines the works of geographers who lived before Abul-Fida and served as the basis for his works, as well as texts related to the regions of Asia. The application of historical-geographical, cultural, documentary, semantic-etymological and comparative methods of analysis made it possible to reveal the peculiarities of the historical geography of such regions and countries as the Near and Middle East, Southern Europe and China, as well as the place of various toponyms mentioned in this work in the history and culture of nations.

**Relevance of the research topic:** Firstly, systematic study of the biography and works of Abul-Fida has been undertaken in domestic science. Until now, his works have not been given due attention, as a result of which medieval geography and cartography were outside the Kazakh academic discourse.

Secondly, his life and legacy are also insufficiently studied in foreign literature. The researchers are mainly limited to the analysis of the book «Brief History of Humanity» («Al-Mukhtasar fi historical-l-Bashar»). The work «Taqwim al-Buldan», although it is used as a reference in studies of historical habitats and ethnos, has few in-depth monographic works.

Thirdly, «Taqwim al-Buldan» is a systematic scientific treatise combining empirical data, astronomical calculations and historical-geographical analysis. It not only reflects the geographical reality of the XIII-XIV centuries, but also illustrates the tendency to move from the coordinate description to the analytical method, and also provides a methodological basis for studying the political, ethnographic and economic structure of Asia.

**The degree of study of the topic of the thesis:** The study of the geographical heritage of Abu'l-Fida and his work «Taqwim al-Buldan» is found in scientific works in the field of historical-geographical and Arabistic studies in a limited volume. The main theme of the dissertation study was the work of Abul-Fida «Taqwim al-Buldan». This work allows to scientifically reconstruct the methodology and structure of the author's geographical views. When considering

issues related to the creative heritage and social activities of Abul-Fida, the works of medieval Arab scholars — Ibn al-Taymiyy, Ibn Kasira, Ibn Hazara al-Askalani, Jamal ad-Dina al-Qasbi, Ibn Hazma al-Andalusi — as well as modern researchers — Muhammad Muhsina Khana Haddada, Bernard Le Guin, M. Ibrahim, Marshall Goodwin Simms Hodgson, Chase Robinson, Patricia Crown, Hugh Kennedy, Gunther Ernst von Gruenebaum, Fazlura Rahmana, Wilferda Madelunga, Rudolph Peters.

In the analysis of structural features and research questions of the work «Taqwim al-Buldan», the work of such figures as Ibn Said al-Maghribi, Sylvester de Sacy, Joseph Toussaint Reno and Mac Gookin de Slang, Giovanni Battista Ramusio played an important role.

In the work of Abul-Fida, as additional sources for the description of the historical geography of Maurennahra, Khorezma and Turkestan, the works of S. Tolstova, al-Maidani, Sh. Kamoliddina, M.T. Tynyshpaeva, G. Matkarimova, I. Yu. Krachkovsky, E.R. Tenisheva, M.B. Durdieva and other well-known scientists. As for the historical geography of the Mediterranean islands and the Atlantic Ocean in the sources of Abul-Fida, the work «Taqwim al-Buldan» itself was analyzed, and the contribution of Ptolemy and Ibn Said was significant.

As for the studies of the geography of Asia, carried out by scholars until Abul-Fida, they can be divided into periods: representatives of antiquity until the VII century until AD. — Hecataeus of Miletus, Herodotus, Strabo, Claudius Ptolemy; Geographers of the early Islamic period VII-X centuries - Muhammad ibn Musa al-Khorezmi, Abu-L-Kasim Ubaidallah ibn Khordadbeh, Abu al-Abbas Ahmed al-Yakubi, Abu Ishaq al-Istahri, Abu-L-Hasan Ali al-Masudi, Abu-L-Kasim Muhammad ibn Haukal, Shams al-Din Abu Abdallah Muhammad al-Mukaddasi; Scholars of the Middle Ages of the XI-XIII century — Abu Reyhan Muhammad ibn Ahmed al-Biruni, Shihabuddin Abu Abdullah Yakut ibn Abdullah al-Hamawi, Guillaume de Rubruk. When considering the work "Taqwim al-Buldan" as a source of historical geography of Asia, a comparative analysis was conducted based on this periodization system and the works of the mentioned scientists. In order to evaluate and identify the features of scientific views and methodology of Abul-Fida's studies, the studies of such scientists as Ahmed Renima, Habib Tiliwin, Richard J. are of special importance in this work. Estes, Elizabeth Lambourn, Samer al-Nawaisa, T.R. Sheikhislamov, Salah Zaimeche, A.A. Porsin, K. Leh, A.A. Yankovskaya, S.R. Akhmadullin.

**The object of the dissertation study is:** the scientific heritage of Islamic cartography and historical geographical thought - the work of Abul-Fida «Taqwim al-Buldan».

Subject of research: historical and geographical traditions and features of the Islamic world of the XIII-XIV centuries, reflected in this work.

**The purpose of the study:** to reveal the significance of Abul-Fida as a source of historical geography of the Asian continent in the historical-geographical work «Taqwim al-Buldan», to conduct a study with an analysis of the structure and content and methodology, which distinguish it from the works of previous authors.

**Research objectives:**

- Analysis of the creative path and legacy of Abul-Fida;
- Reveal the level of study of the work «Taqwim al-Buldan» in the context of studies of scientists in the social and humanitarian sphere;
- Definition of structural features of the work «Taqwim al-Buldan»;
- To determine the historical geography of Maverennahra, Khorezma and Turkestan in the manuscript of Abul-Fida, to reveal the features of social, cultural, political, economic life;
- Consider the studies of scientists who lived before Abul-Fida, on the geography of Asia - in the context of the periods of antiquity (antiquity) and medieval geographers;
- Description of factors that influenced the creation of Abul-Fida in the direction of historical geography.

**Scientific novelty of the research work.** For the first time, as an independent source on the historical geography of Asia, which is insufficiently covered in the historiographical literature, a systematic comparative analysis of the work of Abul-Fida «Taqwim al-Buldan» was carried out. A comprehensive description of the structure and methodology of work with special attention to the Asian region is presented. By comparison with previous studies, the peculiarities of geographical characteristics were revealed. Also, the historical geography of the regions of the Asian continent was clarified and new aspects of their social, cultural, political and economic spheres of life were revealed.

The following **scientific results were achieved during the research in the dissertation:**

- 1) the main stages and features of Abul-Fida's creative path are defined;
- 2) the level of study of the work «Taqwim al-Buldan» was characterized in the context of studies of scientists in the social and humanitarian sphere;
- 3) structural features of the work «Taqwim al-Buldan» are analyzed;
- 4) revealed the historical geography of Mauerennahra, Khorezma and Turkestan in the manuscript of Abul-Fida, revealed new aspects of social, cultural, political, economic life;
- 5) studies of scientists who lived before Abul-Fida on the geography of Asia - were considered in the context of the epochs of ancient (ancient), early and medieval geographers;
- 6) studied socio-political, socio-economic, ideological, etc. Factors that influenced the creative path of Abul-Fida.

**Theoretical and practical significance of research.** The scientific results and concepts obtained during the research are used as additional methodological and documentary material in the educational process in universities and specialized educational institutions in the specialties of oriental studies, history and geography, as well as in the context of conducting scientific research and implementing project-program initiatives. Analytical study of the results and conclusions of dissertation research provides methodological and conceptual foundations for the selection of research topics for future geographers, ethnographers, sociologists, historians and orientalists, as well as for the preparation of new scientific monographs and articles.

### **Methodological and theoretical foundations of dissertation research.**

The methodological basis of the dissertation research is a complex of historical-geographical, cultural, documentary, semantic-etymological and comparative-analytical methods aimed at the in-depth study of Abu al-Fida's work «Taqwim al-Buldan» as a source of historical geography of Asia. Within the framework of the main methods of historical science, the work is based on the principle of historicism. It includes the analysis of these sources in the context of cultural, scientific and intellectual traditions of the Islamic world of the XIII-XIV centuries, taking into account the specifics of the wedding era.

In the course of research, the structure, content and scientific terminology of the manuscript are studied using methods of textological analysis. In turn, a comparison of the characteristics of geographical regions in «Taqwim al-Buldan» with similar data in the works of ancient, early Islamic and medieval authors is carried out with the help of comparative analysis, which allows to reveal similarities and differences. An important role is played by the data-based method, which includes the determination of the authenticity of the texts, the degree of reference to previous works, the level of critical evaluation and methods of adaptation of the obtained data.

The theoretical (methodological) basis of the research is based on achievements in the field of modern Arabic studies, oriental studies and history of science, as well as historical geography and concepts closely related to it. In particular, concepts that reveal the formation and evolution of the Islamic geographical tradition, the methodology of systematization and classification of geographical knowledge, as well as the role of mathematical and astronomical methods in medieval cartography are considered.

When studying the work of Abul-Fida «Taqwim al-Buldan» it is necessary to pay attention to the following fact. In particular, there are no geographical maps in the author's original manuscript. That is, instead of them, only tables containing various comparisons are given. Therefore, the tables are presented in the dissertation study as an appendix.

### **The main scientific provisions that can be defended:**

1) For the first time in the field of Kazakh historiography and social and humanitarian sciences, Abul-Fida as a historical figure, his biography and scientific heritage were studied multifaceted and comprehensively. The results of this study fill important gaps in the study of Arabic geographical thought of the XIII-XIV centuries. Today, the scientific heritage of Abul-Fida remains practically unstudied in the academic environment of Kazakhstan; His work was not included in the documentary treatment in studies on the history of geography and cartography. One of the main works of Abul-Fida – «Taqwim al-Buldan» - is systematically analyzed in the dissertation. Special attention is paid to the geographical description of Asian regions in German. This allows a deeper understanding of the role of the Muslim scientific tradition in the formation of medieval spatial knowledge and serves as a basis for positioning Abul-Fida as an important figure in the history of science.

2) «Taqwim al-Buldan», being a unique geographical treatise, is insufficiently appreciated as an independent object of research in foreign science. In foreign historiographical and geographical literature, priority is given to the most famous work of Abul-Fida – «A Brief History of Humanity». And the historical-geographic work «Taqwim al-Buldan» is mainly used as an additional source when considering cartographic traditions in the Islamic world, it is briefly reviewed, but no in-depth textual and documentary analysis is carried out. This dissertation fills this gap and considers the work as a valuable independent source with rich content in historical geography, especially in the context of the analysis of Asian regions.

**Approbation of research results.** The results and conclusions of the study were published in 10 scientific articles in domestic and foreign peer-reviewed publications. Of them, 1 article is indexed in the Scopus database, 9 - in journals included in the list approved by the Committee for Quality Control of Science of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Republic of Kazakhstan.