



## History of the City of Shahrissabz in the 18th Century

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**Abstract:** *This article, with the help of sources and historical literature, highlights the history of the ancient and always popular city of Shakhrisabz in the 18th century. There are also some comments on the political life of the city, which was part of the Bukhara Khanate.*

**Keywords:** *Kashkadarya, Kesh, Shakhrisabz, Amir Temur, Timurids, Sharafuddin Ali Yazdi, Hafizi Abru, Abdullah Khan II, Mahmud ibn Vali, Bukhara Khanate, Ashtarkhanid dynasty.*

Independence has created ample opportunities for us to truly study the history of our nation and our national cultural heritage. The history and culture of the ancient cities of the past, the in-depth study of the legacy of great scholars has become one of the important tasks facing historians.

Shahrissabz region, considered one of the ancient cities of Kashkadarya oasis, has its own rich history. The Tankhozdarya and Aksuv rivers flowed from the south side of this land. Mil. av. The city of Shahrissabz, founded in the middle of the 1st millennium, was called by different names at the beginning of the first century AD and in the early Middle Ages (Kesh). At that time, Shahrissabz was called "Qubbatul ilm wal adab". The fact that the ancestors of scholars such as Khusrav Dehlavi, Bedil, Mirza Ghalib were born in Shahrissabz shows that this city was a cultural center<sup>1</sup>.

Since the 13th century, it has become customary to call the city by the name of Shahrissabz<sup>2</sup>. Information about the history of Shahrissabz during the Mongol invasions of Central Asia is not found in historical written sources. Only in 1351, the name "Shahrissabz" appears on the silver coins minted in the name of Chigatai Khan Bayonkulikhan<sup>3</sup>. But in 1352 coins minted in the name of this khan also have the name Kesh<sup>4</sup>. It can be seen that at one time the name of the city was also known as the old Kesh and the new Shahrissabz. The famous historian Sharafuddin Ali Yazdi wrote about the city: "Shahrissabz, the Turks call it Kesh<sup>5</sup>. Shahrissabz has a glorious history associated with the name of the great Sahibqiran Amir Temur. The city flourished during the World War II and achieved its cultural development. Political, social, economic and cultural life developed in the city more than ever before.

During the reign of Amir Temur and the Timurids, Shahrissabz was transformed into a large city of a huge kingdom, a summer residence of barlos beggars. The famous Aksaroy and Dor us syadat complexes were built. The outskirts of the city are surrounded by a fortress wall. Rui Gonzalez de Clavijo, the ambassador of Spain (Castile), notes in his diary that there are many majestic buildings and mosques in Shahrissabz and are under construction. Later, many architectural monuments (Dor ut - tilovat complex, Kokgumbaz mosque and other structures) were built. Hafizi Abru also writes that there was an old wall (bandi qadim) in the city, but it was destroyed at the

<sup>1</sup> Nosir Muhammad. Nasaf va Kesh allomalari. 2-nashri, – T., 2006. B.8.

<sup>2</sup> Rajabov Q. Shahrissabz. O‘zME, 11-j.: T.: O‘zME DIN, 2000. B.82.

<sup>3</sup> Kesh – uy, ya’ni vatan demakdir // Moziydan sado, 2(18). 2003. –B.44

<sup>4</sup> Masson M.YE., Pugachenkova G.A. Shaxrisabz pri Timure i Ulugbeke // Trudi SAGU. Novaya seriya, vip. XLIX.

Gumanitarniye nauki 6. Arxeologiya Sredney Azii. – Tashkent, 1953. S.22.

<sup>5</sup> Bartold V.V. Ulugbek i yego vremya. Soch. t.II, chast 2. M.,1964.



beginning of the 15th century. At that time, there were 4 gates of Shahrisabz: Ark (north), Kunchikar (east), Kushkhana (west), Termiz (south)<sup>6</sup>.

The high culture that arose during the time of Timur the Great and the Timurids continued and became richer in later periods. In 1556, Shahrisabz was conquered by Abdullah Khan II, a famous representative of the Shaibani dynasty. Abdulla Khan II appointed Khisrav Sultan, one of his relatives, as the governor of this place instead of Hashim Sultan. Later, the Shahrisabz region was part of the Karshi region of the Bukhara khanate. Even in the middle of the 16th century, Shahrisabz was surrounded by strong defensive walls<sup>7</sup>.

Mahmud ibn Wali (XVII century) described Shahrisabz in his work "Bahr al Asrar" ("Sea of Secrets" - "Geography") as follows: "Kesh is one of the cities of Movarounnahr, because of its green gardens and flower gardens that are pleasing to the eye, it is now called Shahrisabz became famous with It is considered one of the most beautiful cities in the world; the climate is very good and warm..."<sup>8</sup>.

During the Ashtarkhanid era, Shahrisabz lost much of its political status. In the struggle for power in Shahrisabz, first the Mangits, then the Kungirat clan won and tried not to recognize the central authority - the Khanate of Bukhara. It is noted that in the first quarter of the 18th century, when Dashti Kipchak Kazakhs organized robbery attacks on Zarafshan and Kashkadarya oases, the city life in Shahrisabz was disrupted for some time. From 1750-1752, Shahrisabz came under the control of Bukhara Emirate. In the middle of the 18th century, the city was rebuilt.

At the beginning of the 18th century, Shahrisabz was ruled almost independently, and the Khudoyorbi mangit Rustambii, the chieftain appointed by Ubaidullah Khan (1702-1711) to lead this area, could not overcome the resistance of the Shahrisabz people, and the Shahrisabz people, who were part of the Bukhara army, acted independently and did not submit to Ubaydullah Khan during the campaigns organized by Ubaidullah Khan to Balkh. Mirmuhammad Amin Bukhari Quoted in "Ubaidullanoma"<sup>9</sup>. Abulfayz Khan (1711–1747) could not firmly establish his power in the Kashkadarya oasis. Local governors felt completely independent from the central government and often rebelled. The fact that even Karshi, which has a strong influence of Bukhara, has moved to the side of the separatist governors indicates the weakness of Abulfayz Khan's power in this area<sup>10</sup>. Conflicts with local governors and palace conspiracies led to the fact that the personal guards of Ubaidullah Khan and Abulfayz Khan were composed of Russian and Kalmyk slaves<sup>11</sup>. Sharisabz people led by Ibrahim Mirokhor occupied Karshi and organized raids on Bukhara as well. Ibrahim Mirokhor kenagas, Niyaz Qataghan and others united and announced the establishment of an independent khanate in Samarkand in 1723 and put Rajab Khan, the son-in-law of Ibrahim kenagas, a descendant of Khiva khans, on the throne. The Khanate of Samarkand, formed in this way, maintained its independence until the end of 1729. According to the report given by the author of "Tuhfat al-Khani" Muhammed Vafa Karmanagi, Dashti Kipchak Kazakhs, who used this dual power and anarchy, organized raids on Zarafshan and Kashkadarya oases for seven years (1723-1729). As a result, the life in the cities was lost, and in the capital Bukhara,

<sup>6</sup> Rajabov Q. Shahrisabz. O'zME, 11-j.: – T.: O'zME DIN, 2000. B.82.

<sup>7</sup> <https://qomus.info>.

<sup>8</sup> Maxmud ibn Vali. More tayn // Per., predisl. i primech. B. Axmedova., – T.: Fan, 1977. S.154.

<sup>9</sup> Mir Muxammad Amin Buxari. Ubaydullaname. Pervod s tadjikskogo s primechaniyami prof. A.A. Semenova. – T., 1957, S.49-51.

<sup>10</sup> Abduraxmon Tali. Istoriya Abulfayzxana. Per. s tadjikskogo, predisl., primech. i ukaz., prof. A.A. Semenova. T., 1959, S.38-40.

<sup>11</sup> In that place.



except for the Ark, there were only two villages with inhabitants, and in Samarkand and Shahrissabz, the city life stopped completely for several years<sup>12</sup>.

In 1737, new invaders - the troops of the Iranian king Nadirshah - entered the Kashkadarya oasis. Iranian troops under the leadership of Nadirshah's son Rezaquli Khan besieged the city of Karshi. They captured the fortresses of Gozor and Shullik and looted the surrounding villages. By 1740, Nadirshah annexed Bukhara, Karshi and Shahrissabz along with Samarkand and Hisar to his state.

A huge amount of compensation was collected from the Khanate of Bukhara. This led to further dispossession of the working population. As a result of the political events related to Nadirshah's conquest campaigns, after the death of Muhammad Rahim Abulfayzkhan, the zealous representative of the Mangit Biyas ruling the Karshi region (1747), he took power in the Khanate of Bukhara. Although in 1747-1756 the rulers belonging to the Ashtarkhanid dynasty (Abdulmo'min, Ubaydullah Khan, Shergazi) sat on the throne of Bukhara, in practice the state management was completely in the hands of the Mangits. In December 1756, when Muhammad Rahim Khan officially ascended the throne of Bukhara, the rule of the Mangit dynasty began in Bukhara<sup>13</sup>. In 1750-1752, Muhammad Rahim Mangit made four military campaigns to the Shahrissabz oasis, captured the important defense fortresses here (Kitab, Sangfurush, Tovmish, Kushchi) and fully established his authority in the oasis. During these campaigns, cultivated fields and gardens of the Shahrissabz oasis were destroyed, several important defensive fortifications were destroyed, and the inhabitants of the Govmish fortress were exterminated. Muhammad Rahim, who carried out several reforms to strengthen his power in the country, declared the Yakkabog district of the Shahrissabz region as a separate province and appointed the Imamkuli pilot as the governor of Yakkabog. After the death of Muhammad Rahim, during the reign of Danyolbi Mangit (1758-1785), who ascended the throne of Bukhara, corruption in state and religious affairs increased in the country<sup>14</sup>. In 1771, another rebellion against the Bukhara authorities broke out in Shahrissabz and Guzor. Norbotabi, who was expelled for attempting a coup d'état in Bukhara, joined the rebellion with his followers. This rebellion, which seriously shook the foundations of the state, was suppressed with great difficulty.

In 1785, the son and successor of Danyolbi, Shahmurad, was the first among the rulers of the Mangite dynasty to ascend the throne with the title of "emir", and this state was officially called the Emirate of Bukhara. The reign of Shahmurad (1785-1800), known in history as "amiri ma'sum" ("innocent emir"), was a period of strengthening of central power in Bukhara. Emir Shahmurad, who fought fiercely against the separatist forces in the Emirate, completely subjugated the Shahrissabz oasis in 1786, and this area remained part of Bukhara until his death.

The history of the ancient city of Shahrissabz, rich in sometimes happy and sometimes sad events, has been alive for several centuries. Today, the changes in this city seem like a myth to us. After all, independence restored the ancient charm of the city, gave its inhabitants a peaceful and peaceful life.

Master Amir Timur returned to his native land after six centuries. Taking into account the great cultural and spiritual heritage of the Timurid period, the special services of the people of Shahrissabz to preserving unique historical monuments, educating the young generation as worthy heirs of our great ancestors and raising them to adulthood as people capable of creating the great future of our free country, and in connection with the 660th anniversary of the birth of the founder

<sup>12</sup> Ahmedov B. Istoriko-geograficheskaya literatura Sredney Azii XVI-XVIII vv. Pismenniye pamyatniki. – T., «Fan», 1985. S.178.

<sup>13</sup> Shahrissabz: ming yillar merosi. – T.; «Sharq» 2002, B. 38.

<sup>14</sup> Shahrissabz: ming yillar merosi. – T., B. 39.



Amir Temur, Shahrisabz He was awarded the Order of Amir Temur (October 1996). His magnificent statue was restored in front of Aksaroy.

Today, Shahrisabz is witnessing the most glorious pages of its history. Magnificent Aksaroy in the city, each with its own unique Dor ut-tilovat, Dor us-siyadat, Gumbazi sayidan architectural structures were restored by hand-craftsmen, and they were included in the list of international UNESCO World Heritage. The celebrations of the 2700th anniversary of Qadim Kesh held in 2002 in cooperation with this international organization introduced the city to the whole world. At the same time, it was another demonstration of the large-scale work being carried out in our country to restore the forgotten pages of history, to honor the heritage of our ancestors.

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