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"SHAJARAYI TURK" AND ITS CONTENT

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Abstract: This article analyzes the work "Shajarayi Turk" by Abulgazi Bakhadirkhan as a crucial historical source, an artistic-literary masterpiece, and a political monument. The study explores the historical reasons behind the creation of the work, its nine-chapter chronological structure, the author's unique literary style, and its central ideological message promoting a centralized state.
Keywords: Abulgazi Bakhadirkhan, "Shajarayi Turk", Khorezm, historical source, literary style.

1. INTRODUCTION

"Shajarayi Turk" holds a significant place in the legacy of Abulgazi Bakhadirkhan both as a historical source and as an artistic-literary and political monument. It documents vital historical events describing the history of Khorezm and the Turkic peoples in the 16th–17th centuries.

Abulgazi's primary goal was not merely to record the genealogy of Genghis Khan, but to document the unwritten history of his ancestors who ruled Khorezm. Due to the negligence of previous rulers, historical records from the times of Shaybani Yadgorkhan (15th century) and Shaybani Abdullakhan II (1583–1598) were left incomplete. Finding no suitable historian to undertake this task, Abulgazi followed the Turkic proverb "O‘ksuz o‘z kindigin o‘zi kesar" ("An orphan cuts his own umbilical cord") and wrote the history himself to preserve it for future generations.

To examine the ideological orientation, structural composition, and artistic-stylistic features of "Shajarayi Turk".

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

The primary source for this research is the 1992 Tashkent edition of Abulgazi Bakhadirkhan's "Shajarayi Turk". Supporting historical context is drawn from European travelogues and studies on Central Asian history, such as Anthony Jenkinson’s 16th-century travel accounts and Cambridge historical publications on Khiva and Bukhara.

The study employs historical-comparative analysis (comparing "Shajarayi Turk" with Zahiriddin Muhammad Babur's "Baburnama"), structural-chronological analysis (examining the division of the text into nine chapters), and literary-stylistic analysis.

3. RESULTS

A structural analysis reveals that "Shajarayi Turk" is organized into nine chronologically consistent chapters, each composed of distinct short narratives:

1. Chapter 1 ("Remembrance of God's creation of man, peace be upon him"): Covers religious legends regarding the creation of humanity, aligning with traditional historical chronicles.
2. Chapter 2 ("The mention of Mongol Khan until the birth of Genghis Khan"): Details the formation of the Mongol tribes and their early military campaigns.

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3. Chapter 3 ("Remembrance of the Birth of Genghis Khan"): Narrates the legends surrounding Genghis Khan's birth, his rise to power, and his major military conquests.

4. Chapter 4 ("Mention of Genghis Khan's third son, Ogedei Khan, and his descendants who reigned in Mongolia"): Focuses on the lineage and rule of Ogedei Khan in Mongolia.

5. Chapter 5 ("Mention of Genghis Khan's second son, Chagatai Khan, and his descendants who reigned in Mawarannahr and Kashgar"): Chronicles the Chagatai dynasty in Central Asia.

6. Chapter 6 ("Remembrance of the reign of Genghis Khan's youngest son, Tolui Khan, in the land of Iran"): Examines the rule of Tolui Khan's descendants in Iran.

7. Chapter 7 ("The mention of Jochi Khan's descendants ruling in Dashti Kipchak"): Covers the history of the Jochid dynasty in the Kipchak Steppe.

8. Chapter 8 ("The mention of the reign of Shayban Khan, the fifth son of Jochi Khan bin Genghis Khan"): Details Shayban Khan's rule across Turan, the Kazakh steppes, Crimea, and Mawarannahr.

9. Chapter 9 ("Remembrance of the reign of Khorezm from the descendants of Shayban Khan"): Constitutes the core part of the work and provides invaluable, firsthand historical data on the rulers and events of Khorezm.

4. DISCUSSION

Ideological Orientation: A central theme stands out in Abulgazi Bakhadirkhan's work: glorifying the establishment of a large, centralized feudal state while condemning political chaos and fragmented leadership. This ideological stance directly shapes the author's narrative methods.

Comparison with "Baburnama": Similar to Zahiriddin Muhammad Babur's "Baburnama", "Shajarayi Turk" stands as a 17th-century masterpiece because it systematically and consistently blends historical records with the author's personal memoirs, sufferings, adventures, and observations.

Artistic Mastery and Objectivity: Well-versed in folklore, Abulgazi enriched his narrative with proverbs, fairy tales, myths, and vivid depictions of nature and battle scenes. However, his commitment to selecting only reliable historical sources and avoiding fabrication earned him widespread acclaim. Ultimately, this balance elevates "Shajarayi Turk" from a dry chronicle into a vibrant historical-artistic work.

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