

Bronze epoch:

Settlements and burial grounds

“Shakh-nameh” historical epos by Firdousi poet of X century tells us how Husheng allotted people with creature comforts:

In order that people were free from poverty

The lord taught them ploughing, sowing and harvesting,

From now on each one grew his own private grain

And there was no need to ramble woods and steppes.

This quatrain tells about one of the most significant events in the human history – switching from appropriating household of fishers and nomadic hunters to manufacturing household of settled farmers and cattle-breeders.

Actually this process lasted during many thousands of years. Time of the first domestication of animals and breeding of cultural cereals in foothills of Asia Minor is dated by science as VIII-VII thousand BC. In VI-V thousand BC the manufacturing household has spread to the south of Central Asia and to the South-East Europe.

During the long time scientists argued: what has arisen earlier – agriculture of cattle-breeding. Now it is obvious that human mastered both these areas of household simultaneously and had a complex household.

In III-II thousand BC in the Western Asia herdsman tribes pushed aside in fruitless deserted and mountain areas were of a small amount.

Absolutely different destiny was got by herdsman tribes in the Eurasian steppe zone including Kazakhstan.

Cattle breeding began to play a prevailing role in a complex economy of the population of steppes from the Danube to the Irtys.

Formation of a manufacturing household in steppe and mountain areas of Kazakhstan and Central Asia is being mentioned only in the second half – end of III thousand BC. This is richly evidenced by findings of bones of domestic animals and image of plough harness and chariots presented by Petroglyphs.

A turning point in development of tribes of Eurasian steppes was a boundary of I-II quarter of II thousand BC. At this time bronze “psalias” – parts of a horse bridle have been introduced and alloy of copper with tin – bronze was invented into use and this had made metal subjects stronger.

The tribes that managed to employ the progressive technology and have mastered a wheel tactics of fight have strengthened themselves. It has led to revision of borders of traditional breeding territories, to active movements and to establishment of new contacts.

Here is the economic complex presented: hoe-mattock agriculture and herdsman cattle breeding – breeding of large and small cattle and horses tamed exactly in this zone.

This is evidenced by archaeological materials. Settlements of Andronov village are located on the coasts of the small rivers, on a terrace near to a wide food plain itself.

The cattle breeding was the basic way of household of Andronov tribes throughout all thousand year history of their culture development. It provided them with meat, milk, wool, skin, bone for hand-made crafts and fuel in the form of bones and dry dung.

Andronov tribes have learned to dig wells and this art was useful to them during travelling in deserts. They were able to do cheese and this provided them with a high-calorific food with a long-time of storage during their travels. These cheese under the name “kurt” was made during hundreds years- also, it was prepared by Kazakh people.

It was Andronov tribes who have invented the yurt.

Mobility of Andronov tribes was facilitated by specific feature of their herd adapted for distant resettlements and by light frame dwelling – the yurts; by their ability to dig wells and skills of orientation in the open steppe and desert which have developed though centuries.

It is time to quote N.M.Przhevalsky words: “An absolutely different world was seen by me... Yes, the nature of the Central Asia is really different! But nomad freely lives in these areas and doesn’t fear deserts; quite the contrary, the desert is his provider and defender...”.

Used materials:

1. Treasure of ancient and medieval Taraz and Zhambyl region / K. M. Baipakov, G. A. Kapkova, D. A. Voyakin, A. N. Maryashev.