

Information of Eastern Muslim resources

Information on Ak-Orda (White Horde) and Kok-Orda (Blue Horde) was taken by Natanzi from the earlier source, written in English. This unknown source, as well as “Muntakhab At-tawarikh” was used in the works of other medieval authors. The most important of them are “Nusan-I jakhan-ara” by Kazi Akhmad ibn Mukhammad Ghaffari (the work was finished shortly before his death – in 972, (1564/5), he died in 975 (1567/8); “Tarikh-I Khaidari” (other names “Zubdat at-tawarikh”, “Madzhum at-tawarikh”) by Khaidar ibn Ali Khusain Razi (finished in 1028 – 1618/19). T.I.Sultanov pointed out that information about Ak-Orda and Kok-Orda given by Natanzi, also mentioned by Muslikh ad-din Lari (died in 1572), al-Khaki, Munajzhim-bashi and et cetera. All of this shows not only traditions established in the medieval historical literature, but also the reflection of defined historical realities fixed by source, which was the basis of these and other works.

Kyrgyz researcher Anvarbek Mokeyev in “Kirgiz people on Altai and Tien Shan” in the chapter “Relations of Altai Kirgiz people with Ak-Orda in XIV-XV” adduced information with mentions of Ak-Orda from the work by Makhmud ibn Uali. A brief introduction of the fourth chapter of the sixth volume “Bakhr al-asrar”, where the story of Juchi’s descendants in Dasht-i-Kipchak in accordance with occasions happened after death of Timur and Toktamysch described invasion of Kirgiz to Ak-Orda.

“It should be mentioned, writes A.Mokeyev, the term of Makhmud ibn Uali “Ak-Orda” relates to the territory of modern Kazakhstan, that is the territory of the former ulus Shiban.” (Mokeyev 2010, p.100)

I can only argue about the last specification – the territory of modern Kazakhstan, the region of the Irtysh and near-border lands with Kirgiz people did not belong to ulus of Shiban, but to ulus of Orda and his descendants.

Kok-Orda (“Blue Horde”) is often found in Russian chronicles and geographically was located in the east from Golden Horde (ulus of Batu), situated somewhere behind the Yaik. This annalistic tradition made a strong influence on the subsequent historical thought. The suggestions of chroniclers mostly became the reason for discussion. It is noteworthy, that the term “Ak Orda” (White Horde) is completely unknown for Russian sources. According to it, it has mentioned in literature that Ulug Ulus (Golden Horde) in translation of his letter to Jagiello into Russian was called White Horde in the period of Toktamysh.

Kazakh orientalists noted correctly that the term Ulug Ulus was translated wrong as “White Horde” in Russian texts. There is no name of the state “Ak-Orda” in the original, there is only Ulug Ulus. This fact was marked by P.S.Savelyev. There is no doubt that this information is brief and controversial. Accordingly, attempts to understand this fact in historiography of Juchids by researches of XIX-XX centuries brought to various results.