



THE STUDY OF THE KARAKALPAK HISTORICAL SCHOOL: THE ROLE OF ACADEMICIAN S.K. KAMALOV

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<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.19059492>

Ключевые слова: Академик С.К.Камалов, история, историография, каракалпакский народ, Центральная Азия, школа, наставник, ученик

Keywords: Academician S.K.Kamalov, history, historiography, karakalpak people, Central Asia, school, mentor, apprentice

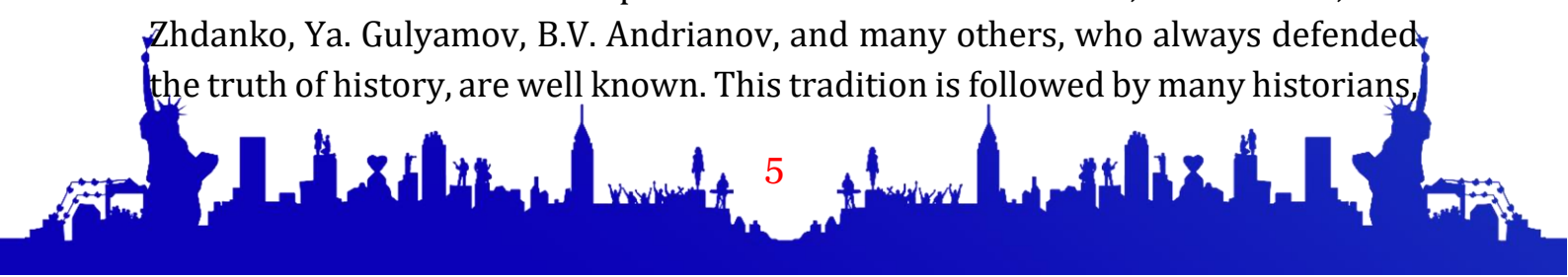
Резюме

Академик С.К.Камалов по праву является основоположником школы истории Каракалпакстана, и наставником тех ученых, которые стояли у истоков подлинно научного изучения истории каракалпакского народа. Его огромный вклад в этом отношении с особой благодарностью отмечены все учёные, в той или иной мере причастные к истории каракалпаков. В статье на конкретных примерах указывается степень причастности С.К.Камалова к изучению ключевых проблем истории каракалпакского народа, которые послужили фундаментальными открытиями, сохранившими научную значимость и в современной историографии нашей страны.

Resume

Academician S.K.Kamalov is rightfully the founder of the school of history of Karakalpakstan, and the mentor of those scientists who stood at the origins of a truly scientific study of the history of the Karakalpak people. His great contribution in this regard is especially appreciated by all scientists involved in the history of Karakalpak. The article uses specific examples to indicate the degree of S.K.Kamalov's involvement in the study of key problems of the history of the Karakalpak people, which served as fundamental discoveries that have retained scientific significance in modern domestic historiography.

Introduction. The main task of historical science has always been and remains the objective determination of a particular people's involvement in world and regional civilization. This is evident in the history of Central Asia, as we know, the Karakalpaks, being the indigenous inhabitants of the Aral Sea region since ancient times, have a direct connection to the origins of regional civilization. The names and merits of Karakalpakstan's historians P.P. Ivanov, S.P. Tolstov, T.A. Zhdanko, Ya. Gulyamov, B.V. Andrianov, and many others, who always defended the truth of history, are well known. This tradition is followed by many historians,





among whom Academician Sabir Kamalovich Kamalov stands at the forefront. Observing his multifaceted scientific legacy, encompassing numerous problems related to the history and historiography of Central Asia in the Middle Ages, the New and Recent Periods, and the Karakalpak people in particular, one increasingly feels the need to identify the scholar's contributions to our country's history. Of course, this requires a professional analysis of the main problems and directions within the scope of his scientific activity. The scholar actively worked as a mentor and is rightfully considered the founder of the historical school of Karakalpakstan. The researcher trained a number of talented students who became the founders of new directions in science.

Thus, turning to the historical-biographical reconstruction of Sabir Kamalov's rise using a literary source not only fills the gap in historiography but also expands the methodological horizons of historical science. Analyzing the scholar's image in a literary work allows us to trace the relationship between historical reality and its interpretation in literature, as well as to reveal the cultural and mental characteristics of the era. This makes this research significant both for specialists in the field of science history and historiography, and for researchers working at the intersection of history and literature.

Literature and methodology. The main information about Sabir Kamalov's biography and scientific activities is contained in anniversary publications, collections of scientific works, and memoirs of colleagues, students, and contemporaries. The scholar, Doctor of Historical Sciences B.Koshchanov, evaluates that "Sabir Kamalovich's outstanding oratory qualities stemmed from his high general culture, the first sign of which was that he was well-versed in all fields of knowledge" [1:74]. Indeed, Academician S.K.Kamalova is rightfully considered a scholar whose work encompasses not only the study of history but also other humanities.

Results. Describing S.K.Kamalov's enormous contribution to the scientific coverage of the history of the Karakalpak people, Professor, Doctor of Historical Sciences A.Dzhumashev writes: "In spite of all the usefulness and significance of Academician S.Kamalov's scientific works, it is appropriate to emphasize that the book "Origin Karakalpak people and the stages of the formation of Karakalpak statehood " (Nókis, 2001) remains the most relevant to this day. In this small work, the academician managed to popularize the issues of the origin of the Karakalpaks, the origins and stages of the formation of Karakalpak statehood over many centuries. He outlined all points regarding the ethnogenesis and indigenous territory of the Karakalpak people. He made many seemingly well-known facts speak in a new way"





[3:31]. Studying the history of Central Asia in all its diversity of directions and aspects were the core of S.K.Kamalov's historical works. The scholar led an active mentoring activities and he is rightfully considered the founder of the historical schools of Karakalpakstan. The researcher trained a number of talented students, who became the founders of new directions in science. Multilateral Kamalov's activity as a scientist.

The book "Origin Karakalpak people and the stages of the formation of Karakalpak statehood" was, in essence, a colorful, purely scientific academic work that concisely contained several centuries of history of the Karakalpak people. This work has effectively become a benchmark for a scientific approach to our country's glorious and rich history. Later, this painstaking work was highly appreciated by the Government and the public of Karakalpakstan - in 2002, for this book, he was awarded the Berdakh State Prize of the Republic of Karakalpakstan in the field of science and technology.

It should be emphasized that the richness and diversity of the material and primary sources involved, the thorough verification of individual facts, events, and chronological dates, the skillful use of linguistic data and textual analysis techniques - all this allows us to approach S.K.Kamalov's works appropriately and use them in our time. They remain important manuals for anyone studying the medieval history of the peoples of Central Asia.

Academician S.Kamalov's contemporary, scholar V.A. Bochin, in his article "The Roads, Bridges, and Passes of the Historian S.Kamalov," writes that the scholar not only drew upon the findings and conclusions of archaeologists, anthropologists, and ethnographers. Its constructions contain materials from folklore, literary works, and linguistics. Of course, he compared, analyzed, and relied on chronology and written sources. He also considered the legends of his people [4]. It is no coincidence that the scholar's work, based on reliable archival materials, information from his contemporaries and students, has not lost its scientific freshness even today. It, as a valuable study, holds a worthy place in the historiography of our country regarding the identification of S.K.Kamalov's contribution. During S.Kamalov's 60 years of scientific activity, historical science has made a great leap forward. New sources have emerged that have entered scientific circulation. The scholar not only adapted to the times but also developed new methodological approaches to the analysis of historical events. He understood that historical science is a constant process of searching for relative truth. Therefore, the reinterpretation of scientific values contained in the works of S.K.Kamalov remains relevant. One of S.Kamalov's students, Doctor of Historical Sciences M.Karlybayev, writes: "The



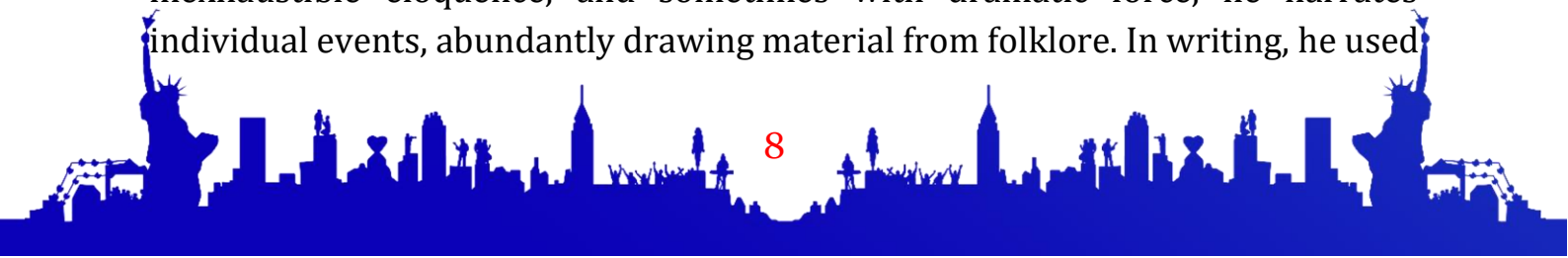


difference between the monograph "Karakalpaks XVIII-XIX centuries" (S.Kamalov, 1968) based on the results of the scientist's work on writing his doctoral dissertation and his works in recent years, especially during the years of Uzbekistan's independence, shows a conceptual growth, an expansion of scientific horizons. For example, in the aforementioned monograph, the leitmotif idea that "The ancestral homeland of the Karakalpaks is Turkestan" is repeated several times [5:65]. Indeed, the author has in mind that the works of many scholars of that time were written under the ideas of that time. In addition, M. Karlybayev, in his scientific article, proposes several important conceptual issues regarding the activities of Academician S. Kamalov.

DISCUSSION. S.K.Kamalov was never forgotten by both Karakalpak and foreign historical science - his name is included in many dictionaries and reference books, the study of some of his works was carried out in generalizing articles. Enough it is very difficult to fully study the scientific creativity of a person of such a scale.

Extensive education, a huge number of works, multifaceted scientific and public interests prompt historians to constantly turn to study of his scientific heritage. A notable phenomenon in domestic historiography in terms of studying S.K.Kamalov's contribution to the study of the history of the Karakalpak people, and in general, the popularization of his invaluable heritage, is the holding of a number of scientific events dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the great scholar in 2024. This date coincided with the International Scientific-Theoretical Conference "History of Karakalpakstan in the Context of Central Asian Studies," organized at the Karakalpak Research Institute of Humanities by the Karakalpak Branch of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan, where leading scientists of the republic presented reports. The reports provide a comprehensive analysis of a wide range of problems arising from the truly vast legacy of the great scholar. The conference materials, published in collections, have become the property of a wide range of readers both in our republic and abroad.

In this case, for example, we can mention the articles by the authors J.Berdiyev [6:20], S.Nurjanov [7:116], A.Kudiyarov [8:77], B.Opaev [9:122]. A.Saparniyazov acquainted the wide range of readers of the republic with the main stages of S.Kamalov's life and his unforgettable legacy in the study of the history of Central Asia in general and Karakalpakstan in particular. Describing S. Kamalov's enormous contribution to the scientific illumination of our people's history, A. Saparniyazov writes: "From an artistic point of view, S. Kamalov is a remarkable storyteller. He is an amazing master and artist of words. With inexhaustible eloquence, and sometimes with dramatic force, he narrates individual events, abundantly drawing material from folklore. In writing, he used





folklore as the primary source. Folklore in his works rises to the level of science and gives it a high assessment" [10:48]. In the article "The Scientific Activities of Academician S. Kamalov," the life, work, and main stages of scientific activity are discussed, linking them together in the general canvas of the 20th century and the beginning of the 21st century. The author attempts to show S.Kamalov's place in Karakalpak, Central Asian, and foreign historiography. The work objectively defines the range of S.Kamalov's scientific interests [11:40].

S.Kamalov's student from Turkey, Salih Yelmaz, described the scholar's broad soul, modesty, kindness, and hospitality in his article. S. Yilmaz, a doctoral student at Ankara University at the time, writes: "I was interested in the Karakalpak Turks and Karakalpakstan. When I asked Sabir ata for help, he immediately agreed. I was surprised how such a famous person could be so simple. The person who had been an academician for so many years showed interest and favor towards me without shame or pride. S.Kamalov provided me with all the sources about the Karakalpaks. When I got to know him better, I realized that money and titles mean nothing to him. His greatest goal is to serve the Motherland and illuminate the true history of his people. I was convinced again and again of his boundless help and love for this science" [12:18].

His contribution to the transformation of the Karakalpak branch is great. The Academy of Sciences, which was essentially the center for the formation of the scientific to the Karakalpak branch of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan. New ones were organized on his initiative and with his direct participation research institutes. Based on reliable material, written sources, and the conclusions of prominent historians who have practically unambiguously demonstrated the defining role of the Karakalpaks in the history of Central Asia, more in-depth research into the history of the region as a whole, and the Karakalpak people in particular, continues. In this regard, the works of S.K.Kamalov remain in demand. Thus, his academic biography demonstrates not only an example of personal perseverance and determination but also the specifics of scientific mobility under the Soviet system, where a researcher's advancement depended not only on the quality of their scientific work but also on their ability to overcome ideological, administrative, and socio-political barriers [13:94]

Conclusion. In conclusion, it can be said that Academician S.K.Kamalov was and remains a unique historian of the ancient and medieval periods of this vast region, much has been written, but to adequately assess his enormous contribution in this direction, scientists still need to make considerable collective efforts. This cannot be an exception

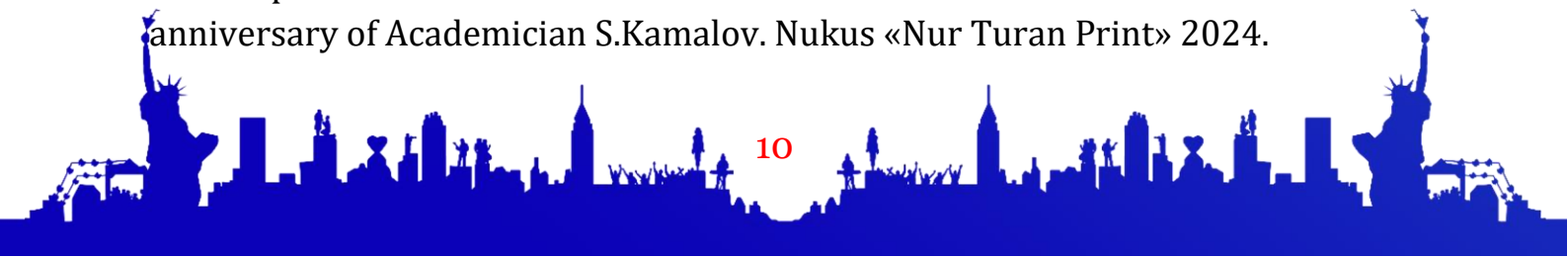




for the historiography of Karakalpakstan. From all of this, it follows that the scientific legacy of the outstanding historian S.K.Kamalov concerning the history and ethnography of the Karakalpak people is a valuable asset of our historical science

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