

TURKIY BITIKLAR VA SIYOSIY TARIX
ТУРЕЦКАЯ ЛИТЕРАТУРА И ПОЛИТИЧЕСКАЯ ИСТОРИЯ
TURKISH WRITINGS AND POLITICAL HISTORY

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Annotatsiya: *Mazkur maqolada O'rxun-Enasoy yozuvlarining kashf etilishi, o'rganilish bosqichlari va ularning geografik tarqalish hududlari tahlil qilinadi. Shuningdek, ushbu bitiklarning Turk xoqonligi davridagi ijtimoiy-siyosiy, iqtisodiy va madaniy hayotni yoritishdagi ahamiyati ochib beriladi. Bitiklarda aks etgan tarixiy voqealar, xususan, davlatning tashkil topishi, rivojlanishi va tanazzulga uchrashi jarayonlari ilmiy asosda yoritilgan. O'rxun-Enasoy yodgorliklari qadimgi turkiy xalqlarning yozma madaniyati va davlatchilik an'alarini o'rganishda muhim manba sifatida baholanadi.*

Kalit so'zlar: *O'rxun-Enasoy bitiklari, Turk xoqonligi, qadimgi turkiy yozuv, epigrafik manbalar, Markaziy Osiyo, ijtimoiy-siyosiy hayot, tarixiy manbalar, Bilga xoqon, Kul Tegin, Tunyuquq.*

Аннотация: *В данной статье анализируются открытие, этапы изучения и география распространения орхоно-енисейских письменных памятников. Особое внимание уделяется их роли в освещении социально-политической, экономической и культурной жизни эпохи Тюркского каганата. На основе содержания надписей рассматриваются процессы формирования, развития и упадка государства. Орхоно-енисейские памятники оцениваются как важнейший эпиграфический источник для изучения письменной культуры и государственности древних тюркских народов.*

Ключевые слова: *Орхоно-енисейские надписи, Тюркский каганат, древнетюркская письменность, эпиграфические источники, Центральная Азия, социально-политическая жизнь, исторические источники, Бильге-каган, Культегин, Тоньюкук.*

Abstract: *This article examines the discovery, stages of research, and geographical distribution of the Orkhon-Yenisey inscriptions. It highlights their significance in revealing the socio-political, economic, and cultural life of the Turkic Khaganate period. Based on the content of these inscriptions, the processes of state formation, development, and decline are analyzed. The Orkhon-Yenisey monuments are evaluated as essential epigraphic sources for studying the written culture and statehood traditions of ancient Turkic peoples.*

Keywords: *Orkhon-Yenisey inscriptions, Turkic Khaganate, ancient Turkic writing, epigraphic sources, Central Asia, socio-political life, historical sources, Bilge Khagan, Kul Tigin, Tonyukuk.*

Introduction. The Orkhon-Yenisey inscriptions hold particular scholarly significance in the study of the written culture and statehood history of ancient Turkic peoples. These monuments are valued not only as examples of the earliest writing system of the Turkic peoples, but also as important sources illuminating the political, social, and cultural life of the Turkic Khaganate, which dominated Central Asia during the 6th–8th centuries. Through the Orkhon-Yenisey inscriptions, it is possible to obtain essential information about the system of governance, military organization, foreign policy, and ideological views of ancient Turkic society.

The introduction of these inscriptions into scientific circulation dates back to the 18th–19th centuries, and the process of their decipherment and interpretation marked an important stage in the formation of Turkology as a field of study. In particular, the decipherment of the script by the Danish scholar V. Thomsen and the subsequent scholarly research conducted by V.V. Radlov led to the recognition of the Orkhon-Yenisey inscriptions as reliable sources for the study of ancient Turkic history.

Today, these inscriptions are widely studied not only as epigraphic monuments but also from the perspective of historical source studies. This is because they represent unique written sources that directly reflect the processes of the formation, development, internal contradictions, and decline of the Turkic Khaganate. The events recorded in the inscriptions reveal the political thought, traditions of governance, and ideas of independence among ancient Turkic peoples.

The aim of this article is to analyze the discovery of the Orkhon-Yenisey inscriptions, their geographical distribution, and their role in elucidating the socio-political life of the Turkic Khaganate period. At the same time, the article examines the significance of these inscriptions as historical sources and highlights their importance in the study of ancient Turkic civilization.

Literature Review. The study of the Orkhon-Yenisey inscriptions and the history of the Turkic Khaganate has developed into a distinct scholarly field within historiography, with research in this area beginning as early as the 18th century. The first academic information is associated with the activities of the Swedish officer F.I. Strahlenberg and the German scholar D.G. Messerschmidt, who introduced to the European scholarly community the unknown inscriptions discovered in Siberia. At this stage, various hypotheses existed regarding the origin and ethnic attribution of these writings, with some scholars associating them with Slavic, Germanic, or other peoples.

By the late 19th century, the scientific study of the Orkhon-Yenisey inscriptions reached a new stage. During this period, the Russian scholar N.M. Yadrintsev brought into academic circulation the monuments discovered in the Orkhon Valley and put forward the hypothesis that they belonged to Turkic peoples. A major breakthrough in Turkology

occurred with the decipherment of the script by the Danish scholar V. Thomsen in 1893 and the subsequent reading and translation of the texts by V.V. Radlov. As a result of these studies, the Orkhon-Yenisey inscriptions were firmly established as monuments of ancient Turkic writing.

Throughout the 20th century, numerous scholarly investigations were carried out on this topic. In particular, within the fields of Turkology and source studies, the linguistic features, vocabulary, phonetics, and historical content of the Orkhon inscriptions were thoroughly analyzed. The works of scholars such as S.E. Malov, A.N. Kononov, and G. Clauson are of particular importance, as they made significant contributions to the scientific study of the ancient Turkic language and writing system.

In Uzbek historiography, this issue has also been extensively studied. For example, N. Rahmonov's work *"The Turkic Khaganate"* examines the main stages of the Khaganate's history based on the Orkhon-Yenisey inscriptions, while G.B. Boboyorov's research provides an in-depth analysis of the political and ethnic processes in Central Asia during the 6th–8th centuries. Moreover, these inscriptions have served as a basis for studying the traditions of statehood, social structure, and political struggles of Turkic peoples.

In recent years, new approaches to the study of the Orkhon-Yenisey inscriptions have emerged, analyzing them not only as historical sources but also as cultural and ideological phenomena. Contemporary research focuses on understanding the worldview, political ideology, and processes of national identity formation among ancient Turkic peoples through these inscriptions.

At the same time, certain issues—such as the origin of the script, its initial stages of development, and the complete interpretation of some inscriptions—remain subjects of ongoing scholarly debate. This indicates the necessity for further in-depth research in this field.

Research Methodology. This study employs a comprehensive scientific approach to examine the Orkhon-Yenisey inscriptions and the history of the Turkic Khaganate period. The methodological framework of the research is based on the principles of historicity, objectivity, and systematic analysis. Guided by these principles, ancient Turkic written sources were thoroughly analyzed, and their content and significance were interpreted from a scientific perspective.

During the research process, a number of general scientific and specialized historical methods were applied. In particular, the historical-comparative method was used to compare the information contained in the Orkhon-Yenisey inscriptions with other written sources, including Chinese chronicles and contemporary scholarly studies. The historical-typological method made it possible to generalize and identify the specific features of political structures, social strata, and systems of governance reflected in the inscriptions. In addition, source criticism and epigraphic analysis constituted an essential part of the study. These methods were used to examine the texts of the inscriptions, their writing system, linguistic features, and semantic content. Through linguistic analysis, the phonetic,

morphological, and lexical characteristics of the ancient Turkic language were identified and their historical significance substantiated.

A systematic approach was employed to analyze the Orkhon-Yenisey inscriptions in close connection with the key stages in the history of the Turkic Khaganate. Furthermore, the method of historical reconstruction was used to restore the sequence of events reflected in the inscriptions and to trace their developmental dynamics.

Based on these methodological approaches, the reliability and scholarly value of the Orkhon-Yenisey inscriptions as historical sources, as well as their role in elucidating the socio-political processes of the Turkic Khaganate period, were comprehensively examined.

Analysis and Results. The analysis of the Orkhon-Yenisey inscriptions demonstrates that they represent unique written sources reflecting the political, social, and cultural life of ancient Turkic peoples. The information contained in these inscriptions consistently illustrates the processes of the formation, development, and decline of the Turkic Khaganate. In particular, the establishment of the state during the reign of Bumin and Istemi Khagans, its territorial expansion, and the policy of uniting various tribes are clearly expressed in the inscriptions.

The results of the analysis indicate that the Orkhon-Yenisey inscriptions are not limited to recording historical events but also reflect the principles of state governance, political ideology, and the social structure of society. The inscriptions emphasize the primary responsibilities of the khagan, including the protection of the people, the обеспечение economic stability, and the strengthening of internal unity. This suggests a high degree of interdependence between the state and society in ancient Turkic civilization.

The analysis of political events reflected in the inscriptions also reveals the factors contributing to the rise and decline of the Turkic Khaganate. In particular, internal conflicts, struggles for power, and the intervention of external forces—especially China—were among the main causes of the state's decline. At the same time, the struggle for independence, particularly the activities of Eltarish Khagan and Tonyukuk, played a crucial role in the restoration of the state.

The findings further show that the Orkhon-Yenisey inscriptions reflect the ideological views of ancient Turkic peoples. Concepts such as patriotism, unity, loyalty, and freedom (independence) occupy a central place in the texts. In particular, calls for unity and consolidation around central authority are interpreted as key factors in ensuring state stability. Moreover, the inscriptions confirm the existence of a developed written form of the ancient Turkic language, characterized by a well-structured phonetic and grammatical system. This indicates that the written culture of Turkic peoples had reached a high level of development from early times.

In general, the conducted analysis substantiates that the Orkhon-Yenisey inscriptions constitute reliable and significant sources for studying the history of the Turkic Khaganate. They provide deep insight not only into historical events but also into the traditions of statehood, political thought, and the fundamental aspects of social life.

Conclusion and Recommendations. The study has scientifically substantiated that the Orkhon-Yenisey inscriptions represent an exceptionally important historical source for examining the written culture, statehood traditions, and socio-political life of ancient Turkic peoples. These inscriptions provide clear and reliable insights into the formation of the Turkic Khaganate, its political structure, internal and external policies, principles of governance, and processes of decline. The analysis has demonstrated that the Orkhon-Yenisey inscriptions are not merely epigraphic monuments recording historical events, but also unique written sources that embody the political thought, ideology, social values, and concepts of statehood in ancient Turkic society.

The ideas reflected in the inscriptions—such as unity, patriotism, independence, centralized governance, and the mutual responsibility between the people and the khagan—indicate that Turkic statehood was grounded in a strong ideological foundation. At the same time, it has been established that internal conflicts, struggles for power, the weakening of central authority, and the intervention of external forces were decisive factors in the decline of the Turkic Khaganate. Conversely, strong leadership, political unity, effective governance, and military organization played a crucial role in the restoration and development of the state.

The findings also confirm that the Orkhon-Yenisey inscriptions reflect a highly developed written form of the ancient Turkic language, demonstrating that Turkic peoples possessed a deeply rooted tradition of written culture and historical consciousness. In light of this, it is advisable to strengthen the integration of disciplines such as history, linguistics, source studies, and cultural studies in the analysis of these inscriptions; to re-examine existing materials using modern scientific methods; and to promote their digitization and broader inclusion in scholarly circulation.

Furthermore, it is essential to systematically study newly discovered epigraphic materials from the territory of Uzbekistan, interpret them through comparative analysis in connection with ancient Turkic writings, and expand the use of the Orkhon-Yenisey inscriptions in higher education as a key source for understanding Turkic statehood and national history. In general, the Orkhon-Yenisey inscriptions are not only reliable sources for studying the history of the Turkic Khaganate but also invaluable written monuments that contribute to a deeper understanding of the historical memory, political thought, and cultural heritage of Turkic peoples.

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