



## CHIRIKRABOT CULTURE

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### Annotation

The article summarizes the formation and structure of the Chirikrabort culture, the economy of the population, occupations, defense structures and archeological sources reflecting the culture of the nomadic Sak tribes living here. Moreover, historians' research on the subject has also been analyzed.

**Keywords:** Apasiak, "Eastern Aral Sea", Inkardarya, Janidarya, Kuvandarya and Eskidaryaliq.

### Аннотация

В статье обобщены формирование и структура культуры Чирикработ, хозяйство населения, занятия, оборонительные сооружения и археологические источники, отражающие культуру проживавших здесь кочевых Сакских племен. Кроме того, были проанализированы исследования историков по этому вопросу.

**Ключевые слова:** Апасиак, "Восточное Аральское море", Инкардаря, Джанидаря, Кувандарья и Эскидарья.

### Introduction

The lower Syrdarya, which joins the Aral Sea from the east, is a large plain. Its width is 400 km and on the meridian line this plane intersects 200-250 km. It is bordered on the north and northeast by the modern valley of the Syrdarya and on the south by the Kyzylkum. These areas are geographically called the "Eastern Aral Sea". The origin of this vast steppe plain is associated with the efforts of the ancient rivers of the Syrdarya, which changed the direction of water at different times and flowed into the Aral Sea. The Inkardarya, Jonidarya, Kuvandarya and Eskidarya rivers, which consist of a system of ancient tributaries of the Syrdarya, stand out in the plain. They started south of the present-day city of the Red Horde. [8].





## Literature Review

The ruins and other archeological monuments of the city, located in the eastern part of the Aral Sea and in the middle part of the Syrdarya, were first described historically and geographically in the late 19<sup>th</sup> - early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries [2]. Archeological research of the Khorezm expedition, which began in 1946, continued until 1992 with breaks. As a result, many monuments of the Neolithic and Bronze Ages, the Early Iron Age and the Antiquity were discovered[1]. Chirikrabort culture in different years was studied by S.P. Tolstov [12], L.M. Levina, B.I. Weinberg [3], J. Kurmankulov, A.Birmukhanova, J.Kalieva, J. Utubaev [6], J. Jetibaev , A.Iskakov [7] S.B.Bolelov, N.Torejanova, R.Darmenov, A.D.Kasenova [5] Reports of archeological researches of scientists, R.Suleymanov [17], G.Khodjanियazov [14], U.Abdullaev, A.Yusupov [1]. We can see that monographs and articles were published by such researchers.

## Research Methodology

The article is based on the principles of scientifically recognized historical methods-historical, comparative logical analysis, analysis, sequence, objectivity, aggregation.

## Analysis and Results

The geographical environment of the Eastern Aral Sea region, the warm and humid air, the abundance of fresh water have long created favorable conditions for human life. Thus, these factors influenced the economy, lifestyle and material culture of the ancient inhabitants of the Syr Darya, as well as played an important role in the development of historical processes [1].

300 km southwest of the Red Horde (Janidarya oasis) in the V-II centuries BC the ruins of the city of Chirikrabort of the Saks were found and explored. It has an ovoid design and covers an area of more than 50 hectares. Chirikrabort is surrounded by a trench and two rows of defensive walls. The walls are reinforced with rectangular defensive towers and have internal corridors for firing[12].

According to S.P. Tolstoy, Chirikrabort was the center of the organization of the Apasiak tribes [13]. The ruins of 40 burial structures and mausoleums of Chirikrabort culture were inspected. Most of them have a round shape, two of them are rectangular. 18 of these tombs were excavated and opened [3].

According to the scientist, “a bunch of burial mounds inside the castle are probably the oldest part of the ancient city. Once these mounds were erected, they were surrounded by a wall that approached the rectangle of the ancient castle. It is unclear to us for what purpose this tower was built. It may have contained a garrison guarding the tombs of kings” [10].





"Tombs of kings" means the burial places of the chiefs of the Sak tribes. In our opinion, the place of Chirikrabort used to be a seed sanctuary of the leaders of the Sak tribes. In the V- III centuries BC, their perimeter was fortified with defensive walls and a large fortification was built [2].

In 1957–1958, under the direction of Yu.A.Rapoport and S.A. Trudovnovskaya, excavations were carried out at the monument called Chirikrabort (meaning "army rabota" or "fortress where the army is located"). The castle is built on a high ridge in the form of an elongated flange (ovoid). Therefore, its history corresponds to the view of the hill, which is 850 m long and 600 m wide, and is surrounded by defensive walls and towers with arrows for archery. Researchers say that in the old part of Chirikrabort, the tombs of the Saks' guides first appeared, and after the mounds were erected, "they were surrounded by a rectangular wall of the ancient castle," so the garrison guarded the tombs of the kings was thought to be situated there [10].

Chirikrabort lived a sedentary and semi-sedentary culture. They knew the artificial irrigation system. The settlements are made of mud bricks and are located separately around the castles [11].

Due to the study of the Chirikrabort and Jetiosor cultures of the Khorezm expedition, it became clear that by the middle of the first millennium, the Saks began to use raw bricks and cotton as building materials [16].

This is evidenced by the ruins of large cities, towers and fortresses with arrows, which belong to the Jetiosor culture and are surrounded by defensive walls [9]. Although livestock played an important role in the life of the Lower Syrdarya communities during this period, the majority of the population was not nomadic. Archaeological excavations have revealed that the population groups of the lower Syrdarya belong to semi-settled livestock-cultivators [4].

G. Khodjaniyazov's monograph analyzes the defense system of Chirikrabort and Bobishmulla, the weapons of the Saks, bronze and iron daggers, bows and armors [14].

## **Conclusion**

As a result of many years of research of the Khorezm archeological expedition the defense structures, architectural features, handicrafts and the ancient artificial irrigation system of the Eastern Aral Sea (Lower Syrdarya) saks, belonging to the V-III centuries BC, were studied. In the V-IV centuries BC the Chirikrabort culture was formed on the basis of the local first Saks culture. It developed until the II century BC. Archaeological monuments are located in the middle of the Jonidarya. More than 200 monuments of Chirikrabort culture have been identified. Most of the settlements





do not have a defense system. Only 6 of them served as fortresses and military fortifications. In our opinion, Chirikrabort served as a defensive structure - a shelter for the surrounding population and herds. In particular, the ruins of the city of Babishmulla are considered in the scientific literature as the residence of the Saks "behind Sughd" in the Achaemenid state. These fields were known for artificial irrigation. They settled down and engaged in agriculture as well as livestock.

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