THE TRANSPORT AND LOGISTICS SYSTEM OF THE SHAYBANID STATE AND ITS ROLE IN REGIONAL RELATIONS

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Abstract: During the reign of the Shaybanid dynasty (16th century), the transport and logistics system became one of the key components of state economic policy in Central Asia. The network of caravanserais, rabats, bridges, and sardobas formed an integrated roadside infrastructure that ensured safe and efficient movement of caravans, facilitated storage of goods, and provided water and rest services for travelers. This system strengthened interregional trade relations, ensured stability in both domestic and international commerce, and contributed to the development of regional integration processes. By improving the efficiency of the Silk Road trade routes, the transport-logistics system played a significant role in enhancing economic connectivity across Central Asia. This study provides a comprehensive analysis of the role of the Shaybanid transport system and logistics in medieval trade and economic interactions.

Keywords: Shaybanid dynasty, transport and logistics system, caravanserai, rabat, sardoba, bridge infrastructure, regional connectivity, trade routes, Movarounnahr, Silk Road.

Introduction. During the rule of the Shaybanid dynasty (16th century), the transport and logistics system in Central Asia experienced significant development. Caravanserais, rabats, sardobas, and bridges were constructed as part of roadside infrastructure, whose main function was to ensure the safe and efficient movement of caravans and merchants, as well as to provide goods storage, rest facilities, and water supply. This system not only supported internal trade and economic activity but also enhanced the position of Movarounnahr in international trade relations. Through this transport-logistics network, caravans were able to move efficiently along the central sections of the Great Silk Road, which strengthened intercity and regional integration. Therefore, the study of the transport system of the Shaybanid period is scientifically significant for a deeper understanding of medieval trade and economic history. Numerous studies have been conducted in this field. In particular, some works provide a historical analysis of the Shaybanid dynasty, including state organization, political processes, economic life, and regional relations. The author highlights the Shaybanid period within the broader history of Central Asia up to the 18th century, discussing trade routes, architectural structures, and the economic strategies of ruling policies. This work provides extensive information about the trade and transport infrastructure of the Shaybanid state, serving as an important source for understanding the transport-logistics system [1]. Road infrastructure built during the Shaybanid period includes caravanserais, sardobas, rabats, and other roadside facilities. Researchers analyze their role in trade logistics, as well as their importance in ensuring water supply and security. The study shows that the Shaybanid state strengthened its transport infrastructure and expanded both internal and regional trade relations [2]. The architectural and functional features of medieval caravanserais and their role in trade routes are also discussed. The author particularly analyzes the development of logistics through caravanserais built in the Bukhara Khanate, especially during the Shaybanid rule. According to the source, caravanserais served not only as resting places but also as strategic centers for goods exchange, storage, and ensuring road safety [3]. The network of caravan routes in Central Asia, their importance in economic life, and

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their role in strengthening intercity connections are examined. Through these trade routes, goods were delivered to major economic centers such as Samarkand, Bukhara, and Khiva, thereby forming a structured logistics system [4]. A broader historical study of Central Asia is also considered, where the Shaybanid period is identified as a key stage. During this time, regional trade relations, trans-Asian route networks, and logistics systems were present across Asia. This work provides a historical context and analysis of large-scale trade routes, serving as a theoretical foundation for the topic [5]. The importance of Central Asian trade networks, particularly caravan routes in the Khorezm region, is also analyzed. These routes connected East-West economic relations and played a significant role in strengthening regional integration through the transport-logistics system. This article helps to understand the Shaybanid logistics system within the broader Central Asian context [6]. The historical period of the Shaybanid rule, their administrative system, as well as political and economic processes, are examined from a historical perspective. The author analyzes political stability in Movarounnahr and the role of trade routes in economic integration. In this way, the transport network and logistics of the Shaybanid state are interpreted within a regional context [7]. General historical works on Central Asian trade networks, including caravan routes, the role of cities as trade centers, and logistics infrastructure, are also discussed. These sources provide a theoretical basis for understanding the historical landscape and general development trends of the logistics system [8]. The Shaybanid state, in forming its transport-logistics system, took into account factors such as security, water supply, rest facilities, and information exchange. As a result, trade processes were carried out efficiently not only through the movement of goods but also through the flow of information and cultural interaction. In turn, this system strengthened the economic integration of Central Asia and contributed to the development of interregional and international cooperation.

Results of the Study. The Shaybanid state (1500–1598) was one of the powerful political entities that ensured economic and political stability in Central Asia. Since its territory included the basins of the Amu Darya and Syr Darya rivers, as well as major cities located at key crossroads, it gained strategic importance for regional trade and transport routes. The transport-logistics system of the Shaybanid state not only served as a key factor in internal economic development but also played an important role in strengthening trade relations with neighboring countries and expanding international commerce. The transport-logistics system of the state was organized through caravan routes, waterways, caravanserais, and fortified structures (qasrs), which ensured the safe and efficient movement of trade goods. At the same time, the Shaybanid administration improved the logistics system by coordinating labor resources, transport means, and security mechanisms across its territory. This contributed not only to the development of the internal market but also to the expansion of economic, political, and cultural relations between Central Asia and neighboring regions. From this perspective, the study of the Shaybanid transport-logistics system, the determination of its role in regional trade relations, and the representation of its development model in a schematic or sequential form are of significant scientific and practical importance.

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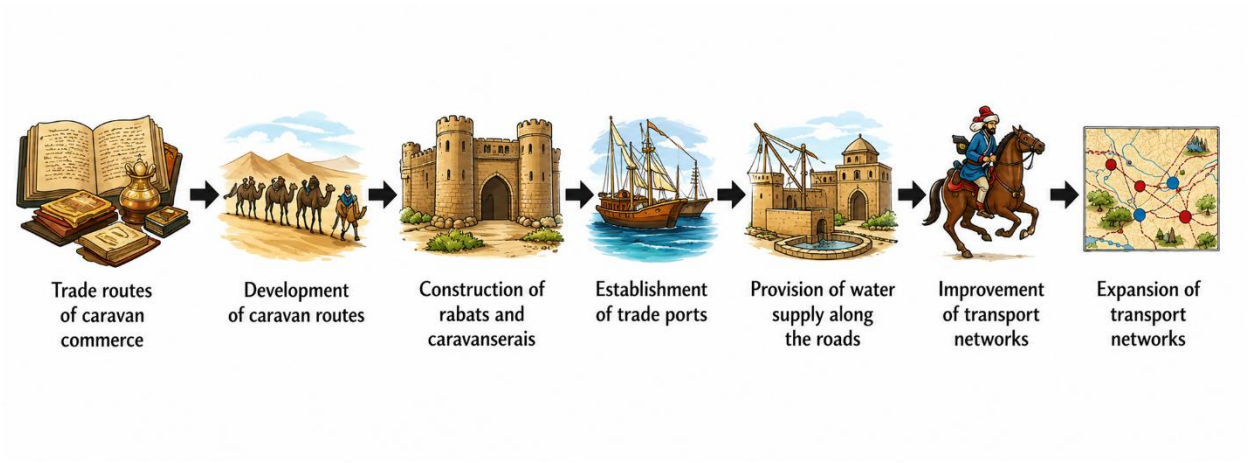

Figure 1. Algorithm of the Shaybanid State Transport-Logistics System and Its Role in Regional Relations (English translation)

The figure presented above illustrates a step-by-step algorithm of the transport-logistics system of the Shaybanid state and its role in regional relations. The sequence is developed as follows: 1. Caravan Trade Routes – These were the primary routes used by merchants and entrepreneurs to transport goods to different regions. These routes formed the fundamental basis for the development of trade relations and played a key role in the economic life of the period. Through caravans, goods such as silk, precious textiles, and other valuable commodities were transported over long distances. 2. Development of Caravan Infrastructure – This stage involved the creation of infrastructure and systems to make caravan routes safer and more efficient. Measures such as the establishment of water sources, rest stops, and road markers were implemented. As a result, caravan movement became faster and road safety improved. 3. Construction of Rabats and Caravanserais – Fortified structures and roadside inns were built to protect travelers and store goods. Caravanserais provided accommodation, food, and security for goods carried by caravans. This significantly facilitated the continuation of trade activities along long-distance routes. 4. Establishment of Trade Ports – Ports and harbors were developed to promote maritime trade. These ports enabled foreign trade relations, access to new markets, and faster transportation of goods. As a result, the trade network expanded not only internally but also at the international level. 5. Implementation of the Postal System – A postal and communication system was introduced to ensure rapid information exchange and delivery of important messages. This system accelerated communication between caravan routes and trade centers, contributing to better coordination of trade activities. 6. Expansion of Transport Networks – Roads, rivers, and other transport routes were developed to expand trade connections. This not only accelerated interregional trade but also facilitated the integration of new territories into the trade system. 7. Further Expansion of Transport Networks – This stage represents the continued development and integration of regional and long-distance routes. As a result, the trade system became more efficient, transport effectiveness increased, and the flow of goods and information became faster. This process demonstrates that trade activities, which initially began with caravan routes, gradually evolved into a structured transport and logistics system. Consequently, not only goods but also information and communication flowed more efficiently and rapidly across the region.

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Conclusion. The development of the transport and logistics system during the Shaybanid period ensured the stability of regional trade relations and contributed to strengthening interregional integration. Caravanserais and rabats provided accommodation and storage facilities for merchants and goods, sardobas guaranteed water supply, and bridges ensured uninterrupted transportation flow. Therefore, the scientific study of the Shaybanid transport-logistics system is of great relevance and importance for the in-depth analysis of historical, archaeological, and economic sources, as well as for understanding medieval trade and regional integration processes in Central Asia.

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