

ANALYSIS OF THE RELATIONSHIP OF THE EPHTHALITES AND THE SASSANIDS IN GERMAN HISTORIOGRAPHY

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Annotation

In this article, the relations between the Hephthalites, who had their place in the early medieval history of our country and were able to build a powerful state, with the Sassanids in Iran and the reasons for the wars between them are studied based on scientific research created in German, and finally it is concluded. Interest in the history of Iran is at the top of German historiography, and we can find answers to problematic questions in our own history through such research.

Key words: Ephthalites, Sassanids, Central Asia, Franz Altheim, Theodore Noldeke, Bahrom V, Peroz I, Yazdigird II, Kubod, Faganish, diplomatic relations.

INTRODUCTION

It is worth mentioning that the history of the early Middle Ages is a relatively little-studied period in the history of our country. During this period, our country was ruled one after the other by Khionites, Kidarites, Ephthalites and the Turkic Khaganate. Although they first came as nomadic tribes, they did not come into conflict with the local people here. If we analyze it from the point of view of historical conditions, the demand of the time required it, that is, the local people needed a unifying force at that time, during which the territory of Central Asia was divided into small estates. Such historical conditions were ripe for the entry of the Ephthalites, and they tried to unite small estates and create a state that could be equal to the powerful empires of their time. Their constant rival was the Sassanids of Iran. There were diplomatic relations and mutual wars between them, which are reflected in the sources, but it is necessary to research and determine the reasons why good relations often led to wars.

METHODS

In conducting this research, researches in German language were mainly used, and the information in them was compared and the final conclusion was drawn. In German historiography, there are a number of studies devoted to elucidating the relations between the Hephthalites and the Sasanians. The most important of these are the relations between the Hephthalites and the Sasanians in Part 2 of Franz Altheim's four-volume “Geschichte der Hunnen”[2] entitled “Hephthaliten in Iran” and Theodore Noldeke's “Geschichte der Perser und Araber zur Zeit der Sasaniden”[6]. is analyzed. Noldeke's study examines the history of the Sasanians in depth, and pages 90-167 of

the work refer to the history of the Hephthalites. This work is useful for a comprehensive study of the relationship between the Ephthalites and the Sasanians. Also literature by Nikolaus Schindel[5], Walter Pohl[9], Michael Allram[3], Michael de Ferdinandy[4], Robert Gobl[7], Daniel Potts[1], Timo Stickler[8] and Wezendonk[10] and in monographs, the relationship between the Ephthalites and the Sassanids was reflected and analyzed through the method of mutual comparison.

RESULTS

The Ephthalites appeared in the second half of the 5th century as a new wave of invasions in the northeastern border region of Iran. The Persian king Bahram V (421-438) is thought to have already fought and defeated the Hephthalites, and for this reason the first mention of the Hephthalites may date back to 425. In the works of T. Noldeke, the relationship of the Ephthalite rulers with Bahram V is also described. Since the work is written mainly based on Arabic sources, the name of the Ephthalites is represented by the word Haitallar. The work mentions the battle between Bahram V and the ruler of the Ephthalites [6: 119]. However, it is very problematic to say exactly who were the conquerors defeated by Bahram V, because the sources of this period do not give clear statements on this matter, and it remains a difficult matter to reconstruct the chronology of events [9: 104], [8: 25]. These ideas are presented in the same way in the works of German historians Walter Paul and Timo Stickler. According to other historians Daniel Potts and Nikolaus Schindel, Bahram V was still fighting against the Khionites or Kidaris [1:365], [5:127]. It can be seen that the literature created in the 19th century was later analyzed and research was conducted with new approaches. For this reason, it is permissible to compare the information in the literature. In other literature, the following points are put forward:

Perhaps the Hephthalites entered later, after the 70s of the 5th century, because Peroz I fought against the Kidaris in the 460s, and with the Hephthalites in the 470s [2: 138]. Franz Altheim gives this information based on Byzantine and Armenian sources in his work.

But we can also see studies that group the Hephthalites and the Kidarites together. Numismatist Robert Goble includes them in the group known as "Iranian Huns" [7: 138]. However, this purely numismatic classification of Goble can certainly be changed, because he bypassed the written sources, and even the name of the Chionians does not appear in his work [8: 29], says Timo Stickler in his work. The fact that the Ephthalites repeatedly marched into the Sasanian kingdom and killed the above-mentioned Sasanian king Peroz I in 484 is reflected in written sources. So it follows that we can get more accurate information about the Hephthalites from the works of Altheim and Noldeke.

Persian sources mention them as "fetal tribes" who fought Yazdigird II (435 – 457) from 442, says Armenian historian Elisay Vardaped. In 453, Yazdigird II moved

his court to the east to establish contact with the Hephthalites or related groups. In 458, the king of the Hephthalites helped the Sassanid emperor Peroz I to seize the throne of Persia from his brother. In return, Peroz may have helped the Hephthalites in destroying the Kidarians[3: 48]. In 467 AD they defeat the Kidaris and the Kidaris are forced to take refuge in Gandhara. So, the Hephthalites helped the Persians in their struggle for the throne, but this same Peroz I later started a war against the Hephthalites after taking the throne. This complicates the relationship.

The establishment of the Ephthalite state had a significant impact on the foreign political doctrine of the Sasanians in the East. In 428, the Hephthalites, seeking to expand their military and political influence in the region, attacked Sassanid Iran, but were defeated and forced to conclude a peace treaty that defined the borders between the warring parties. This war between the Ephthalites and the Sassanids is evidenced by a number of Arabic and Persian sources from the 9th-11th centuries. These data (with minor differences) make it possible to clarify the following: first, the route of movement of the Sasanian troops under the leadership of Shah Bahram V (421 - 439) to Marv, and then allegedly to Bukhara; secondly, the geographical area of Bahram V's eastern defensive campaign, which in many respects is similar to the field of campaigns of Kaykhusrau's war with Afrosiyab; thirdly, the degree of dependence of the semi-independent states of Central Asia Mesopotamia on Sassanid Iran; fourthly, the areas where the political power of the Ephthalites spread, covering Afghanistan and a significant part of Central Asia (Balkh, Garjistan, Khuttalyon, Chaghaniyan and Bukhara) [5: 23]. The chapter mentions that the fight against the Hephthalites in the north-eastern border of Iran was the main task of the Sasanian kings - Yazdigard II (439 - 457) and Peroz (459 - 484). According to Armenian-Syrian sources, Yazdigard II carried out three campaigns in the north-eastern direction (442 - 449, 450 - 451, 453 - 454) and tried to protect the Sasanian borders from the attack of the Hephthalites. The first campaign of Yazdigard II covered the South Caspian Sea (with a share of the city of Jurjan), the second Khurasan (with a share of Taliqan), and the third covered the territories of Northern Bactria-Tokharistan. The campaign against Khurasan is considered even more successful, because after that Yazdigard II restored Sasanian political power in Kushanshahr and restored the practice of appointing governors from among the successors to the Sasanian throne.

The battles between the Ephthalites and the Sasanians escalated during the reign of Peroz (459-484). After the death of Yazdigard II in 457, a struggle for the throne began between his two sons Hormuzd and his brother Peroz. After Khormuzd took the throne, Peroz fled to the Ephthalites and hoped that they would help him to take the throne. According to Firdausi, the king of Eftali, Faganish, gave Peroz 30,000 military troops in exchange for the city of Termiz and Vashgird (a city between Vakhsh and Kafirnihan) [6: 124]. With the help of the Ephthalites, Peroz defeated his brother in

459 and took the throne. In the same year, Peroz signed an alliance agreement with the Hephthalite king Vakhshunvor.

According to Procopius KesarSKI, Peroz was captured by the Hephthalites based on their cunning and clever plans. The king of the Ephthalites tells Peroz that he will pay such a contribution, which Peroz will gladly accept. The condition for Peroz's release was a large amount of gold. The requested payment is given by the Byzantine Emperor Zeno. Because the Byzantine Empire had to pay a subsidy to the Sassanians on the condition that the Sassanids hold fortresses and garrisons in the mountainous regions of the Caucasus and do not let the enemy pass from there [2: 234].

In connection with the description of Peroz's rule, there are also the first mentions of the Hephthalites in Armenian ("heptali" of Lazar Parpetsi) and in Arabic and Persian sources (al-Tabari, Balami, Firdausi). According to sources, in the middle of the 5th century. Khaytal country covers Georgia, Tokharistan, Balkh, Badakhshan, Khuttalon, Chaganiyan, Termiz and Bukhara. The tradition of historiography of the 5th - 11th centuries. Peroz describes in detail the fierce military campaigns of Sassanid Iran in the 1960s and 1980s, which determined the essence of the "Eastern policy". In the stories about Peroz's eastern campaigns of the 6th century, his three military campaigns against the Hephthalites are summarized. After the first, which was marked by the defeat of the Persian army in 474-475, a peace treaty was concluded between the Sasanians and the Ephthalites on the borders of the state: the Sasanians promised not to violate the established interstate borders in the future. In the second, in 479-480 years, after the Persian troops breached the interstate border and suffered another defeat, Shah Peroz was forced to leave his son Kubod as a hostage in the hands of the Ephthalites [6: 118].

Since 474, in connection with the Sassanid empire paying a large tax, the Ephthalites began minting coins and took the image of the ruler with wings and a crescent moon as the design of the coin [7: 146]. At this point, it is necessary to pay attention to numismatic research. The Ephthalites did not develop their own coinage by taking advantage of the influx of Sasanian silver coins: they either minted coins with the same designs as the Sasanian ones, or simply countermarked the Sasanian coins with their own symbols. They did not write the name of their ruler, and this situation is contrary to the customs of Alkhan Huns and Kidaris before them. Exceptionally, one type of coin deviates from the Sasanian design and shows a Hephthalite prince holding a drinking cup.

According to T. Noldeke, Kubod broke the alliance with the Ephthalites and waged a war against them that lasted from 503 to 513 [6: 126]. In this way, the Ephthalites fell under the influence of the Turks and the Sasanians, and after losing the last battle, they went to North India and formed their own state there. information is displayed.

Summarizing the results, the policy of the Hephthalites with the Sassanids was extremely problematic, sometimes the Sasanian princes asked for help from the Hephthalite rulers to seize the throne, and sometimes they started wars by tricking them. T. Noldeke explains it through Armenian sources. But if we approach with the principle of impartiality, it should be noted that the Armenians had a very good relationship with the Ephthalians and the relations between them were preserved for a long time. For this reason, it is appropriate to research this issue in a wide scope, comparing information from sources and literature.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the issue of the foreign policy of the Ephthalite state has been studied in depth in German historiography, that is, they have focused on their origin, migration, state administration and foreign policy. Foreign policy has been studied mainly in connection with the history of the Sassanids of Iran, as the research and sources on this subject are considerable. For this reason, the main part of the studied literature is devoted to the history of the Iranian Sasanians. Through this, it is possible to research and conclude the still unknown aspects of the history of the Ephthalites. Those who opposed the diplomacy of the Sassanids of Iran in many cases did not follow the agreements made in the middle, if they had followed, they would not have fallen under the influence of the Heptali. So, we can say that we shed some light on the relationship between the Hephthalites and the Sasanians through German historiography.

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