# On the Division of Ustrushona Villages in the Early Middle Ages by Classification by Architectural Design and Methods

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## **ABSTRACT**

This article analyzes the stages and categories of development of the first medieval rural areas of Ustrushona on the basis of the studied structures. In most cases, the construction plan of these rural areas was implemented in the form of a bullet corridor passing through the center and dividing the architectural complex in two and adjacent rooms (Ortakurgan, Pardaqultepa). Thus, the factors of development of the early medieval rural areas in Ustrushan can be summarized as follows first: In Ustrushna, especially in its central, northern and north-western regions, rural construction was mainly intensified early medieval Ages.

**KEYWORDS:** Central Asia, Ustrushna, Early Middle Ages, Rural Areas, Nomadic Pastoralists, Migration, Sedentary Farming Culture, Architectural Design and Methods, "Bullet Corridor", "Bypass".

## INTRODUCTION

The rise of the Kushan Empire, one of the most centralized, rich and powerful states of its time, from the south of Central Asia to India, was significant in the social, economic, cultural and political life of the country's population. caused a change. While the Kushan kingdom, especially from the time of King Kanishka, developed and transferred its position and influence in all spheres of social, economic and political life to neighboring peoples, the territories under the Qang state were governed by a confederate system. took place in a nomadic manner.

From the II-III centuries AD, the migration of nomadic pastoral peoples along the Sirdarya began to threaten the stability of the country. Also, according to the analysis of written and archeological sources, in the III-IV centuries AD, the mass migration of the peoples of the "Great Desert" began, resulting in the influx of new populations into the large territorial units of Central Asia. The ethnic composition of the new peoples and tribes that came to Central Asia was very close to the population of the Qang Dynasty along the Sirdarya, between which there was a longstanding kinship. Probably because of such relations, in the early period of the abolition of Qang as a state (in the time of the traitors) there were no drastic changes in the social, economic and cultural life of the society of that period and in the system of public administration. The Kushan kingdom at that time was under the invasion of Sassanid Iran on the one hand, and on the other hand by nomadic herdsmen, especially traitors, and as a result in the IV century the powerful kingdom was crushed and its activity ceased [1, p-81.]

#### The main results

As a result of migrations in Central Asia in the V-VIII centuries, a sharp increase in population, urbanization and expansion of the territory, along with the creation of new rural areas. These processes were also reflected in the written sources of the later period. In particular, according to the medieval historian and geographer al-Istahri, during this period, four thousand rural settlements were

built in the basins of three of the 12 royal canals that supplied the Bukhara oasis with running water. According to An-Narshahi, there were 700 castles and rabats built by merchants around Bukhara. According to al-Muqaddas, there were 12,000 rural settlements around Mizdahkan, one of the small cities of Khorezm [2. p.150.], 16,000 fortresses were built throughout Chaghaniyan [3. p.180.]. Finally, according to the descriptions of authors such as alYaqubi and Ahmad al-Kotib, who wrote extensive information on the history and geography of Usrushona-"Ustrushona is a huge, vast and important country, it is said that it has 400 fortresses and several large cities" [4. p.34].

I am sure that the above figures have been quoted by the authors for some time. However, archeological excavations show that there are indeed a large number of rural settlements around Mizdahkan and Bukhara, and Ustrushona, as medieval authors point out, is a "fortress - the land of rabotis" [5. p.25.].

There is no information in the written sources about the topography of rural areas, i.e. their construction project, architectural solutions, dimensions, number of buildings (rooms) in them, and other features. Therefore, the role of archeological excavations in clarifying these issues is of particular importance. In this regard, the study of the first medieval cities and rural areas in the Khorezm oasis of the Central Asian region was relatively successful [6. p.355].

Later, who continued his research on these scientific issues N. Negmatov, U. Po'latov, A. Berdimurodov, M. Pardaev, According to experts such as J. Gafurov, a number of fortresses and fortresses studied in the eastern part of Ustrushna, in the Shahristan Basin and in the Jizzakh oasis belonging to the northwestern Ustrushona are divided into five categories according to their architectural design and methods:

Category 1 consists of castles built on the basis of a complex construction plan, based on special conditions, which consist of magnificent halls, dormitories, special houses of worship, utility rooms (warehouses) and corridors. Such castles are usually surrounded by strong defensive walls, the central buildings are sometimes decorated with murals, and carved wood is widely used in construction (Chilhujra). Rural areas in this category belonged to a large landowner landowner who had a great reputation nationwide;

Category 2 includes a large courtyard surrounded by defensive walls, with castles consisting of a two-story central building erected in the middle. The ground floor of the two-story central building consists of residences. In most cases, the construction plan of these rural areas was implemented in the form of a bullet corridor passing through the center and dividing the architectural complex in two and adjacent rooms (Ortakurgan, Pardaqultepa). In our opinion, this category of rural areas was inhabited by landowners of the local government (rustoq), village chiefs;

A less complex construction plan for **Category 3**, in particular, based on the "comb-corridor system", built without excessive luxury and decoration, on top of the mountain unguri, enters castles built taking into account all the features of the microrelief (Tirmizaktepa, Toshtemirtepa, Almantepa II). In our opinion, such early medieval rural settlements military "drujinas" belonging to large landowners was a place to live;

Category 4 includes rural areas surrounded by defensive walls, built in the fields of agricultural crops with extensive use of prefabricated building plan (circular corridor, bullet corridor, comb corridor), widely used the method of open awning, in a sense seasonal (AlmantepaI). It was inhabited by kadivars, seasonal herdsmen, and laborers, who were regularly engaged in agricultural work;

Category 5 includes rural areas with a total area of about 0.5 ha, two-tiered in appearance, the central buildings are located in the middle of the monument, mostly on flat land, near a particular city, as part of its defense systems. Although the construction plan of these rural areas also consisted

of prefabricated architectural methods, the main goal was to increase the number of dwellings for permanent residence. The buildings are single-storey and the number of living rooms is a priority. Although such rural areas belonged to a large landowner, he mostly lived in a nearby town (Komilbobotepa, Yakubbobotepa).

The first life in the first category Chilhujra fortress began in the V-VI centuries in a four-room building built on a high paxsa platform. At this time to the building was entered from the west. Later, in addition to the building, a system of external corridors and second floor rooms were built. Life in these buildings lasted from the VII century to the beginning of the IX century [7, p.14.].

The construction project of Chilhujra, the general appearance of the building, the main feature and some elements of the external defensive walls, the enclosed courtyard, as well as the strong guarded gate and its corridor, especially the convenient geographical location for administrative activities, make this fortress one of the largest indicates.

An example of the second category of castles in the Shahristan Basin is the Ortakurgan monument. Ortakurgan is recorded near Chilhujra, on the left bank of the Shahristonsoy, on a natural hill at the entrance to the Shahristan basin. Th hill has two tiers, from the lower floor of which opens a complex of 8 rooms and a corridor. The buildings are divided into two almost equal parts - east and west - through a central bullet corridor. The main structures of the Ortakurgan fortress rise on a high platform, a relatively narrow courtyard in a circular shape surrounded by defensive walls on four sides. The interiors consist of majestic, luxurious homes. In general, Ortakurgan, in all its features, belonged to a well-known figure of the society of his time, an unknown nobleman [8,p.100-105].

The next excavated monument is located on the edge of a narrow mountain range that enters the Tirmizaktepa Shahristan basin. The remains of a house in Tirmizaktepa are square (16x16m), the main feature of the building project is a wide corridor-vestibule with a flat roof. There are 8 corridor-like rooms perpendicular to it on both sides of the corridor [8. C.105].

Tirmizaktepa fortress was built in VII-VIII centuries and was reused in IX-XII centuries without significant changes. According to the appearance of the building and its construction and architectural design, this structure can be included in the list of castle-type or guard type buildings, which are typical for Ustrushna and its neighboring countries.

The fourth archeologically studied fortress in the Shahristonsoy basin is located Toshtemirtepa, 8 km west of the village of Shahristan, in a flat steppe area between Uvoksay and Toshtemirsay. The main buildings of the monument are in the center of a square (100x100 m) hill with a courtyard height of 8 m [9. C. 570]. The construction project of the castle was in the form of comb corridors, which took on a typical appearance for the early Middle Ages. Length 14.5 m. located 8 rooms, four on each side of the bullet corridor.

We can also see in the example of other monuments that have been discovered that the construction of castles in Ustrushan was multifaceted. One such monument QalaiSar. The appearance of this monument was oval in shape. QalaiSarda VI-VIII; Cultural strata X-XI centuries have been studied [10. C.85]. The circle defensive walls of the fort are also of mud from medium-sized stones and large sized boulders formed crushing huge, boulders. Some deep and uneven areas of the natural hill top were filled with rock piles and a flat area was created for construction. Military towers were built in the corners of the castle. But they and the whole fortification were not well preserved due to some defects in the building structure.

Dongchatepa fortress is located in the foothills of the desert, in the basin of the right bank of the Isfanasay, on the ancient road from Gulikandozto mountainrustka of eastern Ustrushna. The castle activities are associated with three construction periods. The first construction period dates back to

the I-III centuries, the second construction period to the III-V centuries. The last period of the castle's life was in the VII-IX centuries [11,p.268-277]. Some features of Dongchatepa are similar to the planned and architectural aspects of Pardagultepa, which were discovered in the Jizzakh oasis.

In the early Middle Ages, a number of rural settlements appeared in the deserts, plains and foothills of Central Asia, especially Ustrushna, the evolution of which can be seen through five directions.

The first is the fortifications built around central cities of particular historical and cultural land, surrounded defensive walls and fortifications, as a protection against the attacks of nomadic herdsmen;

The second is the rural settlements built first in the desert-steppe, then in the plains and foothills, mainly from the 5th century onwards, as a result of the mass settlement of a large herding population, as a result of social stratification, out necessity;

Third, rural areas created as a result of the rise of the prestige of villages as a source of a solid raw material base in the economic life of Central Asia, the development of new cultural oases due to the development of protected and gray lands;

Fourth, in the early Middle Ages, as a result of the formation of prop erty relations in Central Asia, the emergence of aristocratic landowners and large patriarchal farms under their control, the fortresses were located not far from each other (600–800 m);

Fifth, in the early Middle Ages, especially during the Turkish Khanate, due to the state control of the Great Silk Road trade, the construction of settlements and rabats in the desert areas was organized.

#### **CONCLUSION**

Thus, it can be noted that the categories of rural areas proposed above are based on the conclusions that their level of accuracy and perfection is much higher today.

The factors of development of the early medieval rural areas in Ustrushan can be summarized as follows first: In Ustrushna, especially in its central, northern and north-western regions, rural construction was mainly intensified early medieval Ages. This is because the archeological objects that have been uncovered the research have been effectively discovered. Second: it was caused by socio-economic events such as defense goals, natural demographic growth of the population, the development of agriculture. Thirdly: in Ustrushana, as in the neighboring cultural oases, in the early Middle Ages the region was covered with mountains, areas bordering the plains and deserts, all areas of flowing water basins are mastered. Fourth: The constructed structures differed from each other in size, shape, construction design and architectural features.

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