

Digital Map of Kalmykian Jungaria (a project)

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The so-called «Renat's map» embraces the southern part of Western Siberia and the middle part of Inner Asia. The covered space estimates 3600000 km^2 : 2000 km in latitude and 1800 km in longitude. It was brought to Moscow in 1733 by its author Renat, on his way to home in Sweden. Earlier Jungarians had captured him then freed. At that time in Moscow the map was not copied. Only 150 years afterwards it was discovered in some Sweden's library and published for the first time in Russia in 1881. A.I. Maksheev supplied it with his notes. Then it was published once or twice in Europe and then was not touched for almost another century. Now the map is kept in National Sweden Archive in Stockholm.

As it was said A.I. Maksheev made the first and the sole index of names for this map. This work was edited separately in 1881 and afterwards re-edited as the Notes of Russian Geographical Society in 1886. A.I. Maksheev was convinced that some 250 names in this map were written in Sweden manner and hence in variable transcription. He counted also that more than a half of these toponyms were yet existing at the second half of the 19th century. Unfortunately A.I. Maksheev compared the names of the map only with those given by the first Russian topographers who made their work more than half of a century afterwards. There was not a single Kalmykian there at that time. All of them were eliminated and vanished. Newcomers were living there. They were different tribes of Kirghiz-Kazakhs, Kyrghyzs, Uighurs, Kokandians, and also Russians, all having different languages and dialects. They tended to rename or modernize a lot of old names, which were mostly of pre-Chenghiz's origin.

Unfortunately Russian topographers of 18-19 cc. paid little attention to many toponyms and didn't make efforts to save them in texts and graphics. There remained no map for «The Book Great Graphic or Ancient Map of Russian State» of late 16 c. or of 1626 as well as for P.I. Rychkov's book «Topography of Orenburgh Guberny (Province)» edited in 1762.

Now the new version of this map has been prepared laid upon a modern topographical base under a scale of 1: 6000000. Late Vladimir I. Volobuyev had made a lot of preparatory work for it. Explanatory Index of nearly 300 geographical names has been prepared. Ancient mines are also designated: 66 of metals, 3 of coal. This is of course a very valuable piece of information but not the main one.

A lot of material has been being gained during last 20 years of constant research upon interpreting a

lot of toponymical data, field archaeological material, data of mediaeval oriental historical sources (both inscriptions and narrative) and so on. All these datapieces combined permit to reconstruct the map of settling the tribes of Turkic and Mongolian origin over that great space for about several centuries preceding the 18th. It can be said for certain now that the peculiarity of the whole situation is such that it is impossible to divide these attributes (Turkic and Mongolian) for that time. It was common undividable nomadic unit (empire) within which it seems extremely difficult to extract either Turkic or Mongolian component. Such conjunction of Turkic and Mongolian components could be linguistically traced until the 19th century.

Now the large task is lying ahead. It is necessary to testify and correct all the data of this map fitting it to the new findings that were made in the past 20 years. Then to create a logical model of the future GIS of Kalmykian Jungaria. Then a prototype of this digital map is to be created. As a result some sort of a time map fitting to our knowledge of the places of habituation of different nomadic tribes during the period between 13 and 19 cc. AD is to be built.