

The History of the Development of the Women's Clothing in Central Asia

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ABSTRACT

In this article, the opinions of our country and foreign scholars are mentioned about the history of the development of the women's clothing in Central Asia.

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Introduction.

Women's fashion in Central Asia during the 19th and 20th centuries underwent significant transformations, influenced by both traditional styles and the increasing influence of modern ideas and Western trends. Here's a breakdown of the main elements:

1. Traditional Styles Continued:

The Dress: The long, flowing dress ("chapan", "khalat") remained a staple in many areas, albeit with variations in style and fabric choices.

Headwear: The "doppi" (hat) continued to be popular head coverings, though their usage and styles evolved.

Embroidery and Decoration: Intricate embroidery, often using traditional motifs and patterns, continued to be a key element in women's clothing.



1.photo. «Doppi (hat)»

2. Modernization and Social Change:

Urban vs. Rural: The adoption of modern clothing varied greatly between urban and rural areas. Women in urban centers embraced Western styles more readily, while rural women often retained more traditional attire.

Education and Employment: As women's access to education and employment increased, they began to adopt more practical and modern clothing for work and social settings.

Political and Social Movements: The rise of women's rights movements and socialist ideals further influenced fashion choices, promoting practicality and a rejection of traditional, restrictive attire.

3. Regional Variations:

Uzbekistan: Women in Uzbekistan, particularly in urban areas, were known for adopting modern fashion trends, including tailored dresses, blouses, and pants.

4. The Soviet Era:

Soviet Style: During the Soviet period (1924-1991), women's fashion was significantly influenced by socialist ideals, emphasizing practicality, functionality, and simplicity.

Uniformity: While individual style was still present, the Soviet government promoted standardized clothing, particularly for work and school.

Rejection of Tradition: Many traditional garments, particularly head coverings, were actively discouraged as symbols of backwardness and religious oppression.



2.photo. «Uzbek dress»

5. Post-Soviet Period:

Diversity and Individualism: After the collapse of the Soviet Union, women in Central Asia embraced a wide range of fashion choices, expressing individualism and reflecting both traditional and modern influences.

Global Trends: Global fashion trends and international brands have become more readily available, influencing contemporary styles.

Main Women's Clothes in Central Asia during the Khanate Period:

The clothing worn by women in Central Asia during the Khanate period (roughly 15th to 19th centuries) varied depending on region, ethnicity, and social status. However, some common elements and styles were shared across the vast territory. Here are some key aspects of women's clothing during this period:

1. The Basic Garment:

The Dress: The core of a woman's wardrobe was the long, flowing dress, often reaching the ankles and sometimes even the ground. This dress, known by different names like "chapan" (Uzbek) or "khalat" (Persian), was typically made from lightweight fabrics like silk, cotton, or wool, depending on the season and region.

Sleeves: Sleeves could be long, reaching the wrists, or shorter, ending at the elbows. They often featured elaborate embroidery or decorative elements at the cuffs.

2. Headwear:

The "Doppi": A small, round cap, often made of silk or velvet, was a common head covering, especially for married women. The "doppi" was sometimes decorated with beads, embroidery, or precious stones.



3.photo. «Doppi» (Hat)

Hair: Women in Central Asia typically wore their hair long and braided, often adorned with black yarn and «Plig» (cotton ribbon).



4. Photos. «Examples of braids»

3. Outerwear:

The "Chapan": This long, loose robe, made from thicker materials like wool or felt, provided warmth during colder seasons. It could be worn with or without a belt and often featured intricate embroidery or patterns.

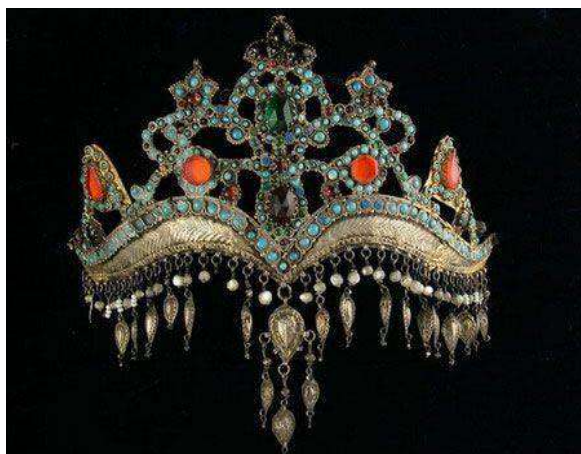
The "paranja": Another type of outer garment, resembling a long coat, was worn by women in some regions, particularly in areas with colder climates. This garment was typically made from wool or felt and could be adorned with embroidery or decorative elements.



5. photoю «Paranja»

4. Accessories:

Jewelry: Central Asian women were known for their love of jewelry, often using it to express their wealth and social status. Popular pieces included necklaces, earrings, bracelets, rings, and brooches made from gold, silver, precious stones, and other materials.



6.photos «Wealthy women`s jewelry»

Footwear: Women typically wore soft leather shoes or slippers, often with intricate embroidery or decorations.



7.photos «kovush» (type of footwear)

5. Regional Variations:

While the core elements of women's clothing remained similar throughout Central Asia, there were distinct regional variations in styles and materials. For instance, women in Uzbekistan tended to favor brighter colors and more elaborate embroidery, while those in Tajikistan preferred simpler styles and darker hues.

6. Social Status and Clothing:

The wealth and social status of a woman were often reflected in her clothing. Women with high standing would wear finer fabrics, more elaborate embroidery, and more valuable jewelry.

7. Influences:

The clothing of Central Asian women was influenced by various factors, including historical interactions with neighboring cultures, religious practices, and evolving fashion trends. For instance, Persian and Ottoman influences were prominent in Central Asian fashion.

Research and methods.

During the khanate period in Central Asia, women's clothing often reflected the nomadic lifestyle and cultural influences of the region. Some of the main types of women's clothing during this time included:

1. **Kepchak:** A traditional Central Asian dress, typically made of brightly colored silk or cotton fabric. It featured a fitted bodice, long sleeves, and a flared skirt that was often embellished with embroidery or decorative trim.
2. **Sarband:** A type of headscarf or turban worn by women to cover their hair. Sarbands were often made of silk or cotton fabric and were decorated with intricate patterns or embroidery.
3. **Chapan:** A long, loose-fitting coat worn by women in Central Asia. Chapans were often made of wool, camel's hair or silk and featured elaborate embroidery or embellishments. Chapan will warm you in cold, and it will protect you from the sun in the heat.



8.photos Chapan (fabric «Adras»)

4. Tubeteika (Doppi) : A traditional Central Asian hat worn by women, typically made of brightly colored silk or cotton fabric and adorned with decorative trim or embroidery.
5. Salwar kameez: A two-piece outfit consisting of a long tunic (kameez) and loose-fitting trousers (salwar), often worn by women in Central Asia during the khanate period.
6. Joota: Traditional Central Asian shoes, often made of leather or fabric and decorated with intricate patterns or embroidery.

Results.

The evolution of women's clothing in Central Asia during the Khanate period (15th-19th centuries) was a fascinating blend of traditional styles, regional variations, and external influences. Here's a glimpse into the development of some key garments:

1. The Long Dress:

Early Khanates (15th-16th centuries): The basic long dress, reaching the ankles, was already a prominent garment. It was likely made from simple, readily available fabrics like cotton, silk and wool.

17th-18th Centuries: Silk, imported from the East, became more accessible, making the dress more luxurious for wealthier women. Elaborate embroidery and decorative elements began to appear, reflecting the influence of Persian and Ottoman fashion.

19th Century: The "chapan" gained further prominence. It became a symbol of identity, with regional variations in color, embroidery, and even the way it was worn. The use of wool and felt for warmer climates further developed.

2. The "Doppi" (Head hat):

Early Khanates: This small, round cap, often made of silk or velvet, was likely already a common head covering for married women. Its initial function was likely practical, protecting the head from the sun and elements.

17th-18th Centuries: The "doppi" became more decorative, often adorned with beads, embroidery, and precious stones, reflecting the status of the wearer.

19th Century: The "doppi" remained a staple, but regional variations in style and decoration emerged. Its significance as a symbol of married status persisted.

Discussion.

3. The "Chapan" (robe):

Early Khanates: The "chapan" was likely used as a head and shoulder covering for both men and women, particularly in outdoor settings.

17th-18th Centuries: The "chapan" gained a more prominent role in women's attire. It was often made from luxurious materials like silk and became a symbol of modesty and respectability.

19th Century: The "chapan" remained important but started to evolve in styles. It became more ornate, with intricate embroidery and patterns reflecting local traditions. In some regions, its use became more specific to married women.



9.photos. Chapan (fabrik «Bekasam»)

4. The "paranja" (Outer Coat):

Paranja /'pærən,dʒɑ:/, **paranji**, or **faranji** (from Arabic: فرنجية, romanized: *farangiyyah*; Tajik: فرنجӣ, фараңҷӣ, *farançī*; Uzbek: paranji; Russian: паранджа, romanized: *parandzha*) is a traditional Central Asian robe for women and girls that covers the head and body.

In the 1800s, Tajik and Uzbek Muslim women were required to wear paranja when outside their home. Paranja and chachvon were by 1917 common among urban Uzbek women of the southern river basins. This was less frequently worn in the rural areas, and scarcely at all on the nomadic steppe.

Early Khanates: This garment, resembling a long coat, was likely worn in some regions, particularly those with colder climates. It was likely made from basic materials like wool or felt.

17th-18th Centuries: The "paranja" became more elaborate, with decorative elements and embroidery, mirroring the trends seen in other garments.

19th Century: The "paranja" remained a significant piece of outerwear in some regions, but its prominence varied depending on the local climate and cultural preferences.



10.photo. (1) «Wealthy woman's Paranja» (2) «Poorer nation's Paranja»

5. Influencing Factors:

Regional Variations: The geographic diversity of Central Asia led to different styles and materials based on local climate, available resources, and cultural traditions.

Trade and Interaction: Trade routes brought in new fabrics and ideas, influencing fashion. Persian, Ottoman, and even Chinese influences are evident in styles and ornamentation.

Social Status: The wealth and social standing of women were reflected in the quality of their clothing, the fabrics used, and the amount of ornamentation.

Religious Influences: Islam, the dominant religion, emphasized modesty in dress, influencing the use of head coverings and long, loose garments.

Conclusion.

Women's clothing in Central Asia during the 19th and 20th centuries was a dynamic blend of tradition and modernity, reflecting the complex social, political, and cultural transformations of the region. The ongoing interplay between tradition and modernity continues to shape women's fashion choices today.

It is clear that women's clothing in Central Asia during the khanate period was characterized by bright colors, intricate patterns, and a blend of cultural influences from the region's diverse ethnic groups. The development of women's clothing during the Khanate period in Central Asia was a dynamic process shaped by a blend of traditions, external influences, and social structures. The core elements like the long dress and head coverings evolved over time, reflecting the region's rich history and cultural tapestry.

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