

Central Asian Ethnology in the Works of Lev Nikolayevich Gumilyov

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ABSTRACT

Many scientists have conducted scientific research on the origin and history of the peoples of Central Asia. One of them is L. N. Gumilyov. This article talks about L. N. Gumilyov's scientific research on Central Asia and the history of the creation of the work "Ancient Turks".

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Lev Nikolayevich Gumilyov was a Soviet historian, ethnologist, and anthropologist, widely known for his works on ethnogenesis (the origin and development of ethnic groups) and historical theories, particularly concerning the Eurasian steppe and Central Asia. His ideas are central to the understanding of the complex ethno-cultural and historical dynamics of the Central Asian region.

L. N. Gumilyov was born on October 1, 1912, in the city of Sarskoye-Selo, St. Petersburg, in the family of two famous Russian poets, Nikolay Gumilyov and Anna Akhmatova. The full name of the scientist's father was Nikolai Stepanovich Gumilyov (1886-1921), a Russian poet, literary critic, and translator. L. N. Gumilyov's mother, Anna Andreyevna Akhmatova (real surname Gorenko), was born in Odessa on June 11, 1889. She was descended from Tatar Khan Akhmat Khan on her mother's side. (hence the nickname) L. N. Gumilyov's thirst for knowledge, especially his interest in the history of the Turks and the peoples of Central Asia (probably influenced by the fact that his mother had Turkish blood in his veins), long and hard work and research made the name of Lev Gumilyov a world scholar. made him a symbol of a clever historian recognized by.

"Ancient Turks", "Hyongnu. Central Asia in ancient times", Хунны в Азии и Европе», «Поиски вымышленного царства» L.N. Gumilyov clearly states his scientific views on the peoples, climate and nature of Central Asia in these works.

In the monograph of the history of medieval Central Asia, L.N. Gumilyov's work "Ancient Turks" was created at a very high theoretical level, and the level of knowledge achieved in this regard and the totality of sources included in scientific circulation are fully reflected. The main conclusions and assumptions of the scientist about the nature of the political organization, structure and social structure of the ancient Turkic people are consistent with the modern ideas of Turkic scientists. In the work "Ancient Turks" it is emphasized about the Turkish name and the spread of this name throughout Asia. The Arabs began to call all the militant nomads north of Sogd Turks, and they adopted the name. Already, the first owners of the Turkish name remained an example of courage and heroism for all the peoples of the steppe before they disappeared from the face of the earth. ¹

¹ Л.Н Гумилёв “ От Руси до России” “Фирма СТД” 2016г. С.31

The work "Ancient Turks" by L. N. Gumilyov appeared in the second half of the 20th century, that is, when the wave of interest in the history of the Turkic peoples in Europe had not completely lost its momentum. Throughout the 19th century, the history of the Turkic peoples was studied without the participation of Turkic scientists, since the representatives of these peoples were far from the field of scientific coverage of their history, European and Russian historians used it at the level of their knowledge of the history of the East and their own political - it was natural for them to reveal themselves in a manner consistent with their social views.

L. Gumilev continues to mongolize Turkic history and finds the word "turkut" in the word "tu-kyu" used to express the subordinates of the Ashina Khans in Chinese sources and adds the suffix-ut and he believes and tries to convince that it is a Mongolian plural suffix. He even reveals the unproven rule that all political terms in the ancient Turkic language were formed with the Mongolian plural suffix. The proof that L. Gumilev correctly pointed out the ground of mistakes in his scientific works by insisting on -t(-u/t) in the word Turkut and calling it a Mongolian suffix had also done. That is, Gumilev showed that he was not aware of V.V. Radlov's "Experiments in Compiling a Dictionary of Turkish Dialects" published in his time (later also published under the name "Old Turkish Dictionary").²

Forms such as Uzbeks, Kazakhs, and Russians found in modern Turkic languages are also the result of the influence of Indo-European languages on Turkic languages. Even now, "Uzbeks can't be like that" is more Turkish than "Uzbeks can't be like that". Therefore, even when the form "Turkut" exists, the -t(-ut) in it is not a Mongolian plural suffix, but can give a generalized meaning by adding it to the existing ethnonym, as in the ethnonym "Bashkird". In Mongolian languages, -t is a linguistic phenomenon in which ethnonyms are formed: like Oyrot, Kerait, Tangut, Taichjiut. The fact that the ethnonym in the word "Turkut" was made with the help of -k was proven already at that time, and L. Gumilev himself admits it in the book in your hand.

Gumilyov met Vasily Nikiforovich Abrosov, an ichthyologist and limnologist (lake specialist) in the 40s. Abrosov carefully left dangerous Leningrad and settled in peaceful Toropets, and then in Velikiye Luki. At the end of 1954, their correspondence resumed. Gumilyov was an ardent supporter of geographical determinism and tried to determine the dynamics of drying and wetting of the steppes in order to compare them with the history of nomadic peoples. Abrosov helped him, compiled extracts and theses from books necessary for Gumilyov, advised his historian friend. In his letters to his "friend Vasya", Gumilyov raised the problems he was solving in the 1960s. In his letter dated March 3, 1955, Gumilyov was the first to raise the question of how information on changes (expansion or contraction) of the Caspian and Aral levels can be used to reconstruct the picture of climate change. He returned to this topic after ten years and wrote several interesting articles, presenting himself as an expert not only in history, but also in historical geography. In his correspondence with Abrosov, Gumilev first came to the idea of interdisciplinary research and began to build a "bridge between the sciences": "... neither a historian without a geographer, nor a geographer without a historian. "change is of great importance. It should not be concluded that migration is necessary, but the rise and fall of the economy is inconceivable outside of nature a bridge had to be built between them."³

Gumilyov was also known for blending historical analysis with mythological elements, particularly in interpreting the origins and worldviews of Central Asian peoples. Gumilyov's work has been both influential and controversial. His ideas have been embraced by some modern Eurasianists, but they are often criticized for their deterministic approach and the perceived blending of science with ideology.⁴ Nonetheless, his research on Central Asian ethnology continues to influence discussions about ethnic identity and history in the post-Soviet space, particularly in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and other parts of the region.

² Xurshid Davron Lev Gumilyov. Articles about Ancient Turks & Lev Gumilyov

³ Lev Gumilyov: His Disciples and the Eurasianism of the 21st Century" by Marlène Laruelle – 2008

⁴ Category:Lev Gumilev - Wikimedia Commons

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