
Chinese Written Sources about the Relations of the Central Asia's People and China in VI-X Cent



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ABSTRACT: The article examines information about the relations between the peoples of Central Asia and China in the VII-X centuries on Chinese written sources. The works of the Sui Dynasty, Tang Dynasty and the Wu-dai era are mainly taken, but in addition to them, information from other chronicles that were created later is also given. When working on the article, was used the chronological method of compiling a list of sources. It is also possible to change the order in cases where the sources of the type of information complement each other. Each essay begins with the title and its translation from the Chinese language. Next, information about the author, the time of compilation and other data is given. Information about the relations between the peoples of Central Asia and China is transmitted in chronological order. One of the fundamental concepts of historical science is the "historical source". In the literal sense, the word "source" means a spring, a key, in the figurative sense-that which gives rise to something, serves as the basis for something. Indeed, every study of topics and problems of the distant or recent past begins with the identification, study and use of historical sources and is based on them.

KEYWORDS: Central Asia, China, Sui, Tang, Wu dai, sources, writings, relationships, fundamental concepts.

INTRODUCTION

Today, the mutual interest between the countries of Central Asia and China is steadily growing. If one of China's interests is to create a raw materials appendix in the countries of Central Asia, then the latter has it in the development of the One Belt, One Road project. This approach will allow China to strengthen the influence over the policy of "raw materials in exchange for finished products". The countries of Central Asia will accelerate the development of transport connectivity, which has lagged behind due to continuous globalization. However, it cannot be assumed that such relationships arose precisely today and did not affect historical ties in any way. Due to this, new questions and historical theories will arise in the future, which will lead to research works. The best search for answers to historical questions begins with primary sources. However, the process of work is long and difficult, especially if you have no idea where exactly the facts are.

The purpose of the article is to simplify the task of searching for materials on Chinese written sources for researchers studying the historical relationship between the peoples of Central Asia and China in the 7th-10th centuries.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The degree of study of the relationship between the peoples of Central Asia and China mainly dates back to the second half of the 20th century. Soviet scientists such as V.V. Bartold, L.R. Kyzlasov, N.V. Kuner, A.G. Malyavkin, G.P. Suprunenko, S.L. Tikhvinsky, Yu.A. Zuev and foreign ones such as I. Ecsedy, S. Mackkeras, E. G. Pulleyblank. However, the works of these scientists are more of a historiographic nature based on the work of past pioneer scientists N.Y. Bichurin and S.E. Julien.

Among the scientific works, one can also single out A.G. Malyavkina, V.F. Smolin, Liu Mao-Tsai, P. Pelliot and Abe Takeo, who worked to a greater extent with written sources and have an overwhelming amount of information about the relationship between the peoples of Central Asia and China. However, these works were aimed at studying specifically one or several peoples from many others.

The novelty of the work lies in the listing of Chinese written sources with a brief overview of the work and a description of the contents. However, the main emphasis was placed on information about the relationship between the peoples of Central Asia and China. The article indicates the exact location of the information and briefly talks about these facts. In addition, information

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about genres and types of compositions is transmitted. Chinese written sources were selected, which contain information about the periods of the Sui, Tang and Wu dai dynasties.

The Chinese official historical written works: daily chronicles, records of deeds and decrees of emperors are one of the main sources on the history of relations between the peoples of Central Asia and China (*Bernshtam* 1950: 33). In addition to the separate chapters specially designated for this in the dynastic chronicles, some information is also found in the tractates on astronomy, mathematics, music, administrative structure, laws, geography, in the biographies of famous statesmen and military leaders (*Kühner* 1961: 40). As noted by the famous Russian orientalist V.V.Bartold¹, the history of the peoples of Central Asia is also well reflected in the Chinese written sources. And even today, despite significant advances in archaeological research in Central Asia in the 20th century, we agree with the opinion of the distinguished scientist that archaeological data cannot help us fully restore the general outline of political events and convey the state of mind of the era, and the inscriptions on the tombstones that belong to the Eastern Turki², contain rather scant information (*Ganiev* 2010: 273).

The Turki are one of the peoples of Central Asia and the written information of Chinese authors is extremely important for the study of the history of the Eastern Turki (*Ganiev* 2010: 273). Thanks to the information from the Chinese sources, it is possible not only to study a number of little-studied issues on the history of the peoples of Central Asia, but also to develop new issues, including such as trade and diplomatic relations, cultural interactions between nomads and sedentary peoples, study of the main trends in evolution medieval links, development of a general concept of interactions, reassessment of the role of nomadic peoples in foreign policy.

The article focuses on the written sources, bearing in mind the high level of written source creation in China compared to the most of the medieval countries of the world, the importance of its monuments for historical reconstructions, as well as its close relationship with development of the philosophical and socio-political thought (*Smolin* 1987: 3).

THE MAIN RESULTS AND FINDINGS

We begin the list of Chinese written sources with the works "Sui Shu" (隋书 "History of the [dynasty] Sui"), which describes the events of the Sui dynasty. "Sui shu" consists of 85 juan and is divided into 2 parts: the first part covers 629-636, it is devoted to imperial annals and biographies; the second part, on imperial letters, refers to 641-656. (*Tikhvinsky* 2014: 236). The author of this work is Wei Zheng³, but there is information that there were other authors who helped him in this matter (*Qu Lin Dong* 2012: 6). The composition was composed in the genre of "zheng shi" (正史 "official (dynastic) history"). Information about the origin and customs of the Eastern Turks correspond to the content of "Zhou shu". This indicates that either the source completely borrowed the text from "Zhou shu", or the same sources were used in the compilation of Sui shu (*Liu Mau-Tsai* 2006: 96).

Information about the relationship between the peoples of Central Asia and China is in the juans dedicated to the biography and annals of the Sui emperors.

For example, the juan "Zhi juan san" "志 卷三 (third entry)", the section "Li yi san" "礼仪三 (third entry on the rules of decency)" refers to the Donghu tribes and Western Turks who sent envoys with tribute to Emperor Wen di⁴ with a request to conclude an alliance.

However, not all requests were accepted. For example, the juan "Zhi juan qi" "志 卷七 (seventh entry)", section "Li yi qi" "礼仪七 (seventh entry on the rules of decency)" says that the Turks came to offer military assistance against the rebels. However, Emperor Gaozu did not accept their proposal.

Despite this, the Sui court in most cases was more inclined to cooperate with the Turkic Khaganate. For example, the juan "Zhi juan shi" "志 卷十 (tenth record)", the section "Yinyue xia" "音乐下 (Music, second part)" tells about the arrival of the elders of the Turkic tribes to Emperor Yangdi with various tributes to their local products. They asked the emperor to marry their sons to Chinese princesses. Yang Di did not give a definite answer, but boasted, ordering a performance with songs in honor of the guests.

Information about economic relations also takes place in Sui Shu. For example, the juan "Lezhuan, juan yi" (列传 卷一 "biography, first volume"), section "Houfei" (后妃 "first bundle") refers to the trade and diplomatic relations between the Sui Dynasty and the Turkic Khaganate. Also, in this section there is information about several ambassadors poisoned to settle relations.

Many Turkic people did not personally meet with the emperors, but they kept constant correspondence with them. In the juan "Lezhuan, juan yi" (列传 卷二 "biography, first volume"), section "Li Mu zi hun Mu Xiongzi xun Xundi Chong Chong Zi min" (

¹ V.V. Bartold – the Soviet orientalist, academician who lived in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

² Eastern Turki are a people of nomadic ancient Turks. In 603, the state was founded after the collapse of the Turkic Kaganate.

³ Wei Zheng – the statesman, scholar-writer, historian of the Tang dynasty (580-643).

⁴ Wen di – the Chinese emperor, founder of the Song dynasty (581-604).

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李穆子浑 穆兄子询 询弟崇 崇子敏 “Li Mu zi hun Mu Xiongzi xun Xundi Chong Chong Zi min (names)” says about such exchanges of letters.

At the end of the reign of the Sui dynasty, the issues of the vassalage of the Sui dynasty in relation to the Turkic Kaganate were even considered. This is described in the *juan* “Lezhuan, *juan wu*” (列传·卷五 “biography, fifth volume”) in the section “*yiwen*” (译文 “translation”).

If at the beginning of the relationship, the Sui emperors did not give an unequivocal answer to the requests for marriage from the Turkic khagans to the Sui princesses, then in the end they willingly agreed. For example, the *juan* “Lezhuan, *juan liu*” (列传·卷六 biography, sixth volume) in the section “*Yiwen gao jiong*” (译文高颉 “translations about Gao jun”) tells about the arrival of Turkic ambassadors with requests for marriages.

The next piece of history is “*Da Tang Chuangye Qijuzhu*” (大唐創業起居注 “The Great Tang Dynasty Founding Diary”), which consists of three parts, each dedicated to a certain year. The author of the book, Wen Daya⁵, began writing the work in 618 and finished it in 626 (*Li Ji Ping* 1990: 56). The compositions were written in the genre of “*shishu*” (史书 “historical literature, also translated as a history textbook”). The work describes the events associated with Li Yuan⁶ and the founding of the state, i.e. events between 615 and 618. Here, in detail, the relationship between the Tang empire and the Turks is reported (*Malyavkin* 1998: 32).

“*Da Tang Chuangye Qijuzhu*” is considered to be very rich in details about the military relations between the Tang Empire and the Turks, because the author served as a military chronicler under Li Yuan and he had access to documents [*Malyavkin*, 1998, p. 32].

Information about the relationship between the peoples of Central Asia and China is shown in the *juan* “*Qiyi qi zhi fayin fan sishiba ri*” (起义旗至发引凡四十八日 “Forty-eight days since the rebellion flag was raised”) in the form of diplomatic correspondence [between Shibir khagan⁷ and Li Yuan], negotiations for an alliance [through the ambassadors Liu Wing⁸ Jing and Gudulu Delei⁹], in descriptions of the exchange of gifts with the khagan.

At the end of 618, Li Yuan's military strategy changes and this is reflected in foreign policy. For example, in the *juan* “*Qishi zheng zhi jizhen ri fan yibai bashisan ri*” (起摄政至即真日凡一百八十三日 “One hundred and eighty-three days from the day of regency to the truth”), information is given about the sudden death of Shibir khagan and the coming to the power of Chulo Khagan as an excuse to start new trade relations in order to gain time for the accumulation of power against the Eastern Turkic Khaganate. [*Liu Mau-Tsai*, 2006, s. 110].

Many sources were devoted to a specific period. If one historian spoke of one thing, his colleague on the other side argued the opposite. Therefore, Du You¹⁰ considered it necessary to write a comprehensive historical book “*Tong dian*” (通典 “The Code of General Institutions of State Administration” (*Malyavkin* 1989: 34)). The book covers historical material from 2717 BC. (ie, from the “Yellow Emperor” – Huang Di) – until 756 AD. (ie, before the Emperor Li Longji¹¹) (*Couling* 1917: 73). Completed in 801, the work includes part of Liu Zhi's¹² undying political tractate. The writings include the genre “*zhengshu*” (政书 “political book, book of the ministry”).

“*Tong dian*” consists of 200 volumes and information about the relationship between the peoples of Central Asia and China is from 171 to 200. They contain information about population growth due to migrants from the Central Asian regions [*Malyavkin*, 1989, p. 34].

Many of the facts from the Tang Dynasty were not considered accurate enough because social experiments and analyzes were not carried out. One of the works differing in the reliability of historical facts “*Tang Huiyao*” (唐会要 “Consolidated Review of the Tang State”) (*Malyavkin* 1989: 362). Wang Pu¹³ compiled previous works and presented it to Emperor Tai zu¹⁴ in 961. The collection contains 100 volumes and 514 *juans* and covers the events of the period from 779 to Wu-dai¹⁵. Some information was borrowed from “*Tong dian*” and “*Ju Tang shu*”. In addition, it contains data from 846, which had already been met in the works of

⁵ Wen Dai was the historian, thinker, and minister of the state of the Tang Dynasty (572-629).

⁶ Li Yuan – the Chinese emperor, founder of the Tang dynasty (r. 618-626).

⁷ Shibir khagan – the second Khagan of the Eastern Turkic Khaganate (609-619).

⁸ Liu Wing – Ambassador, statesman of the Tang Dynasty.

⁹ Gudulu Delei – Ambassador, statesman of the Eastern Turkic Khaganate.

¹⁰ Du Yu – the Historian and Prime Minister of the Tang Dynasty (735-812).

¹¹ Li Longji – the 9th Emperor of the Tang Dynasty (r. 712-756).

¹² Liu Zhi – the Historian of the Tang Dynasty, author of the political book “*Zheng Dian*” 政典 (Foundational Source for Affairs Management)

¹³ Wang Pu – the historian, chief adviser to the Later Zhou dynasty (876-905).

¹⁴ Tai Zu is the founder of the Song dynasty (r. 960-976).

¹⁵ Wu dai (907-960) is the name of a period in the history of China of five successive dynasties.

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other historians (*Liu Mau-Tsai* 2006: 115). The composition was composed in the genre of "shi shu" (史书 "historical literature, also translated as a history textbook"). However, the structures are characterized as "huiyao", a type of historical writing that describes the institutional aspect of the dynasty.

We find information about the relationship between the peoples of Central Asia and China in the 32nd and 34th *juan*. For example, there is information about the music of the peoples of the Western, Southern and Northern regions in the sections "Xi rong wu gong le" (西戎五國樂 "Music of the Western Turkic peoples") "Nanman zhu guo le" (南蠻諸國樂 "Music Southern Peoples") "Bei di sanguo le" (北狄三國樂 "Music of the three Northern states Di") [Tang huiyao (Shang, xia ce), 1978, E. 4876]. In the 72nd *juan* there is information about the trade of Tibetan horses in the section "Zhu fan ma yin" (諸蕃馬印 "All about Tibetan horses"). There is information on prices, quantities and demand for horses. In the 94th *Juan* there is information about the relationship between the tribes of the northern Turks in the section "Bei tujue" (北突厥 "Northern Turks"), Western Turks in the section ("Xi tujue" 西突厥), the Turks-shato "Shatuo tujue" (沙陀突厥 "Turki-shato") and Tagone¹⁶ in the section "Tu yu hun" (吐谷渾 "Togon"). In the 100th *juan*, the information is given about trade and ambassadorial relations, which continued with various states: Gaochan¹⁷ in the section "Gaochang" (高昌 "Gaochan") (*Borovkova* 1992: 79), Qidan¹⁸ in the "Qidan" section (契丹 "Qidan"), Shiwei¹⁹ in the "Shiwei" section (室韋 "Shiwei"), Tiele²⁰ in the "Tiele" section (鐵勒 "Tiele"), Xueyantuo²¹ in the "Xueyantuo" section 薛延陀 "Xueyantuo"), Tufan²² in the section "Tufan" (吐蕃 "Tubo"), Uyghurs in the section "Huihe" (迴紇 "Uygur"), tanguts²³ in the section "Dang" (黨 "Tanguts"), Tokharistan²⁴ in the section "Tuhuolu" (吐火羅國 "Taharistan"), Jibin²⁵ in the "Jibinguo" section (罽賓國 "Jibin"), Kamchatka in the "Liuguiguo" section (流鬼國 "Land of Wandering Ghosts"), Shigo in the "Shiguo" section (史國 "Shakhrisabz"²⁶), Bosi in the section "Bosi" (波斯國 "Persia"), Tian²⁷ in the section "Tianguo" (天國 "India"), Gelulu²⁸ in the section "Gelolu" (葛羅祿 "Gelulu") and Dashi in the section "Dashiguo" (大食國 "Arabia"). It also provides general information on the regions where these peoples live and what role they play in China's foreign policy (*Ganiev* 2010: 276).

After the fall of the Tang dynasty, China was divided between the Hou Liang²⁹, Hou Tang,³⁰ Hou Jin³¹, Hou Han³² and Hou Zhou³³ dynasties (*Couling* 1917: 98.). During the period of unrest and internecine wars, the history of China was poorly covered in terms of official confirmed data. Wang Pu continued his research and wrote the book "Wu dai huiyao" (五代會要 "Consolidated Review of the "Five Dynasties" period") and finished work in 961 (*Ganiev* 2010: 276).

The book reports that the five kingdoms divided northern and central China between themselves, while the other parts were in the possession of ten smaller independent states. This composition was also written in the "shi shu" genre and compiled according to the "huiyao" type.

¹⁶ Tagone (284-670) is the Tibetan name for the state of Tuyuyhun.

¹⁷ Gaochang (440-640) an ancient military colony founded by the Hunnic rulers which turned into Buddhism center.

¹⁸ Kidanes (907-1125) – the tribes of the Mongolian group, in ancient times roaming the territory of modern Inner Mongolia and the Mongolian People's Republic.

¹⁹ Shiwei (544-847) – the ancient Mongolian tribes (nomads) who lived in eastern Mongolia, parts of Inner Mongolia and northern Manchuria (up to the Sea of Okhotsk).

²⁰ Tiele (546-840) – the tribal confederation of Turkic ethnic groups living in Central Asia. Also called Tholos.

²¹ Xueyantuo (605-646) – the ancient Turkic people, one of the largest of the fifteen Uighur tribes.

²² Tufan (633-842) – the dynasty that ruled in the territory of modern Tibet.

²³ Tangutes (982-1227) – the people of the Tibeto-Burmese group who created the state of Xi Xia in northern China in 1038.

²⁴ Takharistan is the name of the historical and cultural region on the territory of the southern part of Tajikistan, the southern part of Uzbekistan and the northern part of Afghanistan.

²⁵ Jibin (115-758) is the name of the state that arose near the Kabul River, Afghanistan.

²⁶ Shakhrisabz is the ancient state on the territory of Uzbekistan.

²⁷ Tian – the ancient Asian kingdom on the territory of modern India, the limits and boundaries of which have changed significantly at different times.

²⁸ Gelulu (644-1211) – the Turkic tribe, consisting of 3 clans; rose in the VIII century. after the collapse of the Turkic Khaganate.

²⁹ Hou Liang (907-923) – Late Liang dynasty, the first of the five dynasties of the "Five Dynasties and Ten Kingdoms" era in China. Founded by Zhu Wen,

³⁰ Hou Tang (923-937) – Late Tang dynasty, the second of the five dynasties of the "Five Dynasties and Ten Kingdoms" era in China. Founded by Li Cunxu.

³¹ Hou Jin (936-947) – Late Jin dynasty, the third of the five dynasties of the "Five Dynasties and Ten Kingdoms" era in China. Founded by Shi Jingtang.

³² Hou Han (947-950) – Late Han Dynasty, the fourth of the five dynasties of the Five Dynasties and Ten Kingdoms era in China. Founded by Liu Zhiyuan.

³³ Hou Zhou (951-960) – Late Zhou dynasty, the fifth of the five dynasties of the "Five Dynasties and Ten Kingdoms" era in China.

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"Wu dai huiyao" consists of 30 *juan*, which are numbered consecutively and called "Wu dai fang yao" (五代防要 "Desire to protect the Five Dynasties"). Each chapter contains information about the relationship between the peoples of Central Asia and China (Kradin 2014: 128).

For example, in references to the external threat from 907 to 960. Information is always given about the Khitan raids on the territory of China. All five dynasties sent tribute through ambassadors in the form of several thousand rolls of silk. Also, in the sections on the Hou Jin dynasty, it is said that they officially considered themselves vassals of the Khitan and annually sent 30 thousand rolls of silk materials in tribute.

In addition to official writings, there are also works that were considered private for a long time, but after a while they were officially recognized. One of such works is "Jiu Wu dai shi" (旧五代史 "Old Chronicle of the Five Dynasty period") and "Xin Wu dai shi" (新五代史 "New Chronicle of the Five Dynasty"). Both works were composed in the "zheng shi" genre. "Ju Wu dai shi" contains the most information about the emergence of states and protection from external neighbors (Liu Mau-Tsai 2006: 120). The author of the book, Xue Juzheng³⁴, completed the work in 973-974. It consists of 150 *juans* and describes the period from 907-960. (Kuehner 1961: 14).

Information about the relationship between the peoples of Central Asia and China is in *juans* dedicated to the five dynasties of the Wu Dai period.

For example, the *juan* "Juan sanshier (Tang shu)" (卷三十二 (唐书) "The 32nd volume of the Later Tang Dynasty") in the section "Zhuangzong Ji Liu" (庄宗纪六 "Sixth record of the ancestor") refers to the Turkic ambassadors, who arrived at the court of the Late Tang Dynasty with days of local products.

After that, it is reported that relations between the late Tang dynasty and various Turkic tribes became warm. For example, in the *juan* "Juan sanshijiu (tang shu)" (卷三十九 (唐书) "Volume 39 of the Later Tang Dynasty"), section "Ming zong ji wu" (明宗纪五 "Emperor Ming zong, fifth record") data on invitations to the court of the Turkic elders already from the Late Tang dynasty.

However, the Turkic tribes had an active foreign policy not only from the Late Tang dynasty. For example, in the *juan* "Juan bashi (Jin shu)" (卷八十 (晋书) "80th volume on the Jin dynasty"), section "Gao zu ji liu" (高祖纪六 "The sixth entry on Gao zu") contains information about sending Turkic ambassadors to the court of the Hou Jin dynasty.

Another work, "Xin Wu dai shi" (新五代史 "The New History of the Five Dynasties"), was also considered private. The author of the book, Ouyang Xiu³⁵, corrected the shortcomings in the text and reduced it to 75 *juans*. Both works were officially recognized in 1077 (Flug 1959: 56).

Information about the relationship between the peoples of Central Asia, the data in both sources is very rich, since the dynasties of the Wu dai period tried to maintain their sovereignty by gathering as many allies as possible. [Liu Mau-Tsai, 2006, s. 121]. Also, if in "Jiu Wu dai" shi there is more information about the Turkic tribes, then "Xin Wu dai shi" paid equal attention to the rest of the peoples of Central Asia.

For example, in the *juan* "Liang benji dier" (梁本纪第二 "the second record of the Later Lian dynasty"), it is said that Khitan envoys were sent to the court (you need to know where).

In relation to the Uighurs, an active foreign policy was also conducted. For example, the *juan* "Tang benji di wu" (唐本纪第五 "fifth record of the Later Tang Dynasty") refers to the dispatch of Uyghur envoys to the court of the Later Tang Dynasty.

Each of these books was very voluminous and informative, in connection with which it became necessary to create an encyclopedia "Cefu yuan gui" (册府元龟 "Collection of books of the big turtle"), the materials of which are presented in various thematic headings (Flug 1959: 60). The composition was assigned the genre "lei shu" (类书 "subject reference book, encyclopedia").

The commission of historiographers headed by Wang Qin³⁶ worked on the compilation of the encyclopedia consisting of 1000 *juans* in 1005-1013 from 1047 BC to 960 AD and (Couling 1917: 154). It extensively covers the history of relations between China and the peoples of the Khitan, Turks and Shato³⁷.

For example, in the *juan* "Sanshiqi, Diwan bu" (卷三十七, 帝王部 "volume-37, department of the monarch"), section "Songde" (颂德 "virtue"), it is said that Turkic ambassadors were sent to the Sui court with gifts in the form of thoroughbred horses.

³⁴ Xue Juzheng - historian, statesman of the Song Dynasty (912-981).

³⁵ Ouyang Xiu is a Chinese statesman, historiographer, essayist and poet of the Song Dynasty (1007-1072).

³⁶ Wang Qin - Chief Minister of the Northern Song State (962-1025).

³⁷ Shato-Turks (600-907) are the Turkic nomadic people, descendants of the Central Asian Huns.

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Also in *juan* "Ibailiu shi si Diwan bu" (卷一百六 四, 帝王部 "volume-164, department of the monarch") section "Zhao huai dier" (招怀第二 "call for a hug, part two") speaks of sending Turkic ambassadors to various emperors from the Tang Dynasty with the days for the purpose of settling relations.

Messages about Khitan ambassadors sent to conclude trade and diplomatic relations with the Tang Dynasty are in the *juan* "Ba, Diwan Bu" (卷八, 帝王部 "Volume-8, Department of the Monarch"), section "Chuangye disi" (创业第四 Entrepreneurship, Part Four).

If the previous peoples had more equal diplomatic relations, then the Shato Turks were a little dependent on the Tang dynasty. For example, in the *juan* "Yibai Qishi, Diwan Bu" (卷一百七十 帝王部 "Volume-170, Department of the Monarch") 帝王部, the section "Lai Yuan" (来远 "to go far") refers to the Shato Turks whose Fan Xi Zhao³⁸ settled in Yanzhou by order of the emperor of the Tang Dynasty after a crushing defeat by the Tibetans. It is also said that for their bravery, the emperor allowed the founding of the Yinshanfu region and appointed their leader Zhuye Zhiyi as commander in this area.

During the Song Dynasty, the study of history was again continued. During the period of the South Song state, the official and historian Sima Guang wrote his main essay – the work on the history of China called "Zizhi tong jian" (资治通鉴 "Universal mirror, helping the government") (Crespigny 1973: 35). Covers eleven periods of Chinese history, including the Sui Dynasty, Tang Dynasty, and Five Dynasties (403 BC to 960 AD), with the total history of sixteen dynasties. The 7294-volume chronicle contains about three million hieroglyphs and is written in the style of an edifying and instructive textbook (Bo 2001: 501). With the support of Emperor Shenzong³⁹, Sima Guang created a group of famous scholars of the time, such as Liu Bang⁴⁰, Liu Shu⁴¹, Fan Zui⁴², and others, each of whom was responsible for writing the respective chapters. Information about the relationship between the peoples of Central Asia and China in the 7th-10th centuries is given in the sections on some peoples (Yap 2009: 187).

One of such peoples is the Turks or various tribal unions of the Turks. For example, in the seventh *juan* "Sui ji" (隋纪 "Record of Sui"), it is said that a rebellion was raised with the aim of a coup in the country during the reign of Emperor Yan Di⁴³. Liu Wu Zhou⁴⁴ sent ambassadors to the Turkic Khaganate, asking for vassalage and assistance against the rebels (Crespigny 1973: 30). Information about the arrival of many Chinese ambassadors from different kingdoms and states to the Shibir Kagan in order to attract the Kagan to their side begins with the first *juan* "Tang Ji" (唐纪 "Record of Tang"). The growing power of the Turkic Khaganate is reported, examples of the subjugation of the Khitan and Turfans are given (Bo 2001: 503). The same information is given in the third *juan* "Tang ji" (唐纪 "Record of Tang"), which refers to the attacks of the Shibir Kagan on the Tang possessions in the western border region. They also meet about Liu Wu-Zhou, who helped organize the recruitment of troops from the inhabitants into the Turkic army. It is also said about the Turfans, who, after a long exchange of ambassadors, nevertheless began to pay tribute to the Western Turkic Khaganate. Further, there is a description of the struggle of the Western Turks with the Northern, information is given about the arrival of the ambassadors of the Western Turks in Chang'an⁴⁵ with a request for assistance against the Northern ones (Ji 2003: 29). There is information about the petition of the hand of the Chinese princesses by the Turkic tribes. Information about the marriage contracts of Il-khagan⁴⁶ is in the fifth *juan* "Tang ji" (唐纪 "Records of Tang"). The Kagan of the Western Turkic Khaganate Tun-Jabguhan⁴⁷ also sent ambassadors to ask the hand of the Chinese princess. This is reported in the seventh *juan* Tang Ji (唐纪 Records of Tang) (Yap 2009: 188). The information about the state of Karashar⁴⁸ in the thirteenth *juan* "Tang ji" (唐纪 "Records of Tang") says that they were subordinate to the Western Turkic Khaganate and that only the marriage union between the Karashar princess with the younger brother of Chulikhhan⁴⁹ improved the situation and allowed trade and ambassadorial relations to be revived.

³⁸ Fan Xi Zhao - Jiedushi (commander) of Yanzhou (years unknown)

³⁹ Shen zong - the sixth Chinese emperor of the Song dynasty (r. 1067-1085).

⁴⁰ Liu Bang is the famous historian of the Song Dynasty period (1022-1088).

⁴¹ Liu Shu – the historian, head of Sichuan province (1032-1078).

⁴² Fan Zui is the historian, poet, scholar and writer of the Song Dynasty period (1041-1098).

⁴³ Yan Di – the second emperor of the Chinese Sui dynasty (r. 605-617).

⁴⁴ Liu Wu Zhou – the Chinese commander, staged a mutiny and went over to the side of the Turkic Khaganate (r. 617-620).

⁴⁵ Chang'an (206 BC-1234 AD) is a now nonexistent town in China, the ancient capital of several Chinese states. It was the destination of trade caravans that went along the Great Silk Road to China.

⁴⁶ Il Kagan is the founder of the Turkic Khaganate (r. 682-693).

⁴⁷ Jabguhan is the fifth khagan of the western Turkic khaganate (city of pr. 618 - 630).

⁴⁸ Karashar (75-719) – the ancient Buddhist city-state of Karashar (which means "black city").

⁴⁹ Chulikhhan – the high-ranking official of the Western Turkic Khaganate.

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In the fourteenth *juan* "Tang Ji" (唐纪 "Records of Tang"), it is reported about the Shibir Khagan⁵⁰, who declared himself the great khagan and expressed a desire to continue relations with the Tang court. In the twentieth *juan* "Tang Ji" (唐纪 "Records of Tang"), information about negotiations with Muohon is reflected, who sent ambassadors with gifts in the form of thoroughbred horses, and in return asked for a Tang princess as his wife.

And in the thirtieth *juan*, "Tang ji" (唐纪 "Records of Tang"), it is said about after by the name of Fu, who offered to submit to the Tang court (Ji 2003: 30). There is also a lot of information about the Uighurs. For example, in the fortieth, forty-first, forty-fourth, forty-ninth *juan* "Tang ji" (唐纪 "Records of Tang"), full information is given, facts are given about the emergence of the Uighur state, about their trade and ambassadorial relations with the Tang court (Yap 2009: 188). The main commodities for sale were horses, which were priced at forty *lians*⁵¹ in the market. Trade and ambassadorial relations were maintained by constant gifts sent to the palace to the emperor. Further information is supplemented by facts about a thousand ambassadors who were sent to the palace. These ambassadors were allowed to trade with China, but demanded to wear only national clothes, organize exhibitions about their cultural values and not marry Chinese women (Benn 2002: 65). The Uyghurs, seeing the interest from the Tang court in cultural peculiarities, send many Uyghur women to the court. At the end, information is given about the reasons for the rupture of warm relations and how both sides collected intelligence materials about the area.

In the essay, in addition to information about the Turkic and Uighur peoples, there is information about relationships with other peoples.

Sima Guang compiled "Zizhi tong jian" within the framework of strict academic standards and even compiled a separate work Kao Yi (考义 Research). This is a kind of a guide to numerous sources and reasons for their preference. In 1084, both works were completed (Crespigny 1973: 27).

During the Qing Dynasty, the collection of complete vaults was also resumed. The works of "Gujin tushu jicheng" 古今图书集成 ("Complete collection of books of antiquity and modernity" or "Complete collection of ancient and modern books") was written in the traditional Leishu⁵² genre, including the events of the 7th-10th centuries. (Liu Mau-Tsai 2006: 93). It is the first national encyclopedia of China that has survived to this day in full, and the largest of the paper ones currently existing on Earth. The main text contains 10,000 *juans* and about 160 million hieroglyphs (Couling 1917: 157). In 1701, Chen Menglei⁵³, by order of the Kangxi⁵⁴ Emperor, began compiling a large encyclopedia. In 1726, the work was completed, the emperor approved it and wrote a preface. In 1728, 64 sets of an encyclopedia were printed under the title "Qingding Gujin Tushu Jicheng" (钦定古今图书集成 "The highest established complete collection of books of antiquity and modernity" (Ibid).

In contrast to the Yongle⁵⁵ phonetic system, "Gujin Tushu Jicheng" is built on the principle of rubricating and is divided into six collections: Celestial bodies; Earth; Judgments about peoples; Natural science; Humanitarian sciences; Board affairs (Ibid).

Information about the relationship between the peoples of Central Asia and China is in the *juan* "Fangyu Huibian" (方輿汇编 "Composing about the Earth") in the section "Bianyi dian" (边裔典 "Border laws"), which reports on trade and ties in China with India and the Kingdom of Khotan⁵⁶ VII-X centuries. In the *juan* "Ming lun huibian" (明伦汇编 "Judgments about people") in the section "Zong ren fu" (宗人府 "Ministry of Court Affairs") there is information comparing the envoys of the Central Asian region of the Tang and Ming⁵⁷ epochs. In the *juan* "Li xue huibian" (理学汇编 "Humanities") in the section "Jingji dian" (经籍典 "Canonical literature") there is information about the historical geography of the Central Asian region (Wang Yin 1987: 54).

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, we can say that these Chinese written sources relating to the history of the VII-X centuries were translated by already well-known scientists. However, many scientists who have worked with these written sources have studied them in relation to places related to the history of certain peoples of Central Asia. Few people have worked exclusively in the field of relations between the peoples of Central Asia and China. Therefore, it has become quite imaginative for us to collect already studied or not studied information about relationships for researchers in order to speed up their research. Also, the sinologists

⁵⁰ Shibir Khagan is the second khagan of the Eastern Turkic Khaganate (r. 609-619).

⁵¹ Lian – in the source it is stated as a banknote of the Tang Dynasty period.

⁵² Leishu – the genre that implied an Encyclopedia of 100 sections. Contains excerpts from many works, arranged under specific sections or topics.

⁵³ Chen Menglei is the historian and mentor of Yinjing, Crown Prince of the Ming Dynasty (1543-1605).

⁵⁴ Kangxi is the fourth representative of the Manchu Qing dynasty (r. 1661-1723).

⁵⁵ Yongle is the largest non-electronic encyclopedia in the history of mankind. Created by order of the Chinese Emperor Yongle.

⁵⁶ Khotan (66-1001) was the state on the Great Silk Road, located on the southern edge of the Taklamakan Desert in the Khotan oasis.

⁵⁷ Ming (1368-1644) – the dynasty that ruled in China.

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and orientalists listed in the article convey to the researcher a not very clear picture of the place of the information in written sources. since today there are many versions of editions of these works, it is difficult to determine what data is given and where they are. In the article, it is prudent to find the location in a clearer way, despite the publications.

As for the article itself, not all-important sources are collected here. The most important works "Ju Tang Shu" and "Xin Tang Shu" are missing, which tell in more detail about the history of the Tang Dynasty. since there is a lot of information, the volume of the article does not allow us to expand to a monograph, and therefore these works were published in the form of another separate article.

We hope our work will accelerate the work of other researchers studying the relationship between the peoples of Central Asia and China, which is the main goal.

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