

**KOMILBOBOTEPA CASTLE FORTIFICATION**

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Abstract

This article is devoted to the defense fortification of the Komilbobotepa fortress, which is part of the defensive chain system of the Qaliyatepa archaeological monument, which is the ancient site of the city of Jizzakh, and is scientifically analyzed based on the material sources obtained as a result of archaeological research.

Keywords: Kamilbobotepa, defensive wall, materials, platform, straw wall, primary source, drainage layer, cultural layer.

Introduction

During the great migration of peoples, many Turkic herding tribes entered the vast areas between the Syrdarya and Amudarya from the north and north-east. Due to the lack of pastures in the two river basins for the large number of livestock, the settlement of nomadic and semi-nomadic people in the vast steppe and foothills regions increased. As a result, the need for fertile lands increased more and more. In such a situation, large areas of land were developed by draining water into reserves and gray lands. The activity of clan and tribal chiefs as leaders of these works increased. As a result, in addition to transferring water and fertile lands to their possession, the main thing is to gain control over water distribution, and they had the opportunity to exert their pressure on the villagers. In this way, he begins to rule over the villagers. That is why in the early Middle Ages they were known as “peasant”, i.e. “village mayor”[1].

During this period, the construction of buildings such as castles and fortresses was developed in order to protect the social influence of peasants, life and property from enemies[2]. In most of these rural areas, the castles are two-story high and reach the top via a special ramp - a ramp. Due to the natural-geographical location, traditional raw bricks and straw were widely used in construction.

Methods

The article is written on the basis of generally accepted historical methods - historicity, comparative-logical analysis, chronological, objectivity principles, it highlights the features of construction technology and defense system of Komilbobotepa fortress.

Research Paper

In early medieval architecture, construction ideas, engineering solutions and patterns of architectural style were implemented based on their local characteristics from each historical oasis - Sogd, Ustrushona, Chog, Fergana and other regions.



During this period, especially in the 5th-6th centuries, great importance was attached to the defense structures and fortifications of urban and rural areas. It was also created in the cultural oases of the entire Central Asia, in particular, the country of Ustrushona. Defensive walls and towers were erected in almost all buildings.

The natural climate and geographical location of Central Asia caused the platform, which is considered the foundation of building structures in architecture, to rise from perfectly baked clay. Although such foot stools were used in antiquity, their widespread use in the literal sense dates back to the early Middle Ages[3].

Platforms were mainly used in the plain regions of Central Asia. V.A. Nielsen defines a platform as “the main component of buildings constructed separately in a given area”[4]. Based on these considerations, the platform can be considered the most important and integral part of the architecture of the early feudal period. Therefore, when studying the monuments of the fortresses located in the Jizzakh oasis - Komilbobotepa, Pardakultepa[5], Rasulboykultepa[6], Jumabobotepa[7], Yaqubbotepa[8] - it was found that all the defensive walls were built not on the platform, but on the mainland. The central buildings of Pardakultepa and Komilbobotepa, which have been fully studied archeologically, are raised on a platform 1.5-1.8 meters high.

In this article, we will try to express our thoughts about the characteristics of the defense structures of rural areas of the Ustrushona country in the early Middle Ages, their creation and development. For this purpose, we will use the results of the archeological research conducted in the Komilbobotepa fortress.

The largest and most important urban monument of the early Middle Ages in northwestern Ustrushona, the administrative and cultural center of that time Qal'atepa (IV-VI centuries) has been opened and studied. It is necessary to continue research on this topic in order to determine the unity of the Jizzakh oasis in the construction and material culture of rural areas. . For this reason, excavations were carried out in another early medieval monument of the oasis - Komilbobotepa fortress (Fig. 1). Komilbobotepa castle is located on the east side of Qaliya-Molkanlik neighborhood in Jizzakh, 525 meters west of Qaliyatepa, 1000 meters north-east of Pardakultepa, on the side of the main road. This monument, like Pardakultepa, has two steps and has a trapezoidal appearance. It is 115 meters long in the north-south direction. The southern lower part of the monument is 45 meters wide and 2.0-2.5 meters high, the northern upper part is 70 meters wide and 7.0 meters high. The central construction buildings of Komilbobotepa are located under a distinct square hill at this height, the dimensions of which are 25-22 meters (Fig. 2).



Figure 1. Space photo of Komilbotopepa Castle.

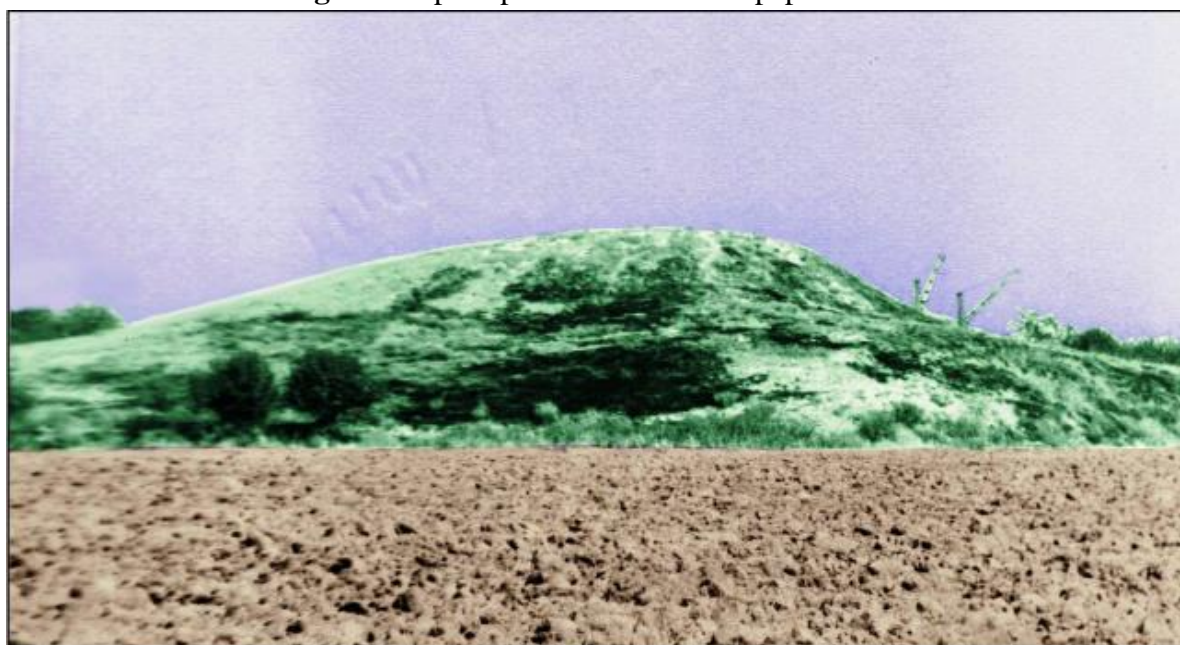


Figure 2. South-east view of Komilbotopepa.

On the northern side of Komilbotopepa, at a distance of 28-30 meters, there is a separate small hill. In the local language, Komilbobotep was called "child". This complex is rectangular in shape, extending in the north-south direction, its dimensions are 32x10 meters, and its height is 2 meters.



This wonderful monument was named Komilbobotepa-1 by M.Kh.Pardaev and was interpreted as a separate economic part (stable, barn) of the Komilbobotepa fortress in VII-VIII centuries.

Preliminary excavations were carried out in the central part of the castle-upper step and a number of residential and economic rooms were opened. In the construction of the Kamilbobotepa fortress, pakhsa and raw bricks were used. Residential rooms in the center of the castle complex, farm rooms in the southern and western parts. There is a hotel in the eastern part. The walls of the rooms are raised from mature straw, the top is in the form of a dome, and the large rooms are closed in the traditional flat way.

The layout design of the rooms of the Komilbobotepa castle has an individual character. Because if we analyze the castle project, we can see a number of "composite" methods and elements in it. For example, the location of the eastern and northern buildings and rooms 1, 3, 4, and 7 can be described as a circular corridor (corridor), which was widely used in early medieval architecture. Also, in the construction of western rooms 8-9, which have not yet been fully explored, the method of comb-shaped corridors was used (Fig. 3). The castle buildings are traditionally made of straw, raw bricks and composite walls made of yellowish clay. Raw bricks are rectangular in shape, dimensions 48x24x10; 46x23x10; 42x25x10; 40x22(23)x10 cm. Bricks prepared in such a mold were used on a large scale in the construction of the V-VIII centuries in the cultural oases of Ustrushona and neighboring Sogd Shosh-Ilaq, Fergana. Wooden materials were mainly used when the top of large rooms was closed in a flat position. The level (floor) of the castle rooms is in most cases thinly plastered with fine straw clay. Due to the fact that the plastering of the house surface is repeated for a certain time, the floor has a multi-layered appearance[9].

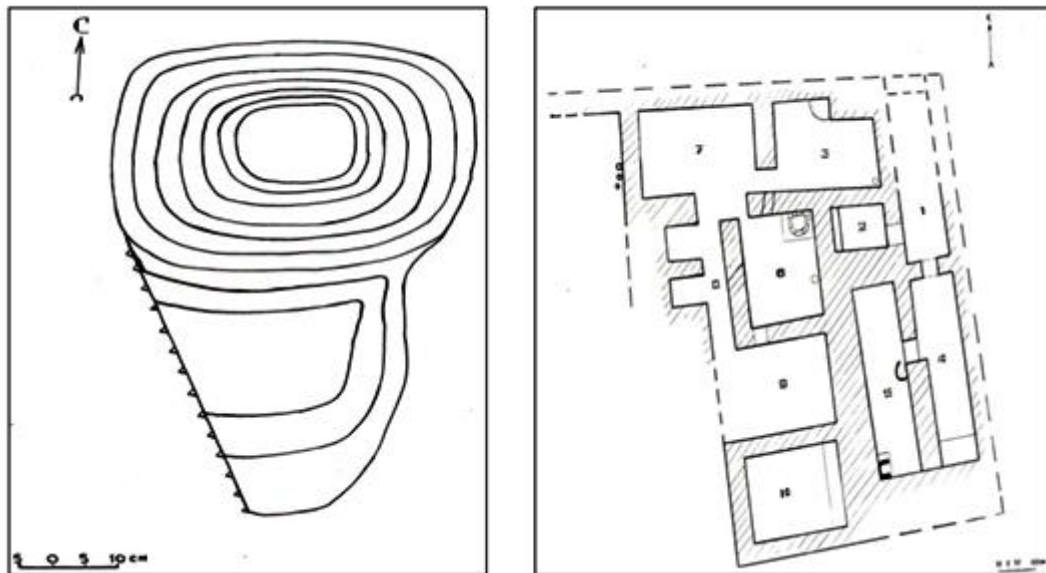


Figure 3. History of construction and architectural construction of Komilbobotepa castle.

The analysis of the findings shows that the Komilbobotepa fortress had a powerful defensive wall. According to the analysis of archeological research conducted in Komilbobotepa fortress, the central gate of the fortress was in its eastern part. On both sides of the gate, there were two military bastions made of straw and raw bricks in the "Choparasta" method. In the northern part of the monument, stratigraphic cutting was conducted under the guidance of archaeologist M.Pardaev to study the stratigraphy of the Komilbobotepa fortress and its defensive walls. According to the results of the



survey, the Komilbobotepa fortress was built in the VI century and functioned until the first quarter of the VIII century, that is, until the period when the Arab conquest was in full swing.

The defensive walls surrounded Komilbobotep and consisted of a hillock. The walls were well preserved until our time, but during the period of plowing, a part of them was pushed away. Therefore, the dimensions of the walls are not perfect. The walls are raised monolithically from mature thatch. The width of its preserved lower level is 3.10 meters. Its preserved width on the upper level is 1.75 meters. The preserved height of the walls is more than 3 meters. At the back of the defensive wall, a fallen layer of straw pieces of almost 1.5 meters was noted. Accordingly, it can be said that the height of the fortress defense walls was not less than 5 meters. The defensive wall was built in a monolithic way. To build the wall, soil was taken from outside the castle and a moat was naturally created around it.

Conclusion

Komilbobotepa Kaliyatepa city was created and functioned as one of the towns of the defense chain. The monument was the building of a rich farmer engaged in agriculture. Academician A.Muhammadjonov admits that noble farmers lived in buildings like the Komilbobotepa fortress, located in the area of irrigation networks, and in smaller fortresses, agricultural laborers lived and defended themselves from the enemy. Undoubtedly, the castle, castle, fortress and palaces built by the requirements of the complex socio-economic and political life of the early Middle Ages mainly served as a defense structure against external enemies, a place for the gathering of the military garrison, an administrative center, and a storehouse for storing food and weapons. Komilbobotepa castle was not exempted from such historical processes.

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