# **Akhsikent Earthquake**

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**Annotation:** This article describes the history, culture and art of Aksikent, the ancient capital of the Fergana Valley, the scientists who contributed to the development of our spirituality, earthquakes and various natural disasters.

**Keywords:** natural disaster, earthquake, art, culture, awakening period, Turkish language, emergency, tourism, open-air museum, seismologist.

### Introduction

Humanity has experienced many natural disasters, calamities and calamities throughout its long history. Many drew the appropriate conclusions from these and were in the process of taking action. One such catastrophe that makes human beings helpless is an earthquake. Human power is powerless to stop or reverse this catastrophe. During the study of the history of earthquakes, seismologists, along with the study of its complications, determine the intensity, center (epicenter), distance, direction. At the same time, they describe the measures to be prepared for any emergency.

# Materials and methods

According to UNESCO, the earthquake ranks first among natural disasters in terms of economic damage and human casualties. It is known in written sources that there have been many catastrophic and terrible earthquakes in the history of mankind. This is evidenced by the city of Pompeii in Greece, the legendary "Troy City" under the ocean in Turkey, the ruins of Akhsikent, the capital of Fergana, and others.

Of course, Uzbekistan is located in a seismically dangerous region. It is known that in history, strong earthquakes occurred in the territory of modern Uzbekistan. For example, in the month of Shawwal, 224 AH, in August 839 A.D., in the city of Fergana (in the IX century, and even in the XI century, the city of Akhsikent was called the city of Fergana). The magnitude of the quake was estimated at 8-9.

Many such terrible earthquakes have been recorded in the history of our country. For example, in Bukhara (818), Fergana (838, 1822, 1829), Khorezm (1208, 1209), Samarkand (1490, 1602, 1797, 1798), Gazli (1976, 1980) and others. In Tashkent alone, four level earthquakes (1868, 1924, 1966, and 1980) were recorded. Everyone remembers that the earthquake of 1966 was especially strong, caused a lot of damage and the city was rebuilt to be more prosperous.

Various legends and myths about earthquakes have been written in the history of mankind. It is known from history that in the coverage of the history of the post-Islamic period in the Islamic world, reference is made to sources written mainly in Arabic and Persian. Muslim historians have written about the scientific, sociopolitical, economic, historical, in short, all aspects of human life in the Islamic world, including the animal and plant kingdoms, terrestrial and celestial phenomena, the heavens and the earth, the universe, in short, everything that humankind thinks about. In particular, some Muslim historians have made great efforts to describe in detail the history of earthquakes in Islamic countries, important information about the quality and severity of these earthquakes. In addition to providing historical information, they expressed their desire to take possible measures, albeit partially. Engineers who have studied the aftermath of earthquakes are now struggling to build earthquake-resistant buildings.

Of course, the construction of non-seismic structures in modern times significantly increases the risk to human life during this disaster. It is natural that a weak economy and poor preparation of the population for a natural disaster will aggravate the situation.

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#### Results

We know that many years of research and historical sources state that as a result of an earthquake in 1621 in the capital of ancient Fergana, more than 70 developed towns and villages in the Fergana Valley were almost completely destroyed. In particular, the aftermath of the earthquake in Akhsikent is the result of a very strong earthquake, during which archeological excavations and the remains of buildings preserved on the slopes of the cliffs of the monument, and various human bones were piled up. Also, as we have witnessed in some places of the cultural strata in the area of the monument, the presence of what appears to be under the mainland is due to the magnitude of the earthquake, even lava erupted underground and cracks appeared in some parts of the land.

In particular, the strong earthquake of the Akhsiikent earthquake caused cracks in the ground and the release of various amounts of water, turbidity, gas, gravel and other layers from almost all layers of the subsoil. This means that there was an earthquake of at least 10-12 on the Rexter scale. From the destruction of all the ancient structures in the Fergana Valley, it is clear that the Akhsikent earthquake occurred in a very terrible way. There is no trace of the cities named in ancient manuscripts. The fact that the location of cities and the coordinates of their names were determined very precisely by our scholars and thinkers, as well as by Arab travelers and geographers, in turns proves that there was an earthquake in the early 17th century. This cause distances between the ruins of such medieval cities as Akhsikent, Margilan, Osh, Kubo, Bob, Kasan, Hoqand, which correspond to the distances and coordinates between the cities in the modern age of technology, prove that the city of the same name. We were also able to study the ancient manuscript sources by the teacher of source Alijon Vahidov and find the ancient names of the existing remains of the city under the name of archeological monuments preserved in modern times. The distances between Vonkas, Shikit, Haylam, and other similar cities were also determined by comparing the ancient coordinates and their present location.

The city of Aksi was devastated by a strong earthquake in 1621. Sayyid Muhammad Tahir ibn Abdul Qasim, a well-known geographer and naturalist from Kasansay, wrote about this in 1640 in his book "Ajoyib at-tabaqat" ("Wonders of the regions"), dedicated to Nadir Muhammad, one of the rulers of Movarounnahr. The author of the work saw the consequences of the earthquake with his own eyes and described it as follows: Large trees were uprooted and fell to the ground. Buildings were severely and frequently destroyed by earthquakes, leaving many people trapped under collapsed buildings. Many people had their limbs broken, and the animals fled into the fields in fear. The noble black people decided that this event was a divine sign, and each man repented of his sins and begged the god to forgive him.

Such terrible earthquakes were repeated for six months. On the first day, the number of earthquakes went up to 70 times. Interestingly, the strongest earthquake was in the Aksi Fortress, which was not so strong in the surrounding villages. It was weaker in the surrounding villages, and not a single tree (8 km) away from the city. "In this description, the author describes the events he witnessed.

## **Discussion**

Various oral legends and puzzling questions about the existence of the earthquake and its mysterious state are still of interest to people to this day. That is why the earthquake was only in the city itself and why it was shaken so strongly. If we look at the natural and scientific aspects of an earthquake, similar earthquakes have occurred in other cities and caused devastation. Earthquakes are naturally occurring tectonic earthquakes that occur as a result of the rapid movement of minerals, such as oil or gas, hot water lavas from one place to another. A similar tectonic earthquake occurred in Axikent, where various underground minerals and chemicals moved slowly in a vertical position through cracks that had formed over several years, that is, they hit a point. The closeness of this process to reality was demonstrated by the recent eruption of the Mingbulak oil field on March 2, 1992, in an area relatively close to the city of Akhsikent. Of course, the main role in the extraction of oil was played by exploration and drilling of oil wells. The only thing that can be said is that the strong earthquake in Akhsikent was characterized by the existence of the subsurface at that time and the idea that such a tectonic earthquake would occur as a result of its strong movement took place in later times.

After this strong earthquake, the survivors were forced to move to other places for fear of living near the ruined city of Akhsikent, i.e. the city. Some also began living in the nearby villages of Shahand and Aksi.

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But in the place of the city to date there has been no developed state as a city and no population. In other words, at the beginning of the 17th century, the city of Akhsikent, which had flourished, became a ruined city. In later periods, ie from the end of the XVII century to the beginning of the XX century, the city of Aksi is found in written sources as a village-volost. In order to ensure the implementation of the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated October 16, 2017 831 "On the establishment of a memorial complex for the protection and study of the object of archeological heritage" Akhsikent "in Turakurgan district of Namangan region." Currently, a tourist trip to this open-air museum is organized. Visitors have a perfect knowledge of the history of the ancient city of Akhsikent and the physical evidence found during the excavations.

## Conclusion

The scientific study of ancient manuscript sources, the proof of which city or fortress the archeological monuments preserved in the Fergana Valley belong to, first of all, means an objective study of the history of Uzbekistan. Such processes, along with the implementation of the Resolution of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated April 16, 2020 No 4680 "On measures to radically improve the system of training in the field of Oriental Studies and increase scientific capacity", is important to prove that we are heirs.

## **Confirmation**

Studying our ancient manuscripts and other scientific heritage preserved abroad and translating them from Arabic and Persian into Uzbek would be useful for representatives of various fields of scientific research.

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