

Fighting For The Religious Identity Of The People Of Mavaronnahr And Their Historical Heroes

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Abstract: This article explores the struggles of the people of Mavaronnahr (present-day Uzbekistan and surrounding regions) to preserve their religious and cultural identity during the Arab and Mongol invasions. It highlights the difficulties faced by the local population in accepting Islam during the Arab conquest and their efforts to maintain traditional beliefs and customs. The article also discusses the heroic resistance during the Mongol invasion, focusing on figures like Jalal al-Din Manguberdi and Timur Malik, who fought to defend their homeland. The concept of "mangurtism" is analyzed in the context of the risk of losing cultural and spiritual heritage. Furthermore, the article touches on the impact of the Russian Empire's conquest of Central Asia in the 19th century and its influence on the culture, language, and religious values of the local peoples. The importance of studying history, understanding national identity, and preserving cultural heritage for strengthening the future is emphasized.

Keywords: Mavaronnahr, Arab invasion, Mongol invasion, Islam, cultural identity, resistance, Jalal al-Din Manguberdi, Timur Malik, mangurtism, Russian Empire, national heritage, spiritual values, historical struggles, identity preservation.

The rich culture, science, language, religion, customs, and traditions of our people have developed over time. Throughout this process, the people participated in numerous wars and battles, experiencing both victories and defeats. Even during the most difficult times, our people dedicated themselves to defending the homeland, giving their lives in the process. Their heroism has left a mark on history, becoming a source of pride and honor for the nation. The sense of patriotism and its importance is not only relevant in the past but is also a sacred duty for every citizen of independent Uzbekistan today. Defending and elevating the homeland is a responsibility that falls on every individual. The nation must preserve its loyalty, respect, and devotion to the homeland through its historical struggles, heroes, and cultural heritage.

Independence is an expression of deep reflection on the value of the homeland. The essence of this idea lies in the fact that, to better understand independence and the values of the homeland, we must study the history of our people, the great heroes, scholars, state leaders, and social-philosophical thought. Every nation can only achieve a series of successes in the future by learning from its history and understanding its identity.

At this point, it is useful to refer to the words of Islam Karimov, the first President of Uzbekistan. He emphasized that the beginning of understanding one's identity starts with knowing history. Knowing history is the key to understanding a people. If a person does not know their history, it means they cannot understand themselves or their people. History plays an important role in shaping the nation's present and future. The main aim of this text is to understand one's identity, comprehend the values of the homeland, and apply historical lessons to personal development.

As mentioned in the text, after the Arab invaders arrived, significant changes began for the people. These changes affected not only the daily life of the people but also their culture, state system, science, and philosophy. The historical processes, the struggle of the people against difficulties, their martial spirit, as well as the important changes in the emergence of great thinkers and scholars, can all be highlighted. By briefly reviewing significant events in the nation's history, we can see that the people's culture evolved, and new state systems were formed. The importance of knowing one's history and culture is evident in the development of the nation and state.

In the 8th century, the Arabs' conquest of Turan was a difficult process, and the local people's acceptance of Islam was not an easy one. The conquest by the Arabs was not a simple military victory, but also required the local peoples to distance themselves from their own culture, beliefs, and customs. The

process of accepting Islam was complicated and prolonged because of the resistance from those who wanted to preserve their traditional religious beliefs and practices.

The existing religions, customs, and values were of great importance to the local people. Therefore, the acceptance of Islam was met with resistance, as the process of adopting a new worldview and way of life was challenging. Some local figures resisted the conversion to Islam in an attempt to preserve their religious freedoms. These resistance figures are well-known in history for their struggles to maintain their beliefs. The process reflects the desire of the local people to protect their culture and religious values while dealing with the difficulties of adopting new religious beliefs.

After the people of Mavaronnahr accepted Islam with difficulty following the Arab conquest, they were faced with another significant threat—the Mongol invasion in the early 13th century. By the early 13th century, the people of Mavaronnahr had adapted to Islam after the heavy consequences of the Arab invasion. However, they now faced the terrifying new threat of the Mongols.

The Mongol invasion, led by Genghis Khan, subjected the people to the horrors of war. During this time, Mavaronnahr produced numerous heroes to defend the land. With their help, the people rose up against the Mongols, showing resistance and fighting bravely. Some of these heroes, such as Jalal al-Din Manguberdi, Timur Malik, and Mahmud Tarabi, participated in these struggles, dedicating their lives to the fight. These individuals fought for the independence of their people and left their mark in history with their heroic actions.

The people of Mavaronnahr, during the difficult periods of Arab and Mongol invasions, struggled to preserve their religious and cultural identity. The article emphasizes the importance of recognizing their heroic resistance and their commitment to defending their homeland. Analyzing this process helps us better understand the struggles of the people to preserve their identity, protect their historical heritage, and increase national pride.

The impact of ancient invasions on the spiritual and cultural identity of the people is also analyzed. The invaders attacked not only the economic and political systems but also the cultural, value, and spiritual worlds of the people. As a result, the historical and cultural heritage of the people was either lost or altered. The concept of "mangurtism" is introduced, describing a person who loses their historical heritage, forgets their identity, and does not fight for the future and independence. Such individuals forget their history, language, and culture, neglecting the time-honored values of their people. As a result, this hinders the unity of the society and weakens efforts to resist invaders.

Thus, it is crucial to protect the historical, cultural, and spiritual heritage of the people, preserve their identity, and defend independence by preventing mangurtism. The process of understanding one's identity unites the people and strengthens their resistance against invaders.

In the 19th century, the Russian Empire's conquest of Central Asia led to a spiritual crisis. During the era of Russian colonial rule, the Russian government made efforts to separate the local people from their historical and cultural heritage, turning it into a policy. One of the main policies of the Russian Empire was to deprive the local peoples of their past cultures and values. This process led to a spiritual crisis. The local people were deprived of the opportunity to understand their identity, establish historical roots, and preserve their national values.

Depriving a people of their identity resulted in spiritual impoverishment, the loss of their sense of self, and an inability to lay a firm foundation for future development. The consequences of such policies included cultural impoverishment, the loss of identity, and the disintegration of national unity. The people were forced to abandon their traditions, religion, language, and culture. This situation complicated the path to national progress and independence.

In conclusion, it is necessary to study the history of the people and explain the changes and key figures of each period. The history of every nation is one of the factors that shape its society, and by studying it in depth, we can better understand its impact on both the past and present. Through this process, we can gain the necessary knowledge to carry forward our unique history, overcome difficulties, and build a prosperous future.

The process of accepting Islam was complex, and the people struggled to embrace the new religion without abandoning their traditional beliefs and practices. This process required not only military conquest but also significant resistance to cultural and religious changes. The figures who resisted the adoption of Islam

and fought to maintain their religious identity have left their mark on history, serving as heroes in the struggle for cultural and religious preservation.

In this way, studying our history and learning from past struggles and heroism helps us preserve our identity, maintain our cultural heritage, and confidently move forward into the future. The historical struggles for independence and identity preservation are vital to the enrichment and strengthening of our national heritage.

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