

## **Ak-Orda and Kok-Orda: sources and historiography**

History of formation and development of ulus system of Mongol Empire on the territory of Eastern Dasht-i Kipchak is closely connected with the issue of terms Ak-Orda and Kok-Orda – the names of the two main ulus units in the structure of Juchid state, formed after Juchid's death.

During the discussion how were originally called uluses of Juchi's elder sons – Orda and Batu, researchers of the Golden Horde of Middle Ages set, developed and partly solved problems of this period. They referred to the functioning of the ulus system of the territory of all Juchi state and its constituent part – Eastern Dasht-i-Kipchak, namely the peculiarities of this system, formed under the influence of internal and external factors on the territory of the region. The issues of historical geography of uluses of Juchi's khans and oglans, their administrative-political structure and therefore, their public status, the degree of dependence of these ulus unions from the center – first All-Mongol in Karakorum and later Sarai in the Volga region were considered. Opinions about primary independence and self-sufficiency of two main uluses (Orda and Batu), their formal dependence from Orda ulus from Batu ulus also were offered. The geographic location and self-designation of the third Juchi's ulus – ulus of Shiban also was cleared up.

Variety of expressed views on these issues was different. In some cases, the lack of the source base contributed to the fact that the same utterances, taken from a medieval historical, historical-geographical, historical-genealogical, poetical and other works were interpreted by researchers in different ways.

Historical analysis of the problem would not be complete without taking into consideration not only medieval, but also modern historiography. Before we proceed to consideration of the views of certain researches, it seems appropriate to try to provide insight which comes out of medieval sources. It was typical for many authors of the most sources narrating about the events on the territory of medieval Kazakhstan, that they wrote about past (far or close) of unfamiliar people or foreign country.

Modern research literature partly overpassed this addiction, separating history (particular historical facts) from medieval historiography (interpretations and opinions of authors). However, there is no agreement of opinion among the modern researchers regarding the issue. The attempt to abstract away from differences in opinions (“not engaging in literary polemics”) was undertaken by T.I.Sultanov in one of his works, he dedicated a special paragraph to the problem of Kok-Orda and Ak-Orda. He outlined basic distinguished mentions of these terms in medieval literature and offered his interpretation on this occasion.