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STUDY OF TURKIC TOPONYMS OF CENTRAL ASIA AND KAZAKHSTAN ON MEDIEVAL HISTORICAL MAPS

The historical maps of Central Asia and Kazakhstan's territory serve as a vital source for examining the region's political, ethnographic, and cultural development dynamics. Beginning in the early 20th century, mapping studies have primarily concentrated on the northern and central regions of Eurasia, as well as on Central Asia, where nomadic peoples and city-states reside. Nevertheless, a thorough examination of Turkic place names on historical maps, and the investigation of their origins, development, and geographical spread, remains an urgent concern. The *purpose* of the study was to examine Turkic place names in Central Asia and Kazakhstan as depicted on historical maps. As research methods, cartographic analysis, historical-geographical comparative study, and correlation of hydronymic and oronymic data with historical sources were utilized. The study also examined the historical significance and usage of place names by analysing changes in political, ethnic and administrative features on maps. As a result of the study, 11 historical maps were analysed, from which many Turkic place names were identified on the maps below: 'ASIA noviter delineata', 'La Grande Tartarie', 'Imperium Timuri Begi vel Tamerlanis', 'Tartariae Sive Magni Chami Regni typus' and 'Nieuwe Caart van de Caspische Zee, met alle desselfs Riviere, Eylanden en Dieptens'. Especially, maps most commonly display such vital Turkic place names as 'Turkestan', 'Desht-Kipchak', 'Syrdarya', 'Amudarya', 'Samarkand', 'Bukhara', 'Balashagun', 'Kazakh Steppe' and further entries. Furthermore, we have ensured that the maps clearly show watercourses, mountain ranges, rivers and trade routes, as well as the locations of towns and fortifications. Therefore, the medieval maps selected for this study constitute valuable material for the study of Turkic place-names in Central Asia and Kazakhstan, and their use is of great significance in contemporary cartographic, ethnographic and historical research, as well as in the field of education. Consequently, an analysis of the evolution of geographical names serves to demonstrate the historical continuity and geographical influence of Turkic civilisation.

Keywords: historical maps, Central Asia, Kazakhstan, turkic toponyms, research.

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Ортағасырлық тарихи карталардағы Орталық Азия мен Қазақстанның түркі топонимдерін зерттеу

Орталық Азия мен Қазақстан аумағының тарихи карталары – аймақтың саяси, этнографиялық және мәдени даму динамикасын зерттеуде маңызды дереккөзі болып табылады. XX ғасырдың басынан бері картографиялық зерттеулер көбіне Еуразияның солтүстік және орталық бөліктеріне, сондай-ақ Орталық Азияның көшпелі тайпалар мен қала-мемлекеттер орналасқан кеңістігіне назар аударды. Алайда тарихи карталардағы түркі топонимдерін жан-жақты талдау, олардың шығу тегін, трансформациясын және географиялық орналасуын зерттеу әлі де өзекті мәселе болып табылады. Зерттеу мақсаты – тарихи карталардағы Орталық Азия мен Қазақстанның түркі топонимдерін зерттеу болды. Зерттеу әдістері ретінде картографиялық талдау, тарихи-географиялық салыстырмалы зерттеу, гидронимдік және оронимдік деректерді тарихи дереккөздермен сәйкестендіру қолданылды. Сондай-ақ карталардағы саяси, этникалық және әкімшілік белгілердің трансформациясын талдау арқылы топонимдердің тарихи маңызы мен қолданылу ерекшеліктері қарастырылды. Зерттеу нәтижесінде 11 тарихи картаға талдау жасалды, олардың ішінен «ASIA noviter delineata», «La Grande Tartarie», «Imperium Timuri Begi vel Tamerlanis», «Tartariae Sive Magni Chami Regni typus» және «Nieuwe Caart van de Caspische Zee, met alle desselfs Riviere, Eylanden en Dieptens» атты карталарда түркі топонимдері көп екендігі анықталды. Аталған карталарда Түркістан, Дешті Қыпшақ, Сырдария, Амудария, Самарқанд, Бұхара, Баласағұн, Қазақ

топонимдері көп кездесті. Сонымен қатар, картадарда гидронимдер, таулы жүйелер, өзендер мен сауда жолдары, қалалар мен бекіністердің орналасуы нақты көрсетілгендігіне көз жеткіздік. Осылайша, зерттеу нәтижесінде іріктелген ортағасырлық картадар Орталық Азия мен Қазақстанның түркі топонимдерін зерттеу үшін құнды материал болып табылады, әрі оларды қазіргі картографиялық, этнографиялық және тарихи зерттеулерде, сондай-ақ білім беру саласында пайдалану өте маңызды. Осылайша, топонимдердің трансформациясын талдау тарихи сабақтастық пен түркі өркениетінің кеңістіктік ықпалын көрсетуге мүмкіндік береді.

Түйін сөздер: тарихи картадар, Орталық Азия, Қазақстан, түркі топонимдері, зерттеу.

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Исследование тюркских топонимов Центральной Азии и Казахстана на средневековых исторических картах

Исторические карты Центральной Азии и территории Казахстана являются важнейшим источником для изучения динамики политического, этнографического и культурного развития региона. Начиная с начала XX века картографические исследования в основном сосредоточивались на северных и центральных регионах Евразии, а также на Центральной Азии, где проживают кочевые народы и расположены город-государства. Тем не менее, тщательное изучение тюркских географических названий на исторических картах, а также исследование их происхождения, развития и географического распространения по-прежнему остаются актуальной задачей. Целью исследования было изучение тюркских географических названий в Центральной Азии и Казахстане, представленных на исторических картах. В качестве методов исследования использовались картографический анализ, историко-географическое сравнительное исследование, а также сопоставление гидронимных и оронимных данных с историческими источниками. В рамках исследования также были рассмотрены историческое значение и использование географических названий путем анализа изменений политических, этнических и административных характеристик на картах. В ходе исследования было проанализировано 11 исторических карт, на которых было выявлено множество тюркских географических названий, представленных на приведенных ниже картах: «ASIA noviter delineata», «La Grande Tartarie», «Imperium Timuri Begi vel Tamerlanis», «Tartariae Sive Magni Chami Regni typus» и «Nieuwe Caart van de Caspische Zee, met alle desselfs Riviere, Eylanden en Dieptens». В частности, на картах наиболее часто встречаются такие важные тюркские географические названия, как «Туркестан», «Дешт-Кипчак», «Сырдарья», «Амударья», «Самарканд», «Бухара», «Балашагун», «Казахская степь» и другие. Кроме того, мы позаботились о том, чтобы на картах были четко обозначены водотоки, горные хребты, реки и торговые пути, а также расположение городов и укреплений. Таким образом, средневековые карты, отобранные для данного исследования, представляют собой ценный материал для изучения тюркских географических названий в Центральной Азии и Казахстане, а их использование имеет большое значение для современных картографических, этнографических и исторических исследований, а также в сфере образования. Соответственно, анализ эволюции географических названий позволяет продемонстрировать историческую преемственность и географическое влияние тюркской цивилизации.

Ключевые слова: исторические карты, Центральная Азия, Казахстан, тюркские топонимы, исследования.

Introduction

The region of Central Asia and Kazakhstan is one of the oldest cradles of human civilisation. Over the millennia, Turkic, Iranian, Arab, Chinese, Mongolian and European cultures have intertwined in this region, whilst political, economic and spiritual processes have unfolded continuously. Ancient maps are among the most important records of these historical movements (Nurdauletova et al., 2025). Maps are not merely tools for geographical orienta-

tion, but also sources that preserve the worldview, political interests, scientific achievements and cultural memory of a particular era. The geographical names on a map are particularly significant as historical data (Abdualiuly, 2022). It is therefore important not only to examine maps from a geographical perspective, but also to explore their significance as historical documents.

Historical sources note that, due to a growing interest in exploring and settling new lands, the study of geographical names came to be regarded as a spe-

cialised field. In particular, the study of geographical nomenclature developed into a branch of historical geography (Smagulov & Kumekov, 2022). Therefore, travellers, geographers and even traders, who recorded the names of the countries and geographical features they encountered on paper and subsequently on maps, contributed to the development of the science of toponymy. As a result, many different types of maps have emerged around the world, and hand-drawn outline sketches were once the simplest form of these.

Early toponymy sought to explain the mystery behind a particular place name through mythological events and involved a detailed analysis based on the location and nature of the geographical feature. The toponymic information of that time consisted of fascinating details stemming from people's curiosity about a particular area, land or water (Abdualiyev, 2021). The philosophers and thinkers of the early era—Democritus, Plato and Aristotle—they themselves studied the origins of the Earth, as well as the origins of the names found on Earth. Meanwhile, Pomponius Mela was the first to attempt to define the boundaries of the Lusitanian and Celtic regions of his homeland, using place names as a tool for scholarly research by examining which place names belonged to the Celtic or Lusitanian languages.

In this regard, when listing Turkic place-names in Central Asia and Kazakhstan, M. Kashgari's work «Divān luqāt-at-Turk» may be cited as the first example of a scholarly analysis of etymology. This study examines the settlement patterns of the Turkic peoples of that era, their traditions, origins, linguistic characteristics, tribal structures, kinship terms, ethnonyms and toponyms common to Turkic peoples, titles, geographical terms, and the names of plants, animals, diseases, and the medicines they required, as well as legends and riddles, proverbs and sayings associated with Turkic history, as well as the names of cities, places, rivers and mountains in Turkic lands, including their geographical location, etymology and how they are used in the language of the Turkic tribe (Kosybayev & Adilov, 2025).

From a geographical perspective, Mahmud Kashgari's 'circular map', which has survived in manuscript form, is of immense value. Mahmud Kashgari's map is unique in that Kashgaria, Zhetysay and the city of Balasagun are situated at its centre. It is also distinguished by the concentration of cities and regions around Issyk-Kul, its unusual orientation (north-east at the top, south-west at the bottom) and its similarities with ancient Turkic writings.

Furthermore, the works of the 12th-century geographer Al-Idrisi contain a number of important details about the Kazakh lands. His work «Nuzhat al-Mushtak» contains information about the Shu-Ili Mountains; it states that the town of Demirtag is situated in the foothills, and that to the east lies a semi-desert. The scholar describes the lower course of the Syr Darya River and the area around the Aral Sea as the homeland of the leaders of the Oguz tribes. Al-Idrisi's map, entitled 'Surat al-Ard', depicts the Karluk people, who inhabited the Ili Valley between Lake Issyk-Kul and Lake Balkhash, as well as the Kimak people, who settled in the Alakol Basin.

Thus, such historical maps are of immense importance as a source of place names, historical data and spelling conventions. The purpose of this study was therefore to examine Turkic place-names in Central Asia and Kazakhstan as depicted on historical maps. The work began with a review of ancient historical maps held in libraries and collections around the world, following which the necessary maps were copied. Turkic toponyms on selected historical maps were analysed using a method involving description, analysis and comparison. This study provides an important information base for fields such as historical geography, ethnotoponymy and Turkology. Studying the toponyms on ancient maps will enable us to reinterpret the historical landscape of Central Asia and Kazakhstan and reconstruct the geographical framework of the ancient Turkic worldview.

Materials and methods

Turkic toponyms are geographical names derived from Turkic languages; these names are used to describe various geographical features, such as cities, towns, rivers, mountains and regions (Laishanov et al., 2025). Ancient Turkic toponyms in Central Asia and Kazakhstan, as reflected in the names of land and water features recorded on maps, help to identify the historical settlement patterns, political confederations, trade routes and cultural influence of the Turkic peoples (Nurdauletova & Aliaskarov, 2025). Some examples of Turkic toponyms include the cities of Ankara (Turkey), Tashkent (Uzbekistan) and Almaty. These names often reflect the history, culture and language of the Turkic peoples who have lived in this region.

Among the rich legacy of Arab geographers, a collection of maps featuring geographical names from Central Asia and Kazakhstan has been preserved to this day. The cartographic representation

of Arab maps differs from others in that they do not feature degree grids. Nevertheless, Arabic maps have played a huge role in the history of our understanding of Central Asia and Kazakhstan. In this regard, it is worth mentioning the world map (10th century) compiled by al-Istakhri and Ibn Hawqal, rather than the giant map. On the map, geographical features are depicted as geometric shapes. The Caspian Sea is connected to the Volga River and is drawn in the shape of a jug. This is how the territory of Central Asia and Kazakhstan is represented. Ibn Hawqal produced an independent map of Mawaran-nahr (Central Asia). The Arab traveller Ibn Hawqal described the city of Biskent, located in the area of the Shash. It is thought that this corresponds to the modern-day town of Piskent, which was situated in the valley of the Arys River. 'Here gathered the tribes of the Turkic peoples, the Guz and the Karluk, who are now followers of Islam,' wrote Ibn Hawqal. The traveller, who had travelled extensively through the land of the Karluk, notes that 'it even took him 30 days to travel from west to east across the territory inhabited by the Karluk' (Abulgaziev, 2022; Ilyasova & Nogaibaeva, 2023).

In this regard, given that valuable information on historical toponyms can be obtained by studying old maps, we have embarked on this study. The research began with a search for and selection of historical maps featuring toponyms from Central Asia and Kazakhstan; a review of the selected maps was carried out, and their locations in libraries and collections around the world were identified. Special research trips were organised to the British Library (England), and to libraries and archives in Istanbul (Turkey), Cairo and Alexandria (Egypt), and St Petersburg (Russia) to study ancient historical maps. In addition, the selected historical maps were thoroughly examined using methods of analysis, description and comparison. In studying historical maps, digital maps from the following digital libraries and online resources were also used: Charles University Digital Resources Platform (Czech Republic); David Ramsay's collection of historical maps; The American Geographical Society Library's collection of digital maps; 'DrevLit. Ru' – an online library of ancient manuscripts; Wikimedia Commons; Barry Lawrence Ruderman's map collection; McMaster University Library's digital archive; Princeton University Library; The 'OldMapsOnline' platform featuring historical maps from around the world; Hong Kong University of Science and Technology Library; the National

Library of Australia's map collection; The University of Bern Library, the Reichner Collection; the digital collections of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee; The old maps website Geographicus; The 'GeoPortOst' portal for thematic and secret maps of Eastern and South-Eastern Europe; the Archive.org website.

This study was carried out in accordance with the schedule of the targeted programme project «BR24993043-Ancient Turkic toponyms in sources from China and other Eastern countries: A foundation for modern Turkic integration: historical-etymological, linguistic vision», funded by a grant from the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Republic of Kazakhstan. The study examined Turkic toponyms that historically and geopolitically underpin the development of integration among Turkic-speaking countries. This study is a collection of key sources in the fields of historical geography, ethnotoponymy and Turkology. A methodological examination of geographical names on ancient maps paves the way for a reinterpretation of the historical landscape of Central Asia and Kazakhstan, as well as for the reconstruction of the geographical foundations of the ancient Turkic worldview.

Results and discussion

The research resulted in the selection of medieval maps that pave the way for a reinterpretation of the historical landscape of Central Asia and Kazakhstan, and for the reconstruction of the geographical framework of the ancient Turkic worldview:

This is the first map, a *Map of the crusade to the East* (张十字军东侵地图). This map, which is currently held in the collection of the National Museum of China, is an important source reflecting medieval concepts of space, and its content is primarily intended to illustrate the routes of the Crusades. The map is of a generalised nature, and major mountain ranges, such as the Pamir Mountains, are shown only as stylised outlines, which merely indicate their influence on the region's climate and transport networks. The Syr Darya and Amu Darya rivers are visible within the hydrographic features. Nonetheless, although certain segments of the Silk Road network are illustrated in the outline of the general transport system, the specific paths and commercial dealings are not entirely shown. Overall, the map illustrates the natural, cultural and economic characteristics of Central Asia, with a particular focus on the military-historical context (Figure 1).

Figure 1

Map of the crusade to the East (Map of the crusade to the East (张十字军东侵地图))



The second map, *Map of Asia in the 13th–14th centuries* (13-14 世纪左右的亚洲地图). It is an important source that illustrates the political and geographical landscape of Asia during the 13th and 14th centuries, with a focus on the Mongol Empire and the Timurid Empire. Boundaries of the Mongol Empire, shown in orange, stretched eastwards to the Korean Peninsula and westwards to Eastern Europe, covering the largest territory in its entire history. The Timurid territories, shown in green, encompassed the regions of Transoxiana, Persia and Mesopotamia and were regarded as one of the major political powers of the 14th century. This map contains chronological references relating to the years 1218, 1227, 1370 and 1398, and is intended to illustrate the stages of the region's political development. Furthermore, the map highlights such important cities as Samarkand, Baghdad, Delhi and the capital of the Yuan dynasty in what is now Beijing, reflecting their role as political, economic and cultural centres. The geographical objects mentioned include the Himalayas, the Kunlun Mountains, and the Ganges and Indus rivers, which allows us to trace the interconnection between the natural environment and political structures. Overall, the map is drawn in the traditional Chinese cartographic style and systematically reflects the complex political structure and spatial connections in Asia (Figure 2).

Figure 2

Map of Asia in the 13th–14th centuries (Map of Asia in the 13th–14th centuries / 13-14 世纪左右的亚洲地图)



The third map, the *map of the Great Ming Empire* (大明混一图). The Combined Map of the Great Ming (1389) is an important historical source that clearly illustrates the cartographic traditions of the Ming era; on it, the territory of the Ming dynasty is depicted as the geographical centre. In addition to Asia, the map shows the general outlines of parts of Africa, Europe and the Americas, which gives an idea of how well the world was known at that time. One of the key features of the map is the inclusion of extensive annotated information presented in Chinese characters, which provides detailed descriptions of geographical names and administrative units. Thanks to surviving ancient ethnonyms such as ‘Kanzhu’ and ‘Yanzhai’, particularly in Central Asia, we are able to reconstruct the historical and geographical distribution of the tribes in this region. Rather than providing precise geographical coordinates, these names are intended to indicate the approximate locations and spatial relationships between the tribes. In addition, the map also contains political and ideological elements, depicting the state of Ming itself as the centre of the world. The map is drawn in the traditional Chinese style, in which mountains, rivers and cities are depicted using symbols and patterns. As such, this work combines historical geography, political ideology and the art of cartography (Figure 3).

Figure 3

Map of the Great Ming Empire (Map of the great Ming Empire, 1389)



Fourth map, *Tartariae Sive Magni Chami Regni typus*. ‘*Tartariae Sive Magni Chami Regni Typus*’ is a 16th-century cartographic work compiled by Abraham Ortelius, in which the regions of North and Central Asia are depicted in accordance with European conceptions of geography. The meaning of the map is revealed through the concept of Tartaria as a single geopolitical space comprising Moscow, Siberia, Turkestan, and the regions bordering China and Japan. Using the concept of the ‘Great Khan’s state’, the map provides a generalised representation of the Mongol Empire and the territories of its historical successors, reflecting the influence of European ideas within the tradition of Marco Polo. In this context, the toponyms were used on the map not merely as geographical names, but also as a reflection of a particular historical and cultural perspective. The area covers the territory from the Volga and the Caspian Sea in the west to the Pacific Ocean in the east, and from the Arctic in the north to India and Persia in the south. At the same time, the map’s accuracy is limited: regions such as Korea and Kamchatka are not shown on it, and North America is roughly placed next to Asia. The

map thus clearly illustrates the level of geographical knowledge in 16th-century Europe, the diversity of sources, and the symbolic perception of historical space (Figure 4).

Figure 4

Map of the Tartariae Sive Magni Chami Regni typus (Ortelius, 1592)



The fifth map, *a complete map of all the countries in the world* (坤輿万国全图). This map, a collaborative work by Ricci Matteo and Li Zhi-Cao created in 1602, provides a comprehensive cartographic representation of the world during the Ming dynasty. This map, made on coloured silk, systematically depicts the five continents and four oceans, as well as numerous countries, regions and major cities, reflecting the level of geographical knowledge at that time. The map illustrates the geopolitical fragmentation of the region and the system of city-states; the data on Central Asia highlights centres such as Samarkand, Gerat and Andijan. From a hydrographic perspective, the text provides detailed descriptions of the Amu Darya and Syr Darya rivers, specifying their sources, and highlights their role in transport and the local economy, as well as providing natural and economic characteristics of the Aral and Caspian Seas. The Pamir, Tien Shan and Himalayas stand out among the mountain ranges, reflecting their role as natural boundaries. The map will also show the routes of the Great Silk Road and the steppe trade routes, as well as illustrating the role of trading posts and transit hubs, including the city of Tashkent. In essence, this map is a comprehensive model of the world in the early 17th century, combining geographical data, ethnographic features and trade routes (Figure 5).

Figure 5

A complete map of all the countries in the world (Ricci & Li, 1602)



geographical knowledge in Europe, commercial interests and the traditions of artistic representation of space (Figure 6).

Figure 6

Asia noviter delineata (Willem, 1630–1638)



The sixth map, entitled «*Asia noviter delineata*». *ASIA noviter delineata* is a map of Asia created in the first half of the 17th century by Willem Janszoon Blaeu, depicting the entire continent from west to east. The map shows the Asian continent, divided into major regions such as China, India, Persia, Arabia and Tartary. The term 'Tartaria' is used on the map as a general and conventional geopolitical concept encompassing the northern and central regions of Eurasia, and it is clear that it reflects a European historical and cultural perspective rather than actual national borders. It also includes a map of Japan and Korea and provides a detailed description of the coastal regions and the open seas. Furthermore, particular attention will be paid to key trading and port centres such as Damascus, Jerusalem, Goa, Aden and Macao, and the significance of maritime and continental trade networks will be highlighted. An ornamental map depicting the peoples of Asia from a European perspective, featuring ethnographic illustrations, views of cities and fortifications. As a whole, this publication is an important cartographic work of the 17th century, reflecting the state of

The seventh map, *map of the La Grande Tartarie*. 'La Grande Tartarie' is a 17th-century cartographic work compiled by Nicolas Sanson, in which the northern and central parts of Eurasia are presented as a geopolitical space, summarised under the concept of 'Great Tartary'. On the map, the name 'Tartaria' is used as a conventional designation for a region comprising modern-day Central Asia, Siberia, Mongolia and adjacent territories, reflecting European perceptions of geography at that time. The Syr Darya and Amu Darya stand out as the region's main water systems. At the same time, the mention of cities such as Bukhara, Samarkand and Khiva highlights their role as major commercial and cultural centres along the Great Silk Road. The landscape features include the Caspian and Aral Seas, as well as major mountain ranges known as the Imaus Mountains, which broadly encompass such complex orographic systems as the Pamir-Tian Shan-Hindu-kush. On the whole, the map was not produced as a result of any specific expedition, rather it represents a synthesis of data gathered from various sources and reflects the level of geographical understanding in 17th-century European cartography (Figure 7).

Figure 7*La Grande TarTarie (Nicolas, 1652)***Figure 8***Regno di Persia con le notitie delle Provincie Antiche (Cantelli da Vignola, 1679)*

Eighth map, *Kingdom of Persia with details of the ancient provinces* (Regno di Persia con le notitie delle Provincie Antiche). The map «Regno di Persia con le notitie delle Provincie Antiche» is a 17th-century cartographic work compiled by Giacomo Cantelli da Vignola and published by Giovanni Giacomo de Rossi, which provides a comprehensive depiction of the Persian Empire and the surrounding regions. The map shows the region west of the Black Sea and the eastern part of the Mediterranean Sea, extending northwards to the Caspian Sea and the Volga, eastwards across the Amu Darya basin to the border with India, and southwards to the Persian Gulf and the Arabian Sea. In terms of toponymy, the map is notable for its simultaneous use of names in several languages: for example, the Caspian Sea is labelled 'Mare Caspium', 'Darya' and 'More Hvalynskoe', whilst the Amu Darya is labelled 'Oxus' and 'Jayhun'. Such an approach makes it possible to combine ancient and modern geographical knowledge. The map's content has been supplemented with data from later European travellers, in keeping with the tradition established by Claudius Ptolemy. Artistically, the map makes use of decorative cartouches, symbols and shading techniques to depict the terrain, whilst the representation of the natural and political landscape is of a high standard (Figure 8).

The ninth map, *Showing all the towns, rivers and lands* (Чертеж всех городов и рек и земель). Showing all the towns, rivers and lands—an important cartographic work from the early 18th century, compiled by Semyon Ulyanovich Remezov, which was produced as part of the collection «The Drawing Book of Siberia» and covers the northern and central parts of Eurasia. The map shows the West Siberian, Volga and Ural regions, the Kazakh steppes, and the basins of the Irtysh, Ob and Alsey rivers; it also indicates the territory into which the Russian state expanded eastwards. Within the hydrographic system, the Irtysh, Ishim, Ural and Syrdarya rivers are marked as major transport and economic arteries. The map also uses conventional symbols to indicate orographic features such as the Altai, Ulytau and Karatau ranges. The ethnic-territorial structure is represented by names such as 'Kalmyk Land', 'Bashkir Land' and 'Cossack Land', and these areas correspond to the traditional regions of settlement of the peoples rather than actual administrative boundaries. Cities, fortifications and trade routes are also marked on the map, suggesting that it was drawn up for military-strategic and administrative purposes. Taken as a whole, this work is of particular significance for the study of the historical geography of Kazakhstan and Siberia as an example of early Russian cartography based on field data (Figure 9).

Figure 9

Showing all the towns, rivers and lands (Remezov, 1701)



The tenth map, *Nieuwe Caart van de Caspische Zee, met alle desselfs Riviere, Eylanden en Dieptens*. The map is a nautical chart produced in Amsterdam in 1720 by Gerard van Keulen, showing the Caspian Sea and its coastal regions in detail. On the map, Astrakhan is shown to the North, Tartaria and Samarkand to the East, Persia to the South, and the Caucasus region (Dagestan, Georgia) to the West. The top of the map features a panoramic view of the city of Astrakhan, whilst the bottom shows miniature images of the cities of Samakh (Shirvan) and Derbent. Toponyms are given in Dutch and are shown in a format suitable for maritime navigation, using the region's hydrographic features, depth contours, bearing lines and compass rose. Van Keulen's map was not based on entirely new surveying work; rather, it combined the measurements taken by Russian expeditions during the reign of Peter I with data from the 17th-century maps by Jan Struijs and Cornelis de Bruijn. Decorative elements on the map—engraved cartouches and mythological imagery—visually convey the region's strategic importance and the need for modern navigation. As a rare cartographic artefact that characterises 18th-century cartographic representations of the Caspian Sea and the Russian Empire's maritime explorations, this map is of great scholarly significance (Figure 10).

Eleventh map, *Imperium Timuri Begi vel Tamerlanis*. *Imperium Timuri Begi vel Tamerlanis* – this is a map drawn in the style of 18th-century European historical and geographical cartography, depicting in detail the vast territory of Tamerlane's empire. Shown on the map are the Black Sea and the Caucasus region to the west, the Persian Gulf and the Arabian Peninsula to the south, the northern parts of India and neighbouring areas of China to the east,

as well as the Desht-Kipchak and Aral-Caspian regions to the north — modern-day Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Turkey, Iran, Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Iraq, Syria and the northern territories of India. The names of geographical features are given in Latin, whilst Turkic, Persian and Arabic toponyms are presented in European transcription; the ancient Turkic and Turkicised names on this map clearly demonstrate historical and geographical continuity, as well as the spatial influence of Turkic civilisation (Figure 11).

Figure 10

Nieuwe Caart van de Caspische Zee, met alle desselfs Riviere, Eylanden en Dieptens (van Keulen, 1720)

**Figure 11**

Imperium Timuri Begi vel Tamerlanis (1730)



Tamerlane's provinces were marked in different colours, and their political boundaries were defined. The content of the map is based on Persian and Arabic chronicles, the accounts of European ambassadors, medieval Islamic geography, and data from earlier maps. This map was compiled using a compilation method, and although its creation did

not rely solely on data from historical expeditions, its geographical accuracy was ensured. Maps clearly illustrate 18th-century European perceptions and the historical geography of the Turkic world, as well as the political and cultural context of the Kazakh steppe and Central Asia.

Conclusion

Therefore, the data obtained from the study of Turkic toponyms in Central Asia and Kazakhstan on historical maps enables us to gain a comprehensive understanding of the geographical and cultural history of this region. Maps from the 15th to the 18th centuries served not only to mark political boundaries or natural features, but also to depict the traditional habitats of nomadic and sedentary peoples, trade routes, rivers and mountain ranges. For example, the map «*坤輿万国全图*» shows the courses of the Amu Darya and Syr Darya rivers and the locations of city-states, providing a clear illustration of the political and ethnic landscape of Central Asia. The inter-tribal divisions and connections between cities depicted on this map reveal the structure of traditional nomadic society and the importance of trade networks.

European maps from the 17th and 18th centuries – «*ASIA noviter delineata*», «*La Grande Tartarie*», «*Imperium Timuri Begi vel Tamerlanis*» – provide a comprehensive depiction of Central Asia and reflect the geographical, ethnic and cultural characteristics of the Turkic world. These maps feature Old Turkic and Turkicised toponyms such as *Tartaria*, *Desht-i Kipchak*, *Transoxiana*, *Samarkand*, *Bukhara*, *Balasagun* and *Turkestan*, reflecting their historical and geographical continuity and spatial influence. Also marked on the maps are such important geographical features as the Amu Darya (*Oxus* / *Jayhun*), the Syr Darya (*Jaxartes*), the Caspian Sea (*Mare Caspium*) and the regions of *India*, *Persia* and the *Caucasus*. These hydronyms and landscape features reflect the strategic importance of the region's natural barriers and transport routes.

Composite methods used by cartographers, particularly the 18th-century maps by Homann and Remezov, drew on a variety of sources – Persian and Arabic chronicles, the records of European ambassadors, earlier maps and data from expeditions. These maps depicted political boundaries in different colours, whilst towns, fortresses, forests and mountains were represented by specific symbols, clearly reflecting the historical context and ethnic settlement patterns. For example, Remezov's maps depicted the traditional habitats of ethnic groups,

river routes and trade routes covering the Kazakh steppes, as well as northern and central Siberia.

In conclusion, medieval historical maps are an important source for the study of Turkic place names. They illustrate not only geographical locations but also the ethnographic, cultural and political context. The hydronyms, toponyms, and regional names in the Turkic languages demonstrate historical continuity and enable us to reconstruct the spatial history of modern Kazakhstan and Central Asia. With the help of these maps, researchers can identify links between nomadic tribes, city-states, trade routes and natural barriers. Furthermore, the decorative style of European cartography, the Latin and transliterated forms of geographical names, and the political and administrative divisions help to reflect the international context of the region's history. Medieval historical maps thus form the basis for the study of Turkic toponyms in Central Asia and Kazakhstan, covering not only geographical but also cultural, ethnographic and political aspects. They provide scientifically and methodologically valuable information for contemporary cartographic and historical research.

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Conflict of interest

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest.

Author Contributions:

«Conceptualization, Y. D. Issakov and Zh. S. Nizamatinova; Methodology, Y. D. Issakov; Software, Zh. S. Nizamatinova; Validation, Y. D. Issakov and K. Zhoya; Formal Analysis, Zh. S. Nizamatinova; Investigation, K. Zhoya; Resources, Y. D. Issakov; Data Curation, Zh. S. Nizamatinova; Writing – Original Draft Preparation, Y. D. Issakov; Writing – Review & Editing, Y. D. Issakov; Visualization, Zh. S. Nizamatinova; Supervision, Y. D. Issakov; Project Administration, Y. D. Issakov; Funding Acquisition, Zh. S. Nizamatinova»

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