

Development of Military Art during the Struggle of the Central Asian Peoples against the Ahemeniens

F.B. Kamilov ¹

¹ Academy of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Uzbekistan Associate professor, colonel

Abstract:

In article Ahmenidov, military arts of the people of the Central Asia in a course to struggle against them is generalised and analysed structure, structure and an order of conducting fight of armies, and also some recommendations are developed.

Keywords: Kir II, Doro I, Tumaris, Shirak, massagets, saks, satraps, immortal, strategy and tactics, thousand, hundred parts, tens, infantry and a cavalry, engineering groups and divisions of rear maintenance, operations.

The earliest information about Iranian tribes living on the plateau between the Caspian Sea and the Persian Gulf can be traced back to the 3rd millennium BC. We find it in Assyrian documents dating back to the 9th century.

BC. In 550, Cyrus II, who lived in Persia, conquered Midia and became the founder of the Achaemenid state. The capital of Midia, Ecbatana, became the capital of the Iranian state. Ekbatana corresponds to the present-day city of Hamadan. Cyrus II gained great military power.

BC. In 522 the next representative of the Achaemenid dynasty, Darius I, came to power, and soon succeeded in restoring the former borders of the empire. Iran's new military-administrative system was put on track. The army was reorganized, with infantry and cavalry forming its basis. The state was divided into 20 administrative - tribute-collecting districts - satraps, and their chiefs - the satraps - were authorized to deal with both civil and military affairs.[1]

Great attention was paid to the development of road networks to quickly move the army from one place to another, including the construction of the Tsarist Road, with garrison fortifications built

every 20 kilometers of it. On the 5th kilometer, cavalry escort detachments (piquets) stood and served for government communications. Wide road networks ensured the rapid transport of small and large troop detachments to any point in the vast state. The garrison of several satraps was subordinate to the commander of one military district, the state had a total of 5 military districts.

An important part of the Iranian army were the Tsar's bodyguards:

- 10 thousand selected pedestrians - "immortals";
- 1000 men armed with long-barrel axes - alebards;
- and 1,000 cavalry escort, as well as combat vehicles.
- The name "immortals" was derived from their habit of quickly replenishing losses in the detachment at the expense of well-trained infantry.

The main weapon of the Iranians was the bow. Swords and short spears were secondary weapons. Embroidered shields and scabbarded armor served as protective equipment. The Iranians improved them by installing knives and sickles on the wheels of their chariots.[4]

The Iranian army was divided into thousands, hundreds, and tens. Wings were introduced into the battle order, and they were commanded by members of the royal family.

The reign of Darius I was the period when the power of the Achaemenid state reached its peak.

In the wars of the ancient Iranian state, a new army structure was introduced:

- chariots have lost their former significance;

A maneuvering device - regular cavalry detachments - replaced irregular cavalry detachments. There was also innovation in the management of troops, now the troops were commanded by special chiefs of military districts. Thus, the functions of commanding the army were separated from those of the satraps. Cyrus II, the Iranian king who conquered almost all of Asia Minor and Babylonia, was the first to conquer the region. In 530, he led his troops into Central Asia in order to subdue the nomadic massagetae and seize their wealth. The Massagetae, under the leadership of their ruler, Queen Tamaris, decided to fight against the powerful enemy. The Massagetae were powerful. Their army consisted of soldiers who could move quickly and skillfully perform maneuvers. Their main advantage was that they were fighting on the soil of their homeland.[2]

Iranian army bc. He crossed the Oxus River (Amudarya) in 529 BC and narrowly crushed one of the advanced massaget detachments. Tomiris ordered the troops to retreat to follow the enemy into their territory and, later, to massacre them. Encouraged by this success, the Persians began to chase the Massagetae and fell into a trap prepared in advance in a gorge between the mountains. In this gorge all the Iranian army was slaughtered, and Cyrus II himself was killed. Cyrus II was unable to completely suppress the fierce resistance shown in his campaign against the Massagetae. According to the ancient Greek historian Herodotus, the more Kir II moved northward, the more difficulties he faced [7].

The peoples of Central Asia fought hard against their enslavement by foreign invaders.

According to Herodotus, this battle was the most fierce battle in which the Massagetae participated. For the first time, both sides began to destroy each other with arrows. When the arrows were exhausted, they continued the battle with swords on their horses. The battle went on for a long time, and no one wanted to give way. In the end, the massagettes won.

According to legend, the princess ordered Cyrus II's severed head to be thrown into a pool of blood and condemned his cruelty by saying, "You have never been saturated with blood, so now drink to your heart's content."

BC. In 519-518, Darius I launched a campaign against the Saka tribes of Central Asia.

In this war, the Sakas were defeated by the Iranian troops. Many soldiers were killed and captured in this battle. Nevertheless, the Saaks and other peoples conquered by the enemy fought a heroic struggle against the Iranian invaders. This is also evidenced by another historian, Polien's account of Shirak.[3]

One day the Saki shepherd Shirak came to the camp of the Iranians. His ears and nose were cut off, and there were scars on the rest of his body. Shiraq said that his fellow tribesmen had brought him to this situation and he should take revenge on them. He said he would lead the Iranian army behind the Saki army by the shortest route known only to him. After a seven-day journey through the Chulma Desert, the Iranians realized that they had been deceived. Despite the threat of death to himself, Shiraq said: "I have conquered, I have saved my fellow countrymen, the Saka, from death, and I have subjected the Iranians to thirst and hunger." The Persians executed the steadfast shepherd, and the army of Darius suffered heavy casualties.

The freedom-loving tribes and peoples of Central Asia have always resisted the oppression of the Achaemenid kings. As a result of the struggle for independence, the Khwarazmians arrived in B.C. Independence from the Achaemenids in the 4th century they founded their own state. From that time onwards, the Sakas were no longer dependent on the Achaemenids.

Based on the struggle of the peoples of Central Asia against the Achaemenids, the following conclusions can be drawn:

- The weapons of the peoples of Central Asia were the most advanced weapons of that time and even surpassed the weapons of the Achaemenid armies in some indicators.
- Different tactical methods of attack and defense were developed and successfully applied in Central Asia.
- The warriors of the peoples of Central Asia showed that they mastered weapons and tactical methods of fighting in battles against the Achaemenids.
- BC. In the 6th-4th centuries, the military potential of the peoples of Central Asia was very high, which, in turn, was an important factor in the successful struggle against foreign invaders.

In many cases, our ancestors gained victory over the enemy not only by force, but also by military cunning. At the same time, they are numerous ambushes and tactical methods of misleading the enemy. The main advantages of the ancient Saka, Massagetae, and Sogdians were the ability to maneuver with agility and skill.

As a weakness of their military preparedness, it can be noted that they were unable to attack and capture well-defended fortresses. In ancient times, the foundations of the composition of the armies of the peoples of Central Asia were laid. In the land army, infantry and cavalry troops, engineering units, and rear support units were created. In terms of organization, the armies were divided into tens, hundreds, and thousands, which were the main units of fighting.

Even at that time, strategy and tactics were known to military art. If the beginning of the development of the strategy (problems of planning wars, army management, organization of material support, etc.) dates back to the time of military campaigns of the ancient Eastern states, then the peoples of Central Asia also had their own views on combat operations. The issues of preparation and conduct of battles were decided by the military commanders of the tactical unit. They were engaged in organizing expeditionary and combat protection, reconnaissance, choosing the battlefield, one or another combat order, and leading the army in battle [5, 6, 7].

The current global situation in the world confirms that armed violence has not yet left the life of human society. In different regions of the world, there are periodically emerging wars and armed conflicts of varying scale, therefore, the problem of ensuring military security remains relevant for many countries on Earth. And this problem is primarily solved by military people, who consider their profession to be protecting their homeland. Historical experience shows that it is important and necessary for every military professional to know military history. Without a deep understanding of military experience, it becomes a very difficult task to understand and solve the pressing problems of military affairs, to determine the prospects for its development.

History tells us:

- construction of armed forces,
- military theory,
- training and upbringing of subordinate personnel,
- States can tell you how to successfully address other important issues related to military security.

List of used literature:

1. Юсупов, Р.С. Ҳарбий санъатнинг ривожланиши. Дарслик I-қисм / Р.С. Юсупов, М.М. Нажимов, З.Қ. Музаффаров. – ЎР ҚКА.: – 2003. – 740 в.
2. Ўзбекистон тарихи. I –жилд. I–китоб Тошкент: ЎЗМУ–2015, Масъул муҳаррир: тарих фанлари доктори, профессор А.С.Сагдуллаев. 287 б.
3. Самаров Р., Ахроров С., Отабоев А.Ўзбекистон ҳарбий санъати тарихи (сиёсий тарих контекстида). – Тошкент: Маънавият, 2021. – 412 б.
4. 100 великих битв. / Руководитель авторского коллектива и научный редактор А.Н. Мачин–М.: Вече, 2002. – 640 с.
5. История войн и военного искусства. Учебник. Кн.1. Изд. Академии ВС РУ 2006., инв. № 10886. с. 3-108.
6. История войн и военного искусства. Учебник кн.1. 2005 г., Инв. № 32/А.
7. История Древнего Востока. / под ред. В.И. Кузищенова. – М.: Высшая школа, 1988. – 416 с.