



THE SELJUK STATE DURING THE RULE OF SULTAN SANJAR.

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Abstract: This article covers the events that occurred during the reign of the great ruler of the Seljuk state, Sultan Sanjar, his expansion of the country's territory, and his struggle with the Karakhanids.

Keywords: Seljuks, Ghaznavids, Sultan Sanjar, Karakhanids, Merv, Khorezm, Atsiz, Battle of Qatvan.

Ahmad Sanjar (Sultan Sanjar) is one of the great rulers who played an important role in the history of the Middle East. He was one of the last powerful sultans of the Seljuk state, leaving a significant mark on the political, military and cultural life of the state. During his reign, the Seljuk Empire tried to maintain its influence in the territories of Central Asia and Iran, but internal conflicts and external pressures were increasing.

Sultan Sanjar's activities are distinguished not only by military campaigns and political struggles, but also by his support of science and culture. Therefore, the study of his personality and the period of his reign is of great importance in understanding the processes of the rise and decline of the Seljuk state.

After the death of Sultan Jalaluddin Malikshah (1092), a struggle for the throne began. The sultan's son Berkiyoruk (1094–1105) emerged victorious. The conflicts continued, and by the beginning of the 12th century the Seljuk state had effectively split into two. In the eastern part of the Seljuk empire, which included Transoxiana and Khorasan, the influence of Malikshah's son Sanjar grew. Sanjar, who had been the governor of Khorasan since 1097, was formally subordinate to the supreme ruler, but in practice he acted independently. In 1099 he captured Tokharistan, and in 1102 he captured Samarkand. Near Termez, he defeated the army of the Karakhanid Khan Kadir Khan and succeeded in installing another Karakhanid representative, his nephew Arslan Khan, on the throne of Maverannahr.

In 1104, Ghazni was captured. Bahram Shah, who was transferred to the throne from the Ghaznavids, undertook to pay Sanjar a tribute of five thousand dinars annually. Sanjar was the winner in the internal struggles that began after the death of the Supreme Sultan Ghiyasiddin Muhammad I (Muhammad Tapar). The new ruler, who ascended the throne under the name of Sultan Mu'izziddin Sanjar (1118–1157), united the eastern

and western Seljuks. Taking advantage of his victory, he also captured the lands of Mazandaran, Damovand, Kumis, Dimgan, and Ray. His rulership was also recognized by the regions of Seistan, Khorezm, Ghazni, and Transoxiana.

Sanjar's acquisition of sultanic power was greatly assisted by the Khorezm Shah Qutb al-Din Muhammad. Although Sultan Sanjar was considered the supreme ruler of all the Seljuks, and his name was symbolically recorded in sermons and coins, in Iraq, Asia Minor, and the South Caucasus, independent Seljuk governors ruled in these territories, although they officially recognized him. Under Sultan Sanjar, Mazandaran, Khorezm, Seistan, Ghazna, and Transoxiana were dependent on him for a long time. During his long reign, his contemporaries and historians honored him with such titles as "Malik al-Mashriq", "Great Sultan", "Sultan of Sultans", and "Great Shahanshah". Sultan Sanjar chose the city of Merv as his capital [4, P. 242].

In 1103 and 1109, he interfered with the Karakhanid rulers who controlled Central Asia, the Seven Seas, and Kashgar. In 1130, the Khorasan army captured Samarkand, and the Karakhanid chieftain Hasan ibn Ali was appointed ruler of Transoxiana. However, in 1132, he was replaced by Sanjar's nephew Mahmud ibn Muhammad. Soon after, Transoxiana was invaded by the Karakhanids. The Karakhanids had seized East Turkestan and Seven Seas from the Karakhanids in 1128 and established their own state there.

In 1137, the Karakhanid ruler Mahmud ibn Arslan was defeated by the Kara-Khitans in a battle near Khujand. The Kara-Khitans also included the Karluk tribes of Bolosagun. After a heavy defeat, Mahmud was forced to ask for help from Sanjar. At the request of the Kara-Khitans in Samarkand, Sanjar led an army against the Kara-Khitans. In September 1141, in a decisive battle in the Katvan desert northeast of Samarkand, the combined army of Sanjar and the Kara-Khitans was defeated by the Kara-Khitans [2, P. 159]. In this battle, the Seljuks and Karakhanids suffered heavy losses. They lost 30,000 people, including 3-4,000 emirs and officials. This, in turn, created conditions for the rise of the local Anushteginid dynasty in Khorezm, which was dependent on the Seljuks [1, B.161].

Sanjar escaped defeat and returned to Merv. In the battle, the Seljuk army was also joined by troops from Seyistan, Gur, Ghazna and Mazandaran. The Seljuks lost Transoxiana. The Kara-Khitans ruler Elyuy Dashi, who received the title of "Gurkhan", conquered Bukhara and Samarkand and imposed tribute on Khorezm. Sanjar's reputation was damaged by the defeat of the Ghairidins [2, P. 159].

Taking advantage of the defeat of the Seljuks, the Khorezm shah Qutbiddin Muhammad Atsiz skillfully captured the Seljuk capital of Merv in the winter of 1141 and marched on Nishapur in 1142. However, Sultan Sanjar "expelled the Khorezm troops from Khorasan and achieved the submission of Atsiz to the Persians. Despite the efforts of Sultan Sanjar, the Seljuk state continued to exist in its own was beginning to lose its former power. The decisive blow to the Seljuks was dealt by the Ghuz tribes

living in the Balkh and Khuttal provinces. In 1153, they defeated the troops of Sultan Sanjar and took him prisoner. The Ghuz plundered and burned the defenseless cities of Merv and Nishapur. Although Sultan Sanjar managed to escape from captivity in 1156, he was unable to restore the Seljuk state and died a year later.

During the Seljuk period, especially during the reign of Sultan Sanjar, military commanders played a significant role in the government. The military leaders and commanders were mostly from different clans and tribes (Guz, Turkmen, Khalaj, Chigil, etc.). The military commander class exerted its influence on the government led by Sultan Sanjar and demanded that they act at their discretion. The position of the military commanders was significantly strengthened after the defeat of Sultan Sanjar in the Katwan Desert. [3, P. 366–367].

In summary, Ahmad Sanjar was one of the last powerful rulers of the Seljuk Empire, during whose reign the state was briefly reunited and maintained political influence in Central Asia and Khorasan. However, his reputation declined as a result of the defeat at the Battle of Qatwan, internal conflicts, and attacks by nomadic tribes, and the Seljuk Empire gradually declined.

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