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Theoretical issues of history in Beruni's work "Monuments of ancient peoples"

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Abstract

This article deals with the views of the great scholar of the East Abu Rayhan Beruni on the theoretical issues of history in the work "Monuments of ancient peoples." It is analyzed that Beruni's views on the science of history in the XI century are still of scientific importance in modern history.

Keywords: Beruni, method of historical comparison, historical process, source, information, experience, historical science, theoretical issues.

Introduction

Abu Rayhan Muhammad ibn Ahmad al-Beruni (973-1048) is one of the great figures who made an important contribution to the development of world science and culture. He inherited the legacy of ancient Greek scholars, studied language, philosophy, astronomy, mathematics, and was interested in many disciplines such as botany, mineralogy, geography, and history.

Beruni left a great scientific legacy for generations. We know that Beruni has more than 160 translations, works of various volumes, correspondence in various fields of science of his time. Of particular importance is the work "Monuments of ancient peoples" on the science of history and its theoretical issues. Beruni began to write *Osar al-Baqiya an al-Qur'an al-Khaliya* (Monuments of Ancient Peoples) in Jurjan during the period of emigration and completed it in 1000.

The work was first known to Europeans through a publication in Leipzig in 1876-1878 by the German orientalist and Beruni scholar Edward Zachau, and was translated into Russian in 1957 by M.A. Sale.

In *Monuments of Ancient Peoples*, the theoretical views of historical science on the concepts of historical comparison, comparative style, diachronic style, text analysis, evidence and information, and a number of research methods that still exist today are wonderfully expressed in oriental expressions.

In writing his work, Beruni takes a critical approach to the sources, boldly and fearlessly criticizing the historical works of his predecessors. SP Tolstov speculates that Beruni's such authenticity may have led to the disappearance of many of his historical works.

In many parts of Beruni's work, a number of views have been expressed on the impossibility of having clear and convincing evidence in the study of historical processes and events, the need to study other additional sources on the historical process under study, and to identify convincing evidence using historical comparison.

"At the same time, the path I have taken and the method I have chosen is not an easy one, but a long and difficult one," he said. Not all of the lies that have become so ingrained in the news and narrations are obvious. "Without other evidence, it would not be possible to know that some of them are lies."

In today's concepts, the method of historical comparison allows to reveal its essence when the details of the historical process are not clear and obvious, as well as to identify and generalize generality, regularity, recurrence, and to reveal historical proportionality. In Beruni's work one can read a number of ideas of this content.

- It is clear from the words "not all the lies contained in the news and narrations are clear ..." that all the information provided by Beruni in history books and historians may not be clear, unambiguous and convincing, "... in the absence of other evidence it was impossible to know whether some of them were false," he said, referring to several sources close to each other in

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order to clarify a historical situation and extract the most reliable information, otherwise it would be impossible to determine whether the available information in the source is false or true.

The phrase "one could not have known that some were false without other evidence" requires a broad interpretation, firstly, if any source information is interpreted by the author as a leading factor in the description of historical processes in the description of historical processes, then all available information in the sources nor does it make it possible to conceive of the same historical event or process in an exact and perfect way, which requires a comparative analysis with information from other sources or with other evidence in general. The identified and comparative analysis of the same process will be the basis for the formation of an idea of historical reality.

In the process of gathering evidence, data collection, systematization and analysis of evidence, the historian can see similarities in the content of many processes, but also the diversity of processes in time and space, the differences due to factors, and the commonality of form. The essence of this method in the process of cognition lies in its ability to direct the explanation of the essence of historical processes. To understand and comprehend the essence of a process, it is necessary to understand its similarities and differences.

Beruni is skeptical of what seems to be true at first, but has not been proven by experience, and will not believe such narrations until he has verified them in practice. "How can one believe in something whose contradictions are so obvious?"

It should be noted that in modern history, historical knowledge is doubly subjective, firstly, the historian works with historical sources of a subjective nature, and secondly, in the process of interpreting the facts in the sources, descriptions of historical events and historical processes. will be forced to give subjective opinions.

The uniqueness and proof of this is that the works of all great historians since Herodotus and their historical data have not lost their relevance today and are valuable sources for all historians, while they still serve for the development and advancement of the science of history. The following words of Beruni are also noteworthy here, namely, "... everything known through the beginning of creation and the state of past centuries is mixed with myths and legends, because these things are so far away that a long time has passed between us and them; he who seeks to pay attention to it is incapable of remembering and identifying those [events]."

That is, if we take a deeper look at the meaning of Beruni's words, the more any created source moves away from reality in terms of time, its lesser perfection and reliability at the same time, leading to confusion of information in the source with additional information.

In conclusion, many of the ideas expressed by Abu Rayhan Beruni on the science of history and its theoretical issues in oriental terms are still scientifically relevant today as the most basic research methods and the most effective approaches to research in modern historical science.

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