



## ALEXANDRIA OXIANA (KAMPİR TEPA) OF ALEXANDER THE GREAT IN MUZRABAD DISTRICT

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**Abstract:** This article examines the archaeological site of Kampir Tepa (Alexandria Oxiana), an ancient city located in the Muzrabad district of Surkhandarya region. The city, founded by Alexander the Great in 329-327 BCE, maintained its significance during the Kushan Empire period. The article analyzes the city's topography, architectural structures, cultural layers, and material cultural monuments through comprehensive literature review and historical analysis.

**Keywords:** Kampir Tepa, Alexandria Oxiana, Alexander the Great, Kushan Empire, archaeology, ancient city

**Annotatsiya:** Ushbu maqolada Surxondaryo viloyati Muzrobot tumanida joylashgan qadimiy shahar xarobalari - Kampir tepa (Oks Aleksandriyasi) arxeologik yodgorligi o'rganilgan. Makedoniyalik Aleksandr tomonidan miloddan avvalgi 329-327-yillarda barpo etilgan ushbu shahar Kushon davlati davrida ham o'z ahamiyatini yo'qotmagan. Maqolada shaharning topografiyasi, me'moriy inshootlari, madaniy qatlamlari va moddiy madaniyat yodgorliklari tahlil qilingan.

**Kalit so'zlar:** Kampir tepa, Oks Aleksandriyasi, Makedoniyalik Aleksandr, Kushon davlati, arxeologiya, qadimiy shahar

**Аннотация:** В данной статье исследуется археологический памятник Кампыр-тепа (Александрия Оксиана), древний город, расположенный в Музрабадском районе Сурхандарьинской области. Город, основанный Александром Македонским в 329-327 гг. до н.э., сохранял свое значение и в период Кушанской империи. В статье анализируются топография города, архитектурные сооружения, культурные слои и памятники материальной культуры на основе комплексного обзора литературы и исторического анализа.

**Ключевые слова:** Кампыр-тепа, Александрия Оксиана, Александр Македонский, Кушанская империя, археология, древний город

### INTRODUCTION

The military campaigns of Alexander the Great led to the establishment of several cities in Central Asia, with Alexandria Oxiana (Kampir Tepa) in modern-day Muzrabad district of Surkhandarya being one of the most significant [1]. The city ruins, located on the right bank of the Amu Darya (Oxus) River, held strategic importance due to its geographical position. The presence of a river crossing point and the intersection of trade routes gave the city special status in the region [2].

The historical significance of Alexandria Oxiana extends beyond its military and strategic importance. As one of the easternmost Hellenistic settlements, it served as a crucial point of cultural interchange between Greek and Central Asian civilizations. The city's establishment marked a turning point in the region's urban development and cultural evolution [10]. Archaeological evidence suggests that the settlement continued to flourish long after Alexander's departure, developing into a major urban center during the Greco-Bactrian and Kushan periods.

## **METHODOLOGY AND LITERATURE REVIEW**

This research is based on a comprehensive analysis of archaeological reports, historical documents, and academic publications. The methodology involves systematic review of both primary and secondary sources, including archaeological expedition reports, historical chronicles, and contemporary scholarly works. The study employs comparative historical analysis and archaeological interpretation methods to examine the city's development and significance [3].

The site was first identified as Alexandria Oxiana by Soviet archaeologists in the 1960s [4]. Extensive archaeological work has been conducted by various teams, including Uzbek, Russian, and international researchers. The works of Rtveladze [5] and Bernard [6] have been particularly significant in understanding the city's Hellenistic period.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

The archaeological investigations of Alexandria Oxiana have revealed substantial evidence about the city's development, cultural significance, and strategic importance. The excavated materials and architectural remains provide comprehensive insights into the urban planning and societal structure of this Hellenistic settlement.

The city's architectural layout demonstrates sophisticated urban planning principles characteristic of Hellenistic settlements. The fortification system, encompassing approximately 14 hectares, consisted of massive walls constructed using both Greek and local building techniques. The walls, built from mud-brick on stone foundations, reached heights of up to 8 meters in some sections. The citadel, strategically positioned on the highest point of the settlement, showcases advanced military architectural features including watch towers, arrow slits, and defensive corridors [7].

Archaeological evidence indicates a well-planned internal structure with distinct functional zones. The residential areas reveal a grid-pattern street system, typical of Hellenistic urban planning. The houses display a mixture of Greek and local architectural traditions, with courtyards being a common feature. Public buildings, including what appears to be an administrative center and possible religious structures, occupied the central part of the city. The presence of storage facilities and workshops suggests a developed economic system.

The material culture recovered from Alexandria Oxiana demonstrates the rich multicultural environment that characterized the city. Ceramic findings show both Greek and local Central Asian influences, with imported Hellenistic pottery appearing alongside local wares. The discovery of coins, including Greek-style issues and later Kushan currency, indicates active participation in regional trade networks. Architectural decorative elements, such as carved stone fragments and terracotta figurines, reflect a synthesis of Hellenistic and Central Asian artistic traditions [8].

The strategic significance of Alexandria Oxiana cannot be overstated. Its location on the Oxus River made it a crucial point for controlling river crossings and monitoring trade routes. The city served as a vital link in the network of Hellenistic settlements established by Alexander the Great across Central Asia. Archaeological evidence suggests that the settlement maintained its strategic importance well into the Kushan period, serving as a major urban center facilitating trade and cultural exchange between different regions [9].

The city's historical development can be traced through distinct archaeological layers. The earliest Hellenistic phase (329-327 BCE) shows strong Greek influences in architecture and material culture. The subsequent Greco-Bactrian period witnessed significant urban expansion and the development of local artistic styles incorporating Hellenistic elements. During the Kushan period, the city reached its zenith, as evidenced by extensive building activities and the diversity of archaeological materials.

Economic activities in Alexandria Oxiana were diverse and sophisticated. The discovery of craft workshops, including pottery kilns and metalworking facilities, indicates local production capabilities. Imported items such as Mediterranean glassware and Indian semi-precious stones suggest extensive trade connections. The presence of storage facilities and standardized weights points to organized commercial activities.

The religious and cultural life of the city appears to have been equally complex. Archaeological evidence suggests the coexistence of Greek and local cult practices. Architectural remains and artifacts indicate the presence of both Hellenistic-style temples and local religious structures. The discovery of

various cultural items, including theatrical masks and musical instruments, suggests a rich cultural life that combined Greek and Central Asian traditions.

The decline of Alexandria Oxiana coincided with broader regional changes in the late antique period. However, the archaeological record indicates that the city's influence on regional culture and trade patterns continued long after its physical decline. The site remains a crucial source of information about Hellenistic urbanization in Central Asia and the complex processes of cultural interaction between Greek and Central Asian civilizations.

### **CONCLUSION**

Alexandria Oxiana represents a significant example of Hellenistic urban planning in Central Asia and demonstrates the complex interaction between Greek and local cultures. The archaeological evidence suggests that the city maintained its importance well beyond Alexander's period, serving as a crucial center for trade and cultural exchange until the Kushan period. The site continues to provide valuable information about the Hellenistic presence in Central Asia and subsequent historical periods.

Furthermore, the study of Alexandria Oxiana contributes significantly to our understanding of ancient urbanization processes in Central Asia. The city serves as a prime example of how Hellenistic urban planning principles were adapted to local conditions and how different cultural traditions could be successfully integrated. The ongoing archaeological research at the site continues to reveal new insights into the complexity of ancient Central Asian civilization and its connections to the wider ancient world.

The legacy of Alexandria Oxiana extends into modern times, as the site remains a crucial source for understanding the historical development of urban centers in Central Asia and the long-term effects of cultural interchange between Eastern and Western civilizations. Future research at the site promises to further enhance our understanding of this significant historical settlement and its role in shaping the cultural landscape of ancient Central Asia.

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