

MEDIEVAL HISTORY OF CENTRAL EURASIA



No. 1 (1) 2020



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MEDIEVAL HISTORY OF CENTRAL EURASIA

Has been published since 2020

No. 1 (1) 2020

Nur-Sultan

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Medieval History of Central Eurasia

Owner: International Science Complex Astana
 Periodicity: quarterly
 Circulation: 500 copies

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THE ROLE OF ANCIENT TURKS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF MILITARY AFFAIRS OF MEDIEVAL CENTRAL ASIAN NOMADS

Yu. S. Khudyakov

Novosibirsk, Russian Federation,

Abstract: The significant role in military science development of Eurasian Steppe medieval nomads during era of the Early Middle Ages belonged to nomadic population, known by their ethnic title of «Turks». It is known from the sources, that the early Turks had origin from the Xiongnu ethnic backgrounds. They were headed by representatives of the ruling aristocratic family of Aşina. They were relocated by the Rourans to the Altai Mountains in the middle of the 1st millennium A.D. After defeat of the Teles tribes, who rebelled against the Rourans, rulers of the Old Turks suppressed their rebellion and did claim for higher position in the Rouran Khaganate. Nevertheless, after blunt denial from the Rourans, the rebelled and defeated Rourans, and then established their own powerful state – Turkic Khaganate, that subdued many nomadic tribes of Eurasian Steppe. Armament complex and military science of the Old Turks have become an instance for development of military science in nomadic societies. Significant role in development of military science of the Old Turkic nomads belonged to troops of armoured cavalry. During the period of Eastern and Western Turkic Khaganates the Old Turkic nomads continued dominating in nomadic societies of Eurasian Steppe. Subsequently, despite the loss of statehood, the leaved a substantial mark in military history of nomadic people.

Keywords: medieval nomads, Old Turks, Eurasian Steppe, era of Early Middle Ages, Turkic Khaganates.

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