

The Role and Significance of Thought in the Evolution of Stone Weapons of the Central Asia Paleolithic Period

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Abstract: Tools can tell a lot about not only the lifestyle of an ancient person, but also about the peculiarities of his thinking. The ability to "read" stone, that is, to see the direction of blows, to separate the influence of the human hand from the influence of nature, is one of the most controversial topics among historical archaeologists today.

Keywords: "chopper", weapon, stone, plate, cut, Olduvai, Kramanon, guns, "hand axe", Ashell, Muste, Paleolithic.

INTRODUCTION.

Weapons made of flint are found in all stone ages of Central Asia. For the first time in Central Asia, A.P. Okladnikov, as a result of his observations in 1953, found the existence of a flint chopper, that is, a weapon with a wider blade due to processing with several cutting methods, in the monuments of Onarcha in Kyrgyzstan. Primitive people often used black droit sticks¹. The reason is that there are many such stones in the riverbeds of Central Asia.

MAIN PART.

In the Olduvai period (3/2.6 million BC - 800 thousand years ago) chopper, chopping and nucleus were used. Olduvai is a period unique to Africa. In the Olduvai period, long (spheroid) weapons, roughly launched, were mainly used to grind meat and vegetable products. "chopper" (Eng. - cutter) is made on the basis of hitting on one side and used for cutting and cutting purposes. Their size was 7.5-10 cm. A chopping tool is a nuclear weapon with a cross-edge that is beveled on both sides. Chopping is especially common in the Middle Pleistocene industry of Asia. The size of these weapons was different. The smallest chopping was 4-5 cm, the largest was 12.5 cm. A chopper and a chopping weapon from the Muste period of Karabori settlement of Tajikistan was 6-8 cm. The discovery of simple blunt flints from Australopithecus sites leads paleontologist Jane Goodock to conclude that early primates knew how to make primitive weapons by throwing stones together. In the Olduvai period (2.6 million years BC), homo habilis (man of business) people began to make stone tools by consciously pounding river flint stones together. These stone weapons are called choppers in archeology. A chopper is a single-sided stone, while chopping is a double-sided stone weapon. During this period, nuclei were also widely used, and a nucleus is a stone that has been stripped of its natural shell in order to make a working tool.

The way of life of the primitive people of the Olduvai period was mainly to live in small groups, to live in temporary places, to collect crops, and to hunt wild animals.

Ashell (800/700 BC - 120/100 thousand years BC) handaxe is a macrolithic stone weapon of the primitive period. In the production of Ashell tools, the elements of the assumed strategic task are

¹ Жўракулов М. Ўрта Осиё ибтидоий археологияси. 130 бет

significantly expanded, which requires the deliberate shaping of the core to achieve a predetermined shape. The prototype Ashell artifact is the so-called "hand axe," a more or less symmetrical, teardrop-shaped tool that is well-suited for butchery and other heavy cutting tasks. If this almond-shaped stone is split in the middle (from the striking area to the tip), two equal symmetries are formed. Its tip is designed to pierce animal skin. The oldest samples of weapons were found in East Africa (1.5-1.0 million years). By the time of Ashell, the hand ax became the main weapon of Homo erectus people. The handle was sharp, sharp, hard, providing the continuity of the hand of primitive people, and was used to grind meat and vegetable products.

Both sides of the gun are called faces. Paleolithic archaeologists also call hand axes bifaces, which are divided into several types depending on the technique of their development and use. If the tool is made on a chip (plate or piece), then the adjective dorsal or ventral is added to the word face, depending on the designation of the sides of the workpiece. If one of the faces is completely or almost completely covered with retouch, but the other is not, then such an object is called a uniface. When both sides are re-inked, it is called double-sided² For example: monophas and uniphaz - single-sided and ser-sided. Arms, that is, bifas, are made of siliceous, hard limestone, shale, quartzite, obsidian, and are found in almond-shaped, heart-shaped, triangular, oval, egg-shaped, and elliptical shapes.

Selungur Cave, one of the oldest places in Central Asia, was inhabited by primitive people from 1 million years ago to 200-100 thousand years ago³. Until now, more than 5,000 bones belonging to 32 species of animals have been discovered from the cultural layers of Selungur Cave⁴. Work tools made of stone were excavated from the cultural layers: handaxes, blunt axes, knife-like weapons, many toothed weapons, and bird's beak-like weapons. Stone weapons, created on the basis of the first thought buds of our ancestors, were found in the fifth layer (belonging to the Acheulean period). Among these stone weapons was also found a hand lance, which was made of red jasper in the shape of a spear. Only one side of it was worked with stone hammers to get a few hits. On its side, there are traces of large bullets. The same aspects of the weapon confirm that it is the oldest weapon. A heavy and blunt stone ax was found in the 4th layer of Selungur site. It is also very primitive in terms of development, and traces of its long-term use by our ancestors have also been preserved⁵.

From the middle of the Acheulean period, the tradition of working with stone tools, which is called Levallois (from the name of Levallois-Perre near Paris) technique in modern archeology, is emerging. The technique of stoneworking is called levallois technique, in reference to the way in which the stone pieces are copied from the flange-shaped (tortoise shell-like) nucleus formed after the natural shell around the flint stone is blown away. The Levallois technique developed during the Muste period and was preserved in the late Paleolithic period in some southern countries. Levallois type is found in many places in Central Asia. The contour of such nuclei is straighter and straighter than the previous one, and the possibility of blowing out relatively thin pieces of rock from it increases. After the Levallois method was developed, the variety of stone tools increased significantly. During this period, a secondary processing method based on retouching of stone tools appears. Retouching refers to making a blade through small strokes with an auxiliary tool on a piece of stone copied from the nucleus. Retouching is done using bone, wood and in some cases stones. Later, there is a method of "hot retouching", a method of forming a blade by squeezing with a tool.

Scraper (silver) is a retouched primitive stone tool made of flint, obsidian, quartzite and other types of stones. With a sharp blade, it mainly served as a knife. Some scrapers were also used in tanning

The primitive people of the Ashell period lived a sedentary lifestyle, used caves as natural hiding places, lived in groups, hunted collectively, kept a constant fire, and each member of the group had a skill.

² Акимова Е. В.. Археологический рисунок: приемы изображения и интерпретации каменных артефактов : учеб.-метод. пособие / сост. – Красноярск: Сиб. федер. ун-т, 2022. – 13 с.

³ Исламов У. И. Первая нижнепалеолитическая пещерная стоянка в Ферганской долине (Общественные науки в Узбекистане nashri). Ташкент. 1984

⁴ Анарбоев А., Исломов У., Матбобоев Б. Ўзбекистон тарихида қадимги Фарғона. Тошкент, "Фан". 2001. 40-бет

⁵ Анарбоев А., Исломов У., Матбобоев Б. Ўзбекистон тарихида қадимги Фарғона. Тошкент, "Фан". 2001. 40-бет

Muste (120/100 - 40/35 millennia BC) culture, Middle Paleolithic period. Primitive stone tools characteristic of the Muste period culture are disk-shaped and single-faced ritted silica, shale, quartzite and obsidian. By this time, the neklaus spade, sharp-edged scraper and knives were in wide circulation. Primitive people of the Muste period now work on wood and bones and use them as weapons.

CONCLUSION.

The lifestyle of the primitive people of the Muste period was in the form of large herds, occupied caves, hunted large carnivorous and herbivorous animals, could make various types of stone, wood and bone weapons, processed skin and fur, created artificial fire, the emergence of the cult of burial, primitive spirits trust, mastered new territories.

Late Paleolithic - (40/35 BC - 12 thousand years ago) the process of anthropogenesis ends with the formation of modern humans - *homo sapiens sapiens*, i.e. Kramanon type of people⁶. Such an important change in the development of human society was considered the beginning of the first fundamental turning point in their social, economic and cultural life.

The emergence of a conscious person continues with the occurrence of important changes and innovations in all spheres of social life. From the changes in material culture, the prismatic technique of stonework emerges. It is convenient to copy thin and long pieces of stone (plate) from prism-shaped nuclei, which makes it possible to make sharp and compact stone tools compared to earlier stone tools. Stone fragments broken from prismatic nuclei often do not require secondary processing-retouching. We can see that the chopper guns found in the Samarkand area are designed to be held with the right hand.

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