



## THE ROLE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GHAZNAVID DYNASTY IN THE HISTORY OF OUR STATEHOOD

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**Annotation:** *This article discusses the historical conditions for the formation of the Ghaznavid state, the role of the Ghaznavid state in the history of Uzbekistan's statehood, and the analysis of the reforms carried out by representatives of the Ghaznavid dynasty in the economic and political spheres, as noted in historical-scientific literature. Additionally, the reforms undertaken by Mahmud Ghaznavi to expand the borders of his state and ensure the prosperity of his people since ascending the throne are also highlighted.*

**Key words:** *Mavarannahr, Ghazi, "Majma al-ansab," Khwarazm, Khorasan, Sistan, Kabul, Ghazna, Caspian Sea, Issyk-Kul, court slave, provincial deputy.*

### INTRODUCTION

Although the period of the Ghaznavid rule in Mavarannahr was brief and limited in territorial scope (lasting only about 40 years), it is considered one of the significant phases in the history of Uzbekistan's statehood. The emergence of the Ghaznavid state in the late 10th and early 11th centuries occurred alongside other important states, such as the Seljuks and the Karakhanids, which hold significant historical importance.

### MAIN PART

This period marked not only Mavarannahr but all of Central Asia, indicating the establishment of a stable Turkish statehood. The rise of Ghazna as a political center began in the second half of the 10th century. The founder of the Ghaznavid dynasty, Amir Nasir al-Din al-Dawla Sabuktigin Ghazi, was of Turkish origin. According to some medieval sources, including the work *Majma al-ansab* by Muhammad Shabani, written in the 14th century, Sabuktigin was born in Barskhan, near Issyk-Kul, and was the ruler of the Qarluq. Sabuktigin was captured in his youth and sold into slavery, eventually purchased by Alp Tegin, a prominent figure in the Samanid state, as noted by historian V.V. Bartold. The Ghaznavid state was established in 962 by Alp Tegin.

When Alp Tegin passed away in 963, his purchased slave Sabuktigin gained significant influence. After Alp Tegin's death, Amir Is'haq ibn Alp Tegin, Amir Bilgetigin, Amir Piri, and Amir Sabuktigin successively ruled in Ghazna. In early 997, Sabuktigin was appointed governor of Ghazna and its surroundings by the Samanids. Historical sources describe Sabuktigin as the founder of the Ghaznavid state. After Sabuktigin's death in late 997, his younger son, Ismail, ruled for only seven months. In 998, Sabuktigin's second son, Mahmud, who had earned the title Saif al-Dawla ("Sword of the Sultanate") for his military prowess, ascended the throne of the Ghaznavid dynasty.

During the reign of Abulqasim Mahmud (commonly known as Mahmud of Ghazni), the Ghaznavid state reached its peak of power and glory (998-1030). Under Mahmud, Khwarazm, Khorasan, Sistan,



Kabul, Ghazna, and parts of Northern India were under Ghaznavid control. Mahmud launched 17 invasions of India, causing great destruction. The same year Mahmud ascended the throne, he received a decree from the Caliph Muqaddar to govern Khorasan and was granted the honorary title Yamin al-Dawla wa Amin al-Milla ("Pillar of the Sultanate and Trustworthy Representative of the Muslim Community").

From the moment he ascended the throne, Mahmud pursued a policy of territorial expansion. In the same year, he conquered southern Tokharistan (modern northern Afghanistan). After a battle near Merv in 999, all of Khorasan came under Mahmud's control. According to sources, the strategically important city of Termez in the Amu Darya region also came under his rule. Abulfazl Bayhaqi's work *Tarikh-i Mas'udi* mentions that a governor and fortress commander appointed by the Ghaznavids were stationed in Termez, allowing the Ghaznavids to control a key trade route from Central Asia to India via the Amu Darya.

In 1001, Mahmud and the Karakhanids agreed on a border, and in 1002, after receiving formal recognition of his rule from the Caliph of Baghdad, Mahmud strengthened his power and captured Sistan the same year. Initially, the Amu Darya served as the border between the Ghaznavids and the Karakhanids, although the Karakhanids frequently violated this boundary. In 1008, Mahmud achieved a significant victory in a battle near Balkh, consolidating his position in Khorasan. That same year, he also captured Chaghaniyan and Khuttalon, leaving local rulers in power as his deputies.

According to historical sources, in 1024, Mahmud crossed the Amu Darya, ostensibly to liberate the people of Central Mavarrannahr from the oppression of Alp Tegin, and launched a campaign as far as Samarkand through the Iron Gate, attacking Sogd. After this campaign, Mahmud's control over Chaghaniyan, Khuttalon, and Qobadiyon strengthened. However, according to numismatic evidence and the research of E.V. Ritveladze, there is still insufficient evidence regarding the political status of Khuttalon, Qobadiyon, and Vakhsh relative to the Ghaznavid state. Ritveladze suggests that the entire Amu Darya valley up to Omul (Charjuy) may have been under Mahmud's control. Before his campaign in Khwarazm, Mahmud ordered his minister to prepare ships for battle in Termez, Qobadiyon, and Khuttalon and to stockpile provisions in Omul for the army.

Mahmud launched a campaign in Khwarazm in 1017 after his ally, Khwarazmshah Abul Abbas Mamun, was assassinated, and his nephew Abulharis Muhammad Amin was placed on the throne by the rebels. Mahmud's army quelled the revolt and took control of Khwarazm. Mahmud appointed his chief chamberlain, the Turkic-origin Altintash, as Khwarazmshah. Despite his attempts to pursue an independent policy, Altintash remained a vassal of the Ghaznavid rulers throughout his reign.

During Mahmud's reign, the Ghaznavid state became one of the most powerful Muslim states, its territory stretching from northern and northwestern India to Chaghaniyan and Khwarazm. Mahmud passed away in 1030, and shortly after, his younger son Muhammad ascended the throne, only to be overthrown by his elder brother Masud.

However, under Masud, the Ghaznavid state began to decline, gradually losing its territories. The Khwarazm region was the first to secede, with its ruler Mahmud Altintash formally pursuing an independent policy. After Altintash's death in 1032, Masud tried to restrict the power of Altintash's successors. Masud's policies led to further internal instability, and the rise of the Seljuks posed a major challenge to the Ghaznavid state. In 1040, the Seljuks defeated Masud's army at the Battle of Dandanaqan, marking the beginning of the decline of the Ghaznavid state. By the end of the 12th century, the Ghaznavid dynasty was eventually destroyed by the Ghurid dynasty, with the final blow delivered in 1186.

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