

CHINA'S TERRITORIAL CLAIMS CAUSE UNEASE IN TAJIKISTAN

The Central Asian region is once again distracted by the so-called "China invasion". The debate on possible Chinese sovereignty of some territories of the modern Republic of Tajikistan that started in 2013 is once again on the rise today.

Earlier at the end of 2016 a number of Chinese scientists requested an investigation on historical belonging of some Tajik territories to China. During their visit to China in 2016 Dr. Akromi, Director of the Institute of History, Archaeology and Ethnography of the Academy of Sciences of Tajikistan and his colleagues discussed the issue with Chinese scientists who suggested a scientific research that would possibly prove the fact some territories of the Central Asia and particularly a part of Tajikistan are the historical lands of China. Following the debate Chinese scientists demanded archaeological excavations to be performed on the disputed territories in Tajikistan while the Northwestern Polytechnic University located in Xi'an, China offered its full sponsorship of the project.

The first stage of the project would involve translation and publication of the 6-volume scientific work "The History of Tajik people" where some essential facts of the early and ancient history of Tajikistan could be found proving the statements of Chinese scientists.

The next step of the project suggests archaeological excavations performed in the Beshkent valley and Dingar where a lot of objects that belonged to the ancient government of Yuezhi (I-II centuries of A.D.) were found in the 18960-1980. Yuezhi was a part of the Chinese ethnic group while lots of scientists mistakenly consider it a part of the Greek group.

Archaeologists, historians and scientists of Tajikistan are worried that at the end China would succeed in acquiring the disputed territories of the Republic of Tajikistan given the obvious economic and political leadership of China and its dominance over Tajikistan. Yet, Beijing's aggressive policy is far beyond the goal to reach a historical fairness: the disputed land claimed by China is rich in gold and other precious metals and minerals.

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