

**Book review**

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**Bakırcı, Fatih: Yarlık ve İneyetnameler: Harvard Üniversitesindeki Yarkend Hanlığı ve Hocalar Dönemi'ne Ait Belgeler. İstanbul: Ötüken Neşriyat 2023. 242 pages. ISBN 978-625-408-442-3.**

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The establishment of the Mongol Empire under the leadership of Chingis Khan (1206–1227) and its expansion through conquest had a profound impact on the geography of Asia. The political unity established by Chingis Khan and inherited by his successors led to the emergence of the structures known as the “Turkestan Khanates” in Asia from the 13th century onwards. One of these, the Yarkend Khanate (Saidiye/Seidiye Khanate, 1514–1696), was established under the leadership of Sultan Said Khan (1487–1533), a descendant of Chingis, in a region that included six major cities: Kashgar, Aksu, Uqturpan, Khoten, Yarkend, and Kucha. It maintained its political existence for 182 years by expanding its borders. Following the Yarkend Khanate, the Khajas Period (1696–1762) began in East Turkestan under the rule of the Jungars, and lasted until the Chinese occupation, during which the sheiks of the Naqshbandi order maintained their political authority.

The book *Yarlık ve İneyetnameler: Harvard Üniversitesindeki Yarkend Hanlığı ve Hocalar Dönemi'ne Ait Belgeler* by Fatih Bakırcı focuses on the administrative documents of the Yarkend Khanate and the Khajas Period. Seven manuscripts from the 16th to 18th centuries held at Harvard University's Houghton Library and Lund University Library constitute the basis of the book. Since there is a limited number of studies on the Yarkend Khanate and the Khajas Period, this book makes a significant contribution to the linguistic and historical research in the field.

The book has 242 pages and six chapters, including “Notes” and “Index”. The chapters are organized as follows:

Chapter 1: Yarkend Hanlığı ve Hocalar Dönemi'ne Ait Belgeler: Soyurgal, Tarhanlık ve İneyetname (Documents of the Yarkend Khanate and the Khajas Period: Suyurghal, Tarkhanlig and Inayatnama<sup>1</sup>, pp. 27–38).

Chapter 2: Yarkend Hanlığı ve Hocalar Dönemi'nde Verilen Belgelerin İnşası (The Composition of Documents of the Yarkend Khanate and the Khajas Period, pp. 41–56).

Chapter 3: Yarkend Hanlığı ve Hocalar Dönemi'ne Ait Belgelerin Filolojik Değerlendirmesi (Philological Analysis of the Documents of the Yarkend Khanate and the Khajas Period, pp. 59–67).

Chapter 4: Yarkend Hanlığı ve Hocalar Dönemi Belgeleri (Documents of the Yarkend Khanate and the Khajas Period, pp. 71–128).

Chapter 5: Notlar (Notes, pp. 132–150).

Chapter 6: Belgelerin Dizinleri (Indexes of the Documents, pp. 153–227).

By analysing and comparing the documents of two political formations from the 16th to 18th centuries, this study aims to provide a holistic view of the official and private correspondence literature of Eastern Turkism.

The first chapter, “Yarkend Hanlığı ve Hocalar Dönemi'ne Ait Belgeler: Soyurgal, Tarhanlık ve İneyetname” classifies the documents into different types according to their content, terminology, and

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stylistic features. *Yarliks* are categorized as either *suyurghal* or *tarkhanlig* according to the purpose for which they were written, and the *inayatnamas* are treated as a separate genre. The granting of privileges, such as land and water resources, and the assignment of duties to individuals by the ruler or his appointees form the contents of five documents: the *Yarlik of Shujauddin Ahmad Khan, Sultan Mahmud Khan, Abdullah Khan, Yolbars Khan, and Muhammad Ismail Khan*. These are identified as *suyurghals* on the basis of their contents. *Suyurghals* describe in detail the boundaries of the lands granted to individuals, as well as noteworthy information such as the region's geographical features and water resources. On the basis of its contents, the *Yarlik of Muhammad Khan* is considered a *tarkhanlig*. It mentions the tax exemptions granted to the sheik's family and children for the irrigation of the inherited vineyards. Within this framework, the etymology and terminology of the words *suyurghal* and *tarkhanlig*, the purpose and/or reasons for their issuance as a type of document, their permanence between generations, and the privileges they granted to individuals are evaluated.

The other type of document discussed in the first chapter is the *inayatnama*, which takes the form of an official letter. *Inayatnama* is an Arabic-Persian compound word and its dictionary definition is a "written grant, certificate of exemption" (Steingass 1930: 896b). It is frequently used in the field of Eastern Turkism. The primary sources of the period, such as historical records, Ali-Shir Navai's *Munshaat* (1498), and the documents analysed in this study, prove that *inayatnama* is a special term used in written composition. *Khaja Yakub's Inayatnama*, the only *inayatnama* identified in the collections, was compared with five others of the same type from the Khiva Khanate in order to reveal its specific characteristics. According to the comparison, the characteristics of the *inayatnama* can be listed as follows:

1. It is a kind of document that is usually issued to settle civil disputes and to assign duties and confer ranks and religious honours on individuals.
2. It is usually written by a higher authority and sent to a lower authority.
3. It is an official record of sealed orders. In a hierarchical order, it is issued to the bureaucrats in a position of authority in the region.
4. In the "narration" and "demand" sections of the *inayatnama*, it is strongly emphasized that an honourable official must follow the advice and recommendations given.

A remarkable aspect of the documents analysed in this study is that they provide important information for future studies in different fields. Fatih Bakırcı mentions that they are important as "these details are crucial as primary sources in fields such as land law, land registry, and cadastral records, landforms, physical mapping, the metric system of area measurement, and the terminology of the period and geography" (p. 29).

"Yarkend Hanlığı ve Hocalar Dönemi'nde Verilen Belgelerin İnşası" is the second chapter. The chapter begins with an analysis of the introductory lines of Ali-Shir Navai's *Khamsat al-Mutahayyirin* (1492/1493 or 1495/1496), one of the most important works contributing to the understanding of Turkish written composition. In the introduction to *Khamsat al-Mutahayyirin*, sections of texts (*muqaddama*, *maqalat*, *khatimat*) are listed and the contents of the sections are specified. The Turkish historical documents analysed in this chapter have a similar textual organization and division plan to that of *Khamsat al-Mutahayyirin* (see below). It is a work written by Navai on the death of his close friend 'Abd al-Rahman Jami (1414–1492) and differs in genre from the historical documents in this book. It can therefore be assumed that such a compositional plan may be common to Turkic works, regardless of their genre. In addition, this chapter critiques the "stylistic analysis" sections found in some studies, which aim to reveal the order in which the texts were written. The studies evaluated certain concepts as "stylistic features", but it is argued that there is a distinction between "textual organization" and "stylistic features" in textual analysis. This book classifies these concepts under "tex-

tual organization”, referring to the *Handbook of Ottoman-Turkish Diplomatics* (1968) by J. Reychman and A. Zajackowski.

The seven documents are analysed as compositions with three main sections: “Muqaddama”, “Muhtavi” and “Khatimat”. Each main section is further divided into sub-sections. Where available, the main sections and sub-sections are presented with their Latin equivalents in the literature. The introductory section “Muqaddama (Introductory Protocol)” consists of the sub-sections “Invitation (Lat. Invocatio)”, “Title (Lat. Intitulatio)”, “Addressee (Lat. Inscriptio)” and “Salutation (Lat. Salutatio)”. The “Muhtavi (Context)” section, in which the orders and verdicts and the reason for the writing are conveyed, consists of “Narration/Exposition (Lat. Narratio/Expositio)”, “Transition to the Narration/Exposition”, “Order/Verdict and/or Demand (Lat. Dispositio)” and “Commination/Threat and/or Curse (Lat. Sanctio et corroboratio)”. The final section, the “Khatimat (Final Protocol or eschatocol)”, is categorized as “Date (Lat. Datatio)”, “Location (Lat. Locus)” and “Seal”. To determine the sections, a comparison was made with inscriptions from the Turkic and Uigur Khaganates, as well as with documents from the Golden Horde, the Crimean and Kazan Khanates, and the Ottoman Empire.

In the third chapter, titled “Yarkend Hanlığı ve Hocalar Dönemi’ne Ait Belgelerin Filolojik Değerlendirmesi”, the documents are chronologically arranged and philologically analysed. The earliest is *Muhammad Khan’s Tarkhanlig* (1008/1599) and the latest is *Khaja Yakub’s Inayatnama* (1155/1742). These were written during the “post-classical period” of the Eastern Turki (commonly referred to as Chagatai) written language. The “post-classical period” was a time when the influence of Ali-Shir continued, while the local elements, such as Uzbek (Eckmann 1960: 9–10) and other vernacular varieties, also influenced the literary language, particularly Uigur, Turkmen, and Azeri (pp. 59–60). The texts of the 17th to 19th centuries in the cultural centres of East Turkestan reflect the phonetic features of Uigur and its dialects in the standard language of the time. Almost all the documents in this book were written in the “post-classical period” in Yarkend and Kashgar; the exception is *Khaja Yakub’s Inayatnama*, as the place of its writing is unknown. However, the local elements found in the literary and religious texts are not reflected in the standard language. Apart from a few local features, the standard written language of the “classical period” is used. This does not include the classification and terminological evaluations repeated in other studies. Instead, the focus is on highlighting the specific philological features that differ from the standard language of Eastern Turki. The reason behind this approach is that Eastern Turki was a stable language from the 15th to the 17th century. However, from the 17th century onwards, Turkic dialects began to have an impact on the written language, which coincided with changes in political history. The phonetic, morphological, and lexical features that differ from the standard language of Eastern Turki are evaluated under specific headings.

The fourth chapter, “Yarkend Hanlığı ve Hocalar Dönemi Belgeleri” presents facsimiles, catalogue numbers, copies, and detailed descriptions of the documents at Harvard University’s Houghton Library and Lund University Library in chronological order. The textual organization and layout are analysed in detail, line-by-line. *Muhammad Khan’s Tarkhanlig* is organized as follows. The first line is the “Invitation”, the second line is the “Title”, lines 3 to 8 are referred to as “Addressee”, lines 8 to 12 are the “Narration/Exposition”, lines 12 to 16 are the “Order/Verdict and/or Demand”, and the final line (line 16) contains “Date”, “Location”, and “Seal”. Using the method of comparative textual study, these are transcribed from the copies in the two libraries mentioned above. The texts are translated into Turkish, preserving the diplomatic terminology.

In the fifth chapter, “Notlar”, 19 words and suffixes are listed. Some of the words and suffixes do not appear in the primary sources of the field, while others do appear in the primary sources but have acquired new meanings in the documents analysed. Fatih Bakırcı also added terms to the “Notlar” section due to spelling issues in the Arabic script. For this reason, they are significant for studies and researchers:

**Alıḫçı salıḫçı** (آليقچى ساليقچى) ‘tax collector’, **aluḫ** (الوق) ‘credit; payment, tax’, **aluḫāt** (الوقات) ‘credits; taxes’, **+āne** (انه) ‘taxes paid to authorities, or for places and objects; morpheme deriving names of services performed’; **ḥaṣer** (حشر) ‘public service performed annually to dig waterways such as rivers and streams in the khanate; the persons responsible for performing this public service of digging’, **horḥin (bēgi)** (هورجين) ‘an officer in charge of taxation of less than one hundred people in the administrative organization of the Yarkend Khanate’, **iṣḫi kūṣḫi** (ايشىچى كوشچى) ‘senior civil servant who ensures and/or supervises the fulfilment of work and service obligations’, **kōkbaṣı** (كوكباشى) ‘servant in charge of irrigation work in the field’, **kūrūm-āne** (كورومانه) ‘vineyard tax (grape)’, **+lḫ/+luḫ** (ليق / لوق) ‘morpheme deriving economic and financial terms from position names’, **mecerg ~ meḫerg** (مچرك ~ مچرك) ‘the public’s obligation to work without pay’, **merdikār** (مردكار) ‘people who are assembled for the excavation of waterways such as rivers and streams and who are obliged to perform public service’, **nuḫāt** (نوقات) ‘ear of grain, spike’, **ōrek** (اوراك) ‘pit, hole’, **ṣada** (صده) ‘community location, region; village, town’, **ṣāhib-cem** (صاحبجمع) ‘tax collector’, **tirevül** (تيراول) ‘some kind of tax/service field’, **tirgen** (تيركان) ‘edge, border; field boundary’, **yer yelte-** (ير يلتا) ‘to dig, to cultivate the soil’.

The meanings of the words and suffixes and their dialectal status are explained in detail in the book. The chapter includes taxation terms, and terms for tax collectors, and those responsible for water canals.

“Belgelerin Dizinleri” is the sixth chapter and contains five indexes: “Grammatical Index”, “Index of Personal, Family/Tribal Names”, “Index of Place Names”, “Index of Arabic and Persian Phrases” and “Index of Inflections”. The “Grammatical Index” includes etymologies and explanations of foreign words as well as the forms and meanings of Turkic words in historical varieties and the documents covered in the study. Words that are accepted as the local usage of the period are also given in Arabic script and explained with references to contemporary Turkic languages. The “Index of Personal, Family/Tribal Names” and “Index of Place Names” are intended to contribute to onomastic studies. The “Index of Place Names” includes the Arabic spellings. Finally, the “Index of Inflections” contains categories of noun and verb inflection. The “Appendix” contains two tables of the rulers of the Yarkend Khanate and the Karataglik Khajas.

The work reviewed here contains a textual edition of primary sources of the Yarkend Khanate and the Khajas Period and examines their language and composition. The main sources of the study are domestic and foreign literature sources in the field. Particularly in the first three chapters, the sources cited in the footnotes provide the researchers with an extensive body of literature on various subjects. The study sheds light on the place of *inayatnama* as a diplomatic genre in the field of Eastern Turkism. Bakırcı’s book on the Yarkend Khanate and the Khajas Period is a reference work that will be an important source for future research on Eastern Turki as well as diplomatic history.

## Abbreviations

Lat. Latin

## References

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