

HUMANITIES INSTITUTE
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OGHUZ ECONOMIC HISTORY – Trade

Almost nothing is known with any certainty about the economy of the Oghuz Yabghu State, nonetheless, it can be assumed that what is known about the economic life of other, similar contemporary states applies to the Oghuz state. Coins from the Oghuz Yabghu State have been found, indicating that monetary transactions were common enough to make minting their own coins attractive to Oghuz rulers as a statement of their power. In addition, since many of the Oghuz tribes remained nomadic pastoralists, livestock and products from their herds must have been a significant element in the Oghuz economy. Finally, the location of the Oghuz capital at Yengikent on the Syr Darya put the center of the Oghuz state in close proximity to developed agricultural regions in both Khwarazm and Transoxiana, as well as the lucrative trade routes that crossed the steppes north of the Aral Sea. Both of these regions could have provided the Oghuz state with important tax revenues.

Readings

Agajanov, S. G. "The States of the Oghuz, the Kimek and the Kipchak", in Asimov, M. S. and Bosworth, C. E. (eds.). *History of civilizations of Central Asia*. Vol. 4, Part One. Paris, 1998.

Golden, Peter. "The Migrations of the Oğuz", *Archivum Ottomanicum* 4 (1972), pp. 45-84.

Discussion Questions

1. For what reasons did medieval rulers mint their own coins rather than use those of larger, neighboring states?
2. How can the economic activities of poorly documented states and peoples be reconstructed?